

# BEAR BEGINNINGS

2025 OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES



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# OPENING DAY 1 - Friday August 15, 2025

## Today's Highlights:

**7:00 AM to 10:00 AM**

### Move-in Block

Check your housing assignment email to be sure you are moving in during your designated move-in block.

**10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

### Move-in Block

Check your housing assignment email to be sure you are moving in during your designated move-in block.

**2:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

### Move-in Block

Check your housing assignment email to be sure you are moving in during your designated move-in block.

**1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

### Fall '25 Preparation: College Street Plaza

Settle in, Take family photos, enjoy a cool treat, visit the Bookstore, stop by campus offices, shop for off-campus items, and pick up your parking decal at Mercer Police!

**5:30 PM to 6:00 PM**

### # Virtual Peer Advisor GroupMe Check-in

Students: Be sure to download the GroupMe App. Your Peer Advisor will be hosting a Virtual Q&A session in your Official O-Group GroupMe!



**6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

### POP-a-Palooza

Cruz Plaza



Enjoy your favorite "pops" (popcorn, popsicles, soda pop) as you prepare for the Annual Macon Pops concert in Hawkins Arena!

**7:00 PM - 9:30 PM**

### Macon Pops: Dancing through the Decades

Hawkins Arena

Concert tickets are free for students with a Mercer ID and First-Year families can scan the QR code for tickets at a specialty discounted rate!



## Open Campus Offices :

**9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Most campus offices will be fully operational during normal business hours on Friday. Here are some that you may be interested in visiting when you arrive to campus:

- Office of Academic and Advising Services
- Auxiliary Services
- Academic Resource Center
- Access and Accommodation
- Registrar
- Bursar
- Information Technology (I.T.)
- University Police (24 hours)
- Bookstore
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Housing and Residence Life
- Financial Planning
- Campus Health Center

**Dancing THROUGH THE Decades**  
*with Macon Pops*  
HAWKINS ARENA AT MERCER  
*Friday, August 15 at 7:30pm*

**MERCER STUDENTS & FACULTY GET IN FREE!**  
(SHOW MERCER ID FOR FREE GEN ADMISSION TICKET!)  
MERCER FAMILY 15% DISCOUNT! CODE: "MERCERPOPS"  
*Bring your own food! Full bar onsite!*

[www.MaconPops.com](http://www.MaconPops.com)  
[info@maconpops.com](mailto:info@maconpops.com)

 

For your Opening Day meals, you are welcome to dine wherever you would like. However, if you decide to stay on campus, the Connell Student Center's Fresh Food Company will open during its regular meal hours (breakfast: 7:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.; lunch: 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; dinner: 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.).

**Please note: During Bear Beginnings (Sunday and Monday), all meals should be enjoyed with your O-Group and Peer Advisor.**

# OPENING DAY 2 - Saturday August 16, 2025

## Open Campus Offices

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Select campus offices will be fully operational today. Here are some that you may be interested in visiting when you arrive to campus:

- Office of Academic and Advising Services
- Auxiliary Services
- Access and Accommodation
- Registrar
- Bursar
- Information Technology (I.T.)
- University Police (24 hours)
- Bookstore
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Housing and Residence Life
- Financial Planning
- Campus Health Center

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Fall '25 Preparation: College Street Plaza**

**Settle in, take family photos, enjoy a cool treat, visit the Bookstore, stop by campus offices, shop for off-campus items, and pick up your parking decal at Mercer Police!**

**Are You a Commuter or Moving In on Friday?**

**Join us on the College Street Plaza @2pm for more freebies and fun!**



**Students and Families please join us for our Official Bear Beginnings Kick-off! Here, students will hear from members of Mercer's Administration, see members of the Mercer community, and receive more information about what is to come during Bear Beginnings!**

## Today's Highlights

7:00 AM to 10:00 AM

**Move-in Block**

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10:00 PM to 1:00 PM

**Move-in Block**

Check your housing assignment email to be sure you are moving in during your designated move-in block.

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

**Move-in Block**

Check your housing assignment email to be sure you are moving in during your designated move-in block.



3:30 PM to 4:00 PM

**Peer Advisor GroupMe Check-in**



Students: Be sure to download the GroupMe App. Your Peer Advisor will be hosting a Virtual Q&A session in your Official O-Group GroupMe!

3:30 PM to 4:00 PM

**Commuter Student Check-in**

**Willet Auditorium**

Commuters Students: Join us as we highlight the need-to-know information concerning commuter life at Mercer! Pick up your meal tickets for the weekend at check-in - beginning at 3:00 PM in the Willet Auditorium Lobby!



5:00 PM to 5:45 PM

**Bear Beginnings: First-Year Student & Family Kick-Off**

**Hawkins Arena**

5:45 pm to 6:45 pm

**Family/Guest Departure**

**Cruz Plaza**

Thank you for joining us! Enjoy refreshments and have a safe journey home - we look forward to seeing you back on campus in this Fall!

8:30 PM

**Residence Life Floor Meetings**

# BEAR BEGINNINGS

**AUGUST 17-18, 2025**

The Bear Beginnings program is designed to help new students transition both academically and socially to life at Mercer. During Bear Beginnings, students finalize their fall course schedule, learn of various campus resources, gain an understanding of Mercer's academic expectations, and attend social events. First-year students experience Bear Beginnings alongside their Peer Advisor (PA), orientation group (O-Group), and academic advisor. Once Bear Beginnings is complete, they remain connected with their PA, O-Group, and academic advisor through the University 101 (UNV 101) classroom experience during the first semester.

## Sunday, August 17, 2025

**9:00 AM to 10:00 AM**

Campus Worship (optional)

**Newton Chapel**

**10:00 AM to 10:30 AM**

"Cruz-Spot" O-Group Meet-Up & Check-in

**Cruz Plaza**

**10:30 AM to 11:00 AM**

Class of 2029 Photo

**Cruz Plaza**

**11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Lunch Rotations &  
Health & Safety Panel

**Toney Auditorium**

**1:00 PM to 1:30 PM**

Meet your Advisor: UNV 101 Overview

**Bear Beginnings Classroom**

**1:30 PM to 5:00 PM**

Academic Advising Appointments

[ Math & Foreign Language Placement Exams  
offered from 1:00 - 3:00 PM ]

**1:30 PM to 3:00 PM**

Opening Picnic  
Fraternity & Sorority Programs

**Cruz Plaza**

**3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**O-Group Session:**  
Macon & Mercer Technology  
& Class Schedule Walkthrough

**5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**

Dinner Rotations/  
O-Group Session: Principles and Priorities

**8:00 - 10:00 PM**

Cruz Glow Party  
**Cruz Plaza**

## Monday, August 18, 2025

**8:00 AM to 9:00 AM**

Transfer Student Breakfast & Check-In

**Penfield Hall**

**9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

Honor Code & Student Code of Conduct Review  
Title IX Conversation

**Toney Auditorium / Willet Auditorium**

**11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Lunch Rotations  
&  
Code of Conduct & Honor Code Pledge Signing



**1:00 PM to 2:00 PM**

Convocation Line-Up  
& Procession

**Historic Quad to Hawkins Arena**

**2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

Convocation

**Hawkins Arena**

**3:00 PM to 3:15 PM**

O-Group Closing Session

**Hawkins Arena**

**3:15 PM to 5:15 PM**

Bear Fair  
**University Center**

# FALL 2025 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## August 19 to December 16

First Day of classes

Drop/Add Period

Labor Day Holiday

Graduation Application for Spring/Summer 2025 Due

Midterm

Fall Break

Last Day to Withdraw

Early Registration for Spring/Summer 2025 Begins

Thanksgiving Holiday

Last Day of Classes

Reading Day

Final Exams

Grades Due for Graduating Students

All Grades Due

August 19

August 19-22

September 1

October 1

October 8

October 9-10

October 24

Late Oct / Early Nov TBD

November 26-28

December 5

December 10

December 8-9, 11-13

24 hours after Final Exam

December 16 at Noon





## FALL 2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

August 15th

Macon Pops: Dancing Through the Decades

August 22nd

QuadWorks Bear County Fair

August 30th

First Year Tailage and Football Game

Sept. 20th

Be a Good Neighbear

Oct. 3-5th

Family Weekend

Oct. 8th

Pilgrimage to Penfield

Nov. 10-15th

Homecoming

Dec. 4th

Christmas Tree Lighting and Winter Wonderland

# Mercer Technology

## How do I connect to the Internet?

For wireless access, select the MU-Secure connection from the list of available networks. From there enter your Mercer University ID and password. Your password is the same password used to log in. yo your MyMercer account.

## How do I connect my game console and other multimedia devices (e.g., Roku, Apple TV, Chromecast) to the Internet?

For instructions on how to connect game consoles and other multimedia devices to the Internet, visit the IT website at <http://it.mercer.edu> and select Game Consoles link located under the Internet/Network heading.

## How do I login to MyMercer?

Visit the MyMercer Student Portal at <https://my.mercer.edu>. Your username is your eight-digit Mercer ID number, and your initial password will be sent to the secondary email listed in your student record.

**NOTE:** Your MyMercer, Mercer email, Canvas, wireless network, and on-campus computer logins are all the same, so if one changes, they all change.

## What is my Mercer email address?

You can find your Mercer email address by logging into <http://office.com>. Select My Profile from the menu on the left hand side of your MyMercer homepage. Your email address is listed in your personal information.

## How do I access my email account?

Visit the Microsoft Office 365 login page at <https://office.com>. Log in using the same password used to. access your MyMercer account. By default, your username is your eight-digit Mercer ID Number followed by [@live.mercer.edu](mailto:@live.mercer.edu).

## How do I change my password?

Your MyMercer, Microsoft Office 365, Canvas, wireless network, and on-campus computer passwords can all be changed via phone or through Microsoft Office 365. Visit <http://it.mercer.edu> and select Password Self-Service link located under the Security heading for instructions

## How do I login to Canvas?

Visit Canvas at <http://canvas.mercer.edu>. Click the Mercer User Login button, and then log in using the same username and password used to access your MyMercer and Mercer accounts. By default, your username is your eight-digit Mercer ID Number, and your initial password will be sent to the secondary email listed in your student record.

## How to contact Mercer IT:

- Visit them online at <http://it.mercer.edu>
- Like and follow them on Twitter and Facebook for information on outages, updates, and other IT tips/tricks: @ITMercer
- IT Help Desk: [helpdesk@mercer.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mercer.edu) | [ithelp.mercer.edu](http://ithelp.mercer.edu) | (478) 301-7000

MERCER  
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BEGINNINGS



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