

MERCER UNIVERSITY

BEAR FACTS

NEW STUDENT & FAMILY GUIDE

academic
& advising
services

NEXT
STEPS
THIS
SUMMER



BE THE BEAR AT SUMMER ORIENTATION

- 7:00 AM to 7:45 AM** **Check-In** **Godsey Science Center Lobby**
Welcome to Summer Orientation! Check in at the Godsey Science Center lobby: Enjoy a cup of coffee and prepare for your day before the welcome begins. Should you have any questions throughout the day, please stop by Langdale Hall.
- 8:00 AM to 8:30 AM** **Welcome and Overview of the Day** **Toney Auditorium**
We are so glad to have you are here with us! Members of the Mercer community will welcome you and outline today's schedule.

Family & Guest Schedule

- 8:45 AM to 9:50 AM** **Family Matters: Academic Support for Your Student** **Toney Auditorium**
There is a lot to consider before Fall classes begin in August, and we are excited to share an overview of what you can expect. Academic rigor, first-year academic support, and Bear Beginnings are just a few topics we will discuss.
- 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM** **Student Health and Safety Panel** **Toney Auditorium**
Join representatives from the Division of Student Affairs, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Campus Health Center, Equity and Compliance, Housing and Residence Life, and Mercer Police to discuss the support systems in place that prioritize student health and safety.

Student Schedule

- 8:45 AM to 10:45 AM** **Math & World Language Placement Exams** **Campus Labs**
Mercer's Math and World Language departments have designed placement tests that assist in placing you into courses that will not only challenge you, but also ones for which you are prepared. If you have been advised to take either one or both exams, please plan to do so this morning.
- Making Mercer Connections** **Willet Auditorium**
Join Peer Advisors, classmates, and members of the Mercer community for an interactive session designed to help you establish connections on campus. Test your knowledge of Mercer and discover new information with your orientation group!

As students finish their placement exams, they will join the rest of their orientation group in Willet Auditorium!



aas.mercer.edu



@merceraas

BE THE BEAR AT SUMMER ORIENTATION

Students & Families (Toby)

Academic Meetings Locations Listed Below

Students and families will meet with a representative from their college or school to discuss academic requirements and learn more about what it takes to be a successful Mercer student.

STETSON-HATCHER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS: Stetson Hall, Room 251

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING: Science & Engineering, Room 110

TIFT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION: Stetson Hall, Room 158

TOWNSEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC: McCorkle Music Building

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS: Willet Science Building, 104 or 110 (TBD)

11:00 AM
to
11:45 AM

Lunch: CLAS, NURS Presidents Dining Room

Students in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the College of Nursing, please join us for lunch in the UC Presidents Dining Room (PDR).

Students & Families (Tot)

Academic Meetings Locations Listed Below

Students and families will meet with a representative from their college or school to discuss academic requirements and learn more about what it takes to be a successful Mercer student.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES: Toney Auditorium

COLLEGE OF NURSING: Willet Auditorium

12:00 PM
to
12:45 PM

Lunch: BUS, EGR, EDU, MUS, CHP Presidents Dining Room

Students in the Stetson-Hatcher School of Business, School of Engineering, Tift College of Education, Townsend School of Music, and College of Health Professions, please join us for lunch in the UC Presidents Dining Room (PDR).

Options for the Afternoon

Academic Advising Appointments Your Advisor's Office

You will receive an advising time to meet with an academic advisor. As your advising time nears, a PA will help you find your advisor's office. You'll have the opportunity to review and adjust your Fall 2026 course schedule. Note: Schedules may need to be adjusted again in July once AP scores and/or dual enrollment transcripts are received by the Registrar's Office.

1:00 PM
to

4:15 PM Campus Resource Fair Heritage Hall

A variety of offices will host tables to share information about their programs and activities.

Campus Business Throughout Campus

Campus offices are available throughout the afternoon to answer questions and provide further information to assist in your transition to Mercer.

Workshops

1:00 PM to 1:45 PM Campus Life at Mercer Presidents Dining Room

Interested in Fraternity and Sorority Programs at Mercer? Join representatives from each council to hear more information about Mercer's Greek Life community.

2:00 PM to 2:45 PM Residence Life and Move-In Information Presidents Dining Room

Join the Office of Residence Life for a brief presentation about the residence life experience and the Opening Day move-in process.

3:00 PM to 3:45 PM Pre-Health and Graduate School Information Presidents Dining Room

Come meet the pre-health professions advisor, Dr. Bokros, and learn how to plan ahead for success on one of the health preprofessional tracks.

IMPORTANT DATES

FALL 2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

as published by the Registrar's Office

registrar.mercer.edu/macon/calendars

- **OPENING DAYS: August 14-15**
- **BEAR BEGINNINGS: August 16-17**
- **FIRST DAY OF CLASS: Tuesday, August 18**
- **LAST DAY FOR DROP/ADD: Friday, August 21**
- **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: Monday, September 7**
- **MIDTERM: Wednesday, October 9**
- **FALL BREAK: October 1-2**
- **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW: October 23**
- **THANKSGIVING BREAK: November 25-27**
- **LAST DAY OF CLASSES: Friday, December 4**
- **FINAL EXAMS: December 7-8, 10-11**

Academic Notes



ADVISING APPOINTMENT

REVIEWING YOUR SCHEDULE

While at Summer Orientation, you'll meet one-on-one with an academic advisor from your academic college or school. **We encourage you to navigate this advising appointment independently as an opportunity to take ownership of your academic experience.**

Mercer receives official Advanced Placement scores and dual enrollment courses during July and adds these scores to students' records upon receipt. Adjustments to students' class schedules are made based on course credit awarded for acceptable scores. You will have the opportunity to review your fall course schedule again with your advisor at Bear Beginnings in August.

PLACEMENT EXAMS

***Exams can only be taken once.**

WORLD LANGUAGES

If you studied a particular language for two or more years and wish to exempt your College or School's World language requirement or desire to continue studying this language, take the foreign language placement exam at Summer Orientation. Students who place at the 112-level or higher will earn institutional credit hours toward graduation for each course below their placement level.

Note: The School of Engineering, Tift College of Education, and the College of Health Professions do not have a world language requirement.

MATH

For students who submitted an ACT or SAT score, Mercer has calculated a Math Index to place you in an appropriate math class. If your current placement does not meet the needs of your anticipated major, then you have the option to take the thirty-minute math placement exam at Summer Orientation as an alternative means to place into your desired math course. Students who are placed into calculus or chemistry do not need to take the placement exam. Students who were admitted without submitting ACT or SAT scores are required to take the math placement exam. Students majoring in biology may also need the placement exam. The highest level placement you can achieve via the Math Index or math placement exams is MAT 191 (Calculus I).

ACCOMMODATIONS

ACCESS & ACCOMMODATION (AAO)

access.mercer.edu | access@mercer.edu

Located in Tarver Library, Room 357

(p) 478.301.2810 | (f) 478.301.2127

Apply for Accommodations Now

This office provides Accessibility, Consultation, Collaboration, Education, Support, and Services and Accommodations to ensure access to programs and services for students and visitors with disabilities as required under Rehabilitation Act Section 504 and the ADA. All information with AAO is confidential and not disclosed to other departments of faculty except when the student provides permission. We encourage you to contact AAO if you have a mobility impairment and are concerned about access to classrooms or housing. Disability Verification Forms, the Process Overview, Student Responsibilities, and Mercer's ADA/504 policies and procedures can be found on the AAO website.

If you had a 504 Plan or IEP in high school or currently have a severe and/or chronic medical, sensory, or psychological/mental health diagnosis, LD, hearing impairment, or visual impairment that requires accommodations in the classroom, with testing, and/or for campus housing, or dining you must apply for accommodations using our online application (<https://access.mercer.edu>). Contact AAO after submitting your application to schedule an interview. Students requesting housing accommodations should apply 90 days prior to housing selections. Documentation requirements are outlined on the disability verification form also on the website. All information with AAO is confidential and not disclosed to other departments of faculty except when the student provides permission. We encourage you to contact AAO if you have a mobility impairment and are concerned about access to classrooms or housing. Disability Verification Forms, the Process Overview, Student Responsibilities, and Mercer's ADA/504 policies and procedures can be found on the AAO website.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

THE ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)

arc.mercer.edu | arc@mercer.edu | 478.301.2669

Located on the first floor of Ryals Hall.

Tutoring

- Drop-in tutoring Sunday - Thursday from 6 to 9 PM
- Math, science, and writing tutoring available every night
- A variety of disciplines offered
- Tutoring schedules available on website
- Possible employment as a tutor or lab assistant

Supplemental Instruction (SI)

- Biology (BIO 171 & 172)
- Chemistry (CHM 111, 112, 221, & 222)
- Physics (PHY 141, 142, 161, & 162)
- Accounting (ACC 204 & 205)
- Economics (ECN 150 & 151)
- Finance (FIN 362)
- SI schedules available on website
- Possible employment opportunity as an SI leader

Resources and Study Help

- College study skills courses (LSK 185 & 186)
- Textbooks available in-house for many courses
- Workshops on a variety of study skills topics

Student-Athlete Affairs

- An athletics advisor provides academic guidance and support for student athletes.



CLASS TEXTBOOKS

BARNES & NOBLE BOOKSTORE AT MERCER UNIVERSITY

shopmercerbears.com | Located in Mercer Village

bookstore@mercer.edu | (p) 478.301.2945

In many cases, you will leave Summer Orientation with your fall course schedule. Although this schedule could change, we recommend reserving your books early before returning to campus in August. You can view your textbooks on your MyMercer account and locate the "Barnes & Noble" tile on the homepage. Students will be able to start reserving their books 30 days before classes begin every semester.

BEAR BOOK BUNDLE

Mercer's Bear Book Bundle conveniently includes all required course materials and textbooks for our undergraduate students. All eligible students are automatically enrolled into this cost savings program and it will be included in your tuition bill statement. The program is based on a flat rate per credit hour with expected student savings of 30-50% off standard retail rates! For example: In 2025-2026 a student enrolled for 15 credit hours would pay around \$360 for all required textbook materials. Should a student not wish to participate in our cost savings program, they can opt out 30 days before classes begin until the last date of "add/drop".



All new students have the opportunity to continue a Mercer tradition of participating in the Summer Reading and Essay Contest. Keep an eye on your email for more details about the selected readings from the Mercer Reader.

PRE-GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL ADVISING

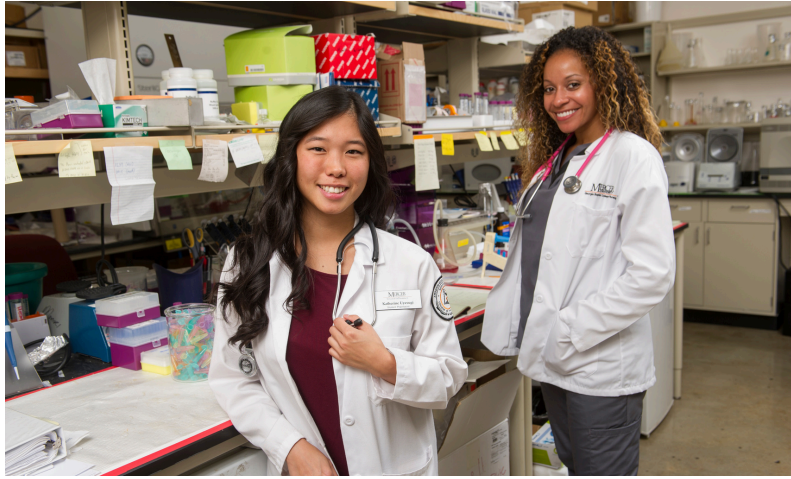
bokros_c@mercer.edu |

Located in Langdale Hall | 478.301.2078



Guidance and support are available for students who plan to attend professional or graduate school, including programs for the health professions. Students interested in pursuing graduate or professional school after their undergraduate training should self-enroll in the pre-Graduate & Professional School (GPS) advising course on Canvas using the QR code above to access resources and be informed about workshops, meetings, and guest speakers that will enhance their pre-professional development.

KEY DOCUMENTS & INFORMATION



IMPORTANT INFO

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

studentplan.corehealthbenefits.com/mercer

CORE Management Resources

(p) 888.741.2673 (CORE)

Mercer University's Student Health Insurance Program is a comprehensive student health coverage plan available each semester of student enrollment.

Student Health Insurance Program Include:

- Primary Care Provider: Mercer Medicine (on-campus)
- Low deductibles
- Inpatient/outpatient/office visits include co-pays
- Prescription drug card provided: applicable co-pays apply

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER

bursar.mercer.edu/studentinsurance

All students are required to have health insurance coverage and are billed for the cost of CORE health insurance coverage based on age-banding. If you already have coverage under another policy and do not want to pay for the University approved health coverage, **you must complete the health insurance waiver process.** The waiver process for the fall semester becomes available in early July. Once your waiver has been submitted and approved, your charge will be removed.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

STUDENT RECORDS RELEASE AUTHORIZATION (FERPA FORM) - Registrars Office

Located in Stembridge Center for Student Success

registrar.mercer.edu | registrar@mercer.edu |

(p) 478.301.2680 | (f) 478.301.2455

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) was enacted to give students access to their education records and to protect their privacy. Unless a student is documented as legally dependent, the University is prohibited by FERPA from releasing student account information to a parent or guardian or other unauthorized third party without the student's consent. Students who wish to grant access to an authorized individual should complete and submit the Student Records Release Authorization to the Registrar's Office before the University can discuss any academic and/or financial information with a parent or guardian.

In order to complete the FERPA form students will log into MyMercer, and go to Self Help Center. From there, they can click on FERPA form which will take them to the launching page for completion and submission.

IMMUNIZATION FORM - Campus Health Center (CHC)

campushealth.mercer.edu | shcmacon@mercer.edu |

Location: Drake Field House | (p) 478.301.2696

| (f) 478.301.2116

The Immunization Form is required for all students. It must be completed and signed by the student and returned to the CHC along with an official copy of the student's immunization (vaccine) record. All documents should be turned in before the semester classes begin. Students are encouraged to keep a copy of the documents for their personal records.

The form must be returned to the CHC. This may be done in person, via e-mail, mail, or fax (all are listed on the form). To obtain a copy of the immunization form, go to campushealth.mercer.edu for Macon campus and click on the "Immunization and Health Forms" link.

TAKING CARE OF *Bear Necessities*



AUTHORIZED PAYER

If you would like your parents/sponsors to have access to your bill and/or make payments on your account, please enroll them as authorized payers. To do so, login to your MyMercer portal and choose “Pay and Manage My Account.” Select “Add an Authorized Payer” from the home screen and follow the steps to complete the enrollment.

Parents/ sponsors must confirm their account and complete the registration process before they earn access to view your account and make payments.

OFFICE OF STUDENT EMPLOYMENT (OSE)

financialaid.mercer.edu/studentemployment
Located in Stembridge Center for Student Success | (p) 478.301.2670 | (f) 478.301.2671

As a part of the Financial Planning Office, Student Employment is committed to providing students with part-time employment opportunities that allow students to earn income while acquiring valuable foundational workplace skills. Students can apply for part-time positions on and off campus through our [Student Employment website](#). Time commitments can vary by position, with a work requirement of 5 to 20 hours per week.

PAYMENT PLAN ENROLLMENT

Payment plans are available through MyMercer beginning mid-July for the fall semester. You should enroll in a payment plan prior to the first day of class.

BURSAR'S OFFICE

bursar.mercer.edu | bursar@mercer.edu | (p) 478.301.1111
Located in Stembridge Center for Student Success

TUITION

The Office of the Bursar handles online payment plans, Bear Card transfers, and tuition bills for all Mercer students. Your bill, authorized payer information, and direct deposit options can be located in your MyMercer portal under the link “Pay and Manage My Account.”

Bills will become available approximately 30 days before the start of the semester. Bill notifications will be e-mailed to your Mercer e-mail address at that time. Your account balance is due by the first day of class.

STUDENT CHOICE REFUNDS

You may sign up for Direct Deposit, Refund by Reloadable Debit Card or get your refund by check.

To set up your refund via direct deposit:

- Log in to <https://my.mercer.edu>
- Select the My Finances tab and select Pay and Manage My Account
- Select Manage Refunds

PAYMENT PLANS

bursar.mercer.edu/macon/payment/ | (p) 478.301.1111

Mercer University offers the option to spread out payment over multiple months. Plan benefits include easy online enrollment, flexible payment options, and no interest charges.

Two Available Payment Methods:

- Electronic check or check in-hand (no fee)
- Credit/debit card (additional fee assessed)

Applicable Fees:

- \$40-\$50 enrollment fee per semester, based on plan

Steps To Enroll:

- Login to MyMercer portal
- “Pay and Manage My Account”
- “Set Up a Payment Plan” and follow the steps on the screen



MAKING THE MOST OF *Campus Services*

FEED THE BEAR

DINING SERVICES

mercerdining.com | campusdish@mercer.edu

Located in Penfield Hall

(p) 478.301.2925



Meal Memberships are available to all students. The minimum Meal Membership required is determined according to completed hours as stated in both the Housing and Meal Membership contract.

Students with First-Year (0-29 hours), Sophomore (30-59 hours), and Junior (60-89 hours) academic status are required to purchase a meal plan REGARDLESS OF CAMPUS HOUSING — including the Lofts and apartments.

Students under 30 credit hours are auto-assigned the Unlimited PLUS meal membership. As long as the student is officially registered for class, the contract is binding for the entire academic year, unless a change in class level occurs or the student is officially released from their housing contract. Should either occur, the student must submit a 'Request to Change Meal Membership' form to Auxiliary Services for approval.

BEAR BUCKS

Your Bear Bucks account – a prepaid, stored-value account that's part of your Bear Card – is the convenient, cashless way to pay for your purchases on campus and at a variety of off campus locations. The area's most popular local businesses accept Bear Bucks. Check the website for a complete list of merchants who accept the Bear Card. To use it, deposit money into your account, and the balance will decrease with each purchase.

AUXILIARY SERVICES

auxiliary.mercer.edu | auxserv@mercer.edu

(p) 478.301.2741

Auxiliary Services provides students with their Bear Card, manages Bear Bucks accounts and Meal Memberships, oversees campus dining locations, and coordinates Mail and Document Services.

MAIL SERVICES

maconmail@mercer.edu

Located in the University Center | (p) 478.301.2020

Open Monday through Friday 8:30 am - 5 pm

All students have a Mercer University post office box to receive mail from places both on and off campus. Students are notified of packages ready for pick up from the University Center via e-mail. Mail Services also does USPS services (including stamps), UPS shipping, and FedEx shipping.

To find your MU Box # go to your MyMercer Home Page. On the left hand side, go to the My Profile drop down, click on My Information. On this page, click the Addresses tab and scroll down to the Mercer University Campus Address. The Box # is labeled as Address.

Use the following address set up to have mail sent to you MU box:

Toby Bear → Student's First & Last Name
1501 Mercer University Dr.
Macon, GA 31207

DOCUMENT SERVICES

maconcopy@mercer.edu | (p) 478.301.2679

Document Services can provide black and white copying, color copying, wide format/oversized printing, banner printing, laminating, binding, folding, scanning, and faxing.

BE THE BEAR®

MERCER VALUES *Health and Safety*

MERCER STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY



MERCER POLICE
police.mercer.edu
mercerpolicy@mercer.edu
(p) 478.301.HELP (4357)

Mercer Police officers are certified by the state of Georgia and act as the protective arm of Mercer University. **Please program their telephone number into your phone in case you need to reach them quickly.** Officers are always on duty to ensure Mercer is a safe place for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and their property. Mercer Police is also responsible for parking and traffic enforcement. **Remember to get your free parking decal when you begin class this fall.**

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

residencelife.mercer.edu/macon
housing.macon@mercer.edu

Located in the Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism
(p) 478.301.2687

Housing and Residence Life supports students while they live in the residence halls, promoting the development of relationships with diverse individuals while enhancing student leadership skills and personal responsibility. Residence halls are staffed by Resident Assistants (RAs) who live on each floor.

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

studentaffairs.mercer.edu/counseling

Located in off-white house between MEP and Legacy Residence Halls
(p) 478.301.2862

Challenging, fun, and exciting as it is, college can be pretty stressful, too. By some counts, last year two-thirds of college students felt overwhelming anxiety at some point and just over half felt things were hopeless. It is totally normal to need some time to adjust, but for those times when it feels like too much, CAPS provides no-cost, confidential, professional counseling services to Mercer students. CAPS is also available in crisis situations and for consultation. For situations that are urgent, but not an emergency, CAPS offers Same-Day Solutions sessions. Visit us on our IG at @mercer_caps, TikTok at @mercerucaps or our website for up-to-date information and give us a call to schedule an appointment.

CAMPUS HEALTH

campushealth.mercer.edu
campushealthmacon@mercer.edu

Macon clinic – located in the Drake Field House
Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Please call 478-301-2696 for appointments

Atlanta clinic – located in Sheffield, suite 206
Hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Please call 678-547-6130 for appointments

Campus Health provides currently enrolled students with healthcare services including acute illness and injuries, immunizations, STI testing, Tuberculosis screening, limited health screenings, women's health, health education, and primary care. Some students may be referred to specialists, depending on the illness/injury, at the discretion of the Campus Health providers. All visits to Campus Health are confidential. No information is released without the consent of the student with the exception of students under age 18.

Campus Health provides health services for all Mercer students regardless of insurance coverage. Campus Health is considered the primary healthcare provider for students who have the school insurance (CORE). Students with this insurance should contact the clinic if appointments or referrals are needed, prior to seeking other medical attention unless after hours or in cases of emergency.

TITLE IX

TitleIX.mercer.edu
TitleIX@mercer.edu
(p) 478.301.2788

To ensure Mercer is making every effort to fully address issues of sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence, our Title IX Coordinator partners with resources to promote a safe and healthy campus environment for everyone.



YOUR MERCER *FIRST-YEAR* TRANSITION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) HELP DESK

it.mercer.edu

helpdesk@mercer.edu

Located in Tarver Library, second floor

(p) 478.301.7000

Information Technology (IT) supports, develops, and maintains the IT environment. Mercer IT can assist you with wired/wireless network access, recommendations, problem evaluation, and e-mail access.

MERCER E-MAIL ACCOUNT

mercerlive.mercer.edu

It is important that you check your Mercer e-mail account on a frequent and regular basis since time-sensitive and confidential information will be sent to this e-mail address while you are enrolled as a student.

Visit the IT website to learn how to install your Mercer e-mail on a smartphone or device. NOTE: Your MyMercer, MercerLive e-mail, Canvas, wireless network, and on-campus computer passwords are all the same, so if one changes, they all change.



MYMERCER

my.mercer.edu

MyMercer is a website that allows students to manage their schedules, view grades, manage financial aid, pay tuition, apply for campus housing, and much more.

CANVAS

canvas.mercer.edu

Canvas is an online learning management system that supports supplementary learning tools in an online environment. You can download course materials (e.g., course syllabi), view course announcements, review course calendars, participate in online discussions, just to highlight a few of the functions. Please note: not all faculty use all of the system's functions.



ON-CAMPUS HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

residencelife.mercer.edu/macon

housing.macon@mercer.edu

Located in the Reg Murphy Center for Collaborative Journalism

(p) 478.301.2687

Packing for college is an exciting time! Here are some commonly forgotten items you won't want to forget: cleaning supplies, first-aid kit, laundry supplies, shower shoes, surge protector, ethernet cable, towels, twin XL sheets, and decorations to make your room feel more like home.

Make sure to leave the following at home, as they are not allowed in your residence hall: alcohol, candles, electric heaters, extension cords, halogen lights, hot plates/grills, pets (except fish), toaster ovens, weapons, wireless routers, printers, and more.

For our full packing list with all permitted items, as well as to check out all of our community standards make sure to visit <https://residencelife.mercer.edu/macon/resources>

Curious about what your room may look like, or specific dimensions for your room? Check out our virtual tours at <https://residencelife.mercer.edu/macon/halls>

COUNTDOWN TO YOUR *FALL '26 SEMESTER*

SUMMER PREPARATIONS



OPENING DAYS

FRIDAY, AUG. 14 & SATURDAY, AUG. 15

aas.mercer.edu/orientation-programs/opening-day
orientation@mercer.edu
(p) 478.301.4300

We hope that the Opening Days are an exciting time for you and your family!

Residential Students: Label ALL boxes and bags with your name and room number! Due to traffic flow and the assistance of move-in volunteers, you are asked to move to campus during an assigned time frame.

You will receive an August newsletter via e-mail, complete with your assigned move-in time block and directions to your assigned residence hall or Commuter Program.

BEAR BEGINNINGS

SATURDAY, AUG. 15 - MONDAY, AUG. 17

aas.mercer.edu/orientation-programs/bear-beginnings

Following the Opening Day festivities, The Bear Beginnings program begins with all first-year students checking in and attending the Welcome Ceremony on Saturday evening!

Bear Beginnings, your MANDATORY three-day fall orientation program, is designed to help first-year students transition both academically and socially to life at Mercer. During Bear Beginnings, you will finalize your fall schedule, learn about various campus resources, gain an understanding of Mercer's academic expectations, and attend social events. Students also attend our annual New Student Convocation and Bear Fair, a student involvement fair that features many of our campus organizations, on Monday!

You will experience Bear Beginnings alongside your Peer Advisor (PA), orientation group (O-Group) of other first-year students, and academic advisor. Once Bear Beginnings is complete, you will remain connected with your PA, O-Group, and academic advisor through University 101 (UNV 101). UNV 101 is a 16-week, 1-credit hour course that discusses important topics, such as Mercer's history, study skills, critical thinking, ethics, health, safety, and careers.



SUMMER READING CONTEST

aas.mercer.edu/summer-reading
academicservices@mercer.edu
(p) 478.301.2078

You are invited to submit an essay for the First-Year Student Summer Writing Award where a first-year student's essay will be selected for its outstanding writing and reflection on the summer reading, selections from the Mercer Reader. The winner will receive a monetary award.

Essays are due: July 31, 2026. Follow us on social media @MercerAAS for updates about the Summer Essay Contest and much more!

SUMMER CHECKLIST

1

COMPLETE ONLINE

STUDENT RECORDS RELEASE AUTHORIZATION (FERPA FORM)

registrar@mercer.edu

Log into MyMercer > Self Help Center
> Click on FERPA Form > Submit

BEAR CARD

from Auxiliary Services

IMMUNIZATION FORM

to the Student Health Center

shcmacon@mercer.edu

PARKING DECAL

from Mercer Police

SUBMIT FINAL HS & ANY COLLEGE, AP, OR IB TRANSCRIPTS

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

1501 Mercer University Drive, Macon, GA 31207

All students must have final transcripts on file with Admissions. The Registrar's Office further reviews final transcripts for any college, AP, and/or IB coursework.

2

PURCHASE BOOKS

MERCER BOOKSTORE

shopmercerbears.com

Located in Mercer Village | (p) 478.301.2945

Utilize the Barnes & Noble at Mercer University Bookstore to explore your textbook options. Look into our new Bear Bundle offer.

Pick up a copy of the Mercer Reader for the Summer Reading and Essay Contest due July 31.

3

PLAN FOR YOUR BILL

PAYMENT OPTIONS

bursar.mercer.edu | bursar@mercer.edu

(p) 478.301.1111

Bills will be posted electronically to your MyMercer account approximately 30 days before the start of the semester. Check your Mercer e-mail for notifications. Your account balance is due by the first day of class. Find Payment Plan information online.

4

5 USE YOUR MERCER TECHNOLOGY

MERCER E-MAIL

mercerlive.mercer.edu

Mercer offices will communicate with you using this e-mail.

MYMERCER ACCOUNT

my.mercer.edu

Sign up for "Authorized Payer," check your bill, and more.

7 DISCUSS HEALTH INSURANCE

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE & WAIVER

bursar.mercer.edu/studentinsurance

If you already have coverage under another policy and do not want to pay for the University approved health coverage, **complete the health insurance waiver process** (the waiver for the fall semester opens early-July)

7

6 MAKE A HOUSING PLAN

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

housing.macon@mercer.edu | (p) 478.301.2687

Packing for college is an exciting time! Here are some commonly-forgotten items you won't want to forget: cleaning supplies, first aid kit, laundry supplies, shower shoes, surge protector, ethernet cable, towels, twin XL sheets, and decorations to make your room feel more like home!

Planning on commuting? We'll see you at our Commuter Check In Program on August 15th!

6

8 PREPARE TO BE THE BEAR



We can't wait to have you back on campus in August!

THE FIRST-YEAR BEAR FACTS

PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AND ADVISING SERVICES
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