

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

BEAR BEGINNINGS

2026 OVERVIEW AND ACTIVITIES



academic
& advising
services



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OPENING DAY 1 - Friday August 14, 2026

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 '26 Preparation: Campus Business

Settle in, visit the Bookstore, stop by campus offices and the Academic Q&A tables, 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 on your personal device. Your Peer Advisor will be hosting a Virtual Q&A session in your Official O-Group GroupMe to make sure that you have settled in!



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: The Fab Four: The Solo Years

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:

- Academic and Advising Services
- Academic Resource Center
- Access and Accommodation
- Auxiliary Services
- Bookstore (Open until 6:00 p.m.)
- Bursar
- Campus Health Center
- Financial Planning
- Housing and Residence Life
- Information Technology (I.T.)
- Registrar
- University Police (24 hours)
- Undergraduate Admissions

THE FAB FOUR
— THE SOLO YEARS —
HAWKINS ARENA - AUGUST 14 - 7:30PM

MERCER STUDENTS & FACULTY GET IN FREE!
(Show Mercer ID for FREE Gen Admission ticket!)

MERCER ALUMNI & FAMILY 15% OFF!
USE CODE **MERCERPOPS**

Bring your own food! Full bar onsite!

MACONPOPS
WWW.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 Fresh Food Company in Penfield Hall 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 15, 2026

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 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 4:30 PM

Commuter Student Informational

Presidents Dining Room

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 3:15 PM in the Presidents Dining Room in the University Center!

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 Send-Off

Cruz Plaza

Thank you for joining us! Have some fun and refreshments before your journey home! We look forward to seeing you back on campus this Fall!

8:30 PM

Residence Life Floor Meetings

Open Campus Offices :

11:00 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:

- Academic and Advising Services
- Academic Resource Center
- Access and Accommodation
- Auxiliary Services (Opens at 9:00 a.m.)
- Bookstore (Opens at 10:00 a.m.)
- Bursar
- Campus Health Center
- Financial Planning
- Housing and Residence Life
- Information Technology (Tarver Library - bottom floor)
- Registrar
- University Police (24 hours)
- Undergraduate Admissions

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Fall '26 Preparation: Campus Business

Settle in, visit the Bookstore, stop by campus offices and the Academic Q&A tables, shop for off-campus items, and pick up your parking decal at Mercer Police!

Moving In on Friday?

Join us at the Student & Family Kick-off at 5:00 pm!



Students and Families please join us for our Official Bear Beginnings Kick-off - the Official First-Year pep rally to begin the academic year! Hear from members of the Mercer community, and receive more information about what is to come during Bear Beginnings!

BEAR BEGINNINGS

AUGUST 16-17, 2026

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 16, 2026

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 2030 Photo

Cruz Plaza

11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Lunch Rotations &
Health & Safety Panel

Toney Auditorium

1:30 PM to 2:00 PM

Meet your Advisor: UNV 101 Overview

Bear Beginnings Classroom

2:00 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

O-Group Connect

Historic Quad/ STEM Quad

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

O-Group Session:

Macon & Mercer Technology
& Class Schedule Walkthrough

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Dinner Rotations/
O-Group Session: Principles and Priorities

8:00 - 10:00 PM

Party on Cruz: Bear Beach Bash!

Cruz Plaza

Monday, August 17, 2026

8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Transfer Student Informational Breakfast

Penfield Hall

Check-in begins at 7:45 AM

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 1:30 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

Fall 2026 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 2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

August 18 to December 12

First Day of classes
Drop/Add Period
Labor Day Holiday
Graduation Application for Spring/Summer Due
Fall Break
Midterm
Last Day to Withdraw
Registration for Spring/Summer 2027 Begins
Thanksgiving Holiday
Last Day of Classes
Reading Day
Final Exams
Grades Due for Graduating Students
All Grades Due

August 18
August 18-21
September 7
October 1
October 1-2
October 9
October 23
Late Oct TBD
November 25-27
December 4
December 9
December 7-8, 10-12
24 hours after Final Exam
December 15 at Noon





FALL 2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ August 14th

**Macon Pops: The Fab Four:
The Solo Years**

➤ August 17th

Bear Fair

➤ August 21 - 22nd

QuadWorks Welcome Back Events

➤ August 29th

First-Year Tailgate & Football Game

➤ Sept. 26th

Be A Good Neighbear

➤ Oct. 9 - 11th

Family Weekend

➤ Oct. 24th

Pilgrimage to Penfield

➤ Oct. 26 - 31

Homecoming Week

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 to 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. Your username is your eight-digit Mercer ID number followed by @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. 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>
- IT Help Desk: helpdesk@mercer.edu | ithelp.mercer.edu | (478) 301-7000

YOUR 2026-2027 PEER ADVISORS!



ADDY CANTRELL — BLACKSHEER, GA
 ALLISON SIDLEY — AUGUSTA, GA
 AMDOM ASSEFA — ALPHARETTA, GA
 ANDON FAILMA — FAYETTEVILLE, GA
 ANDREW COURCHESNE — WESTBOROUGH, MA
 ANDY NGUYEN — ATHENS, GA
 BLAKE FULCHER — SPRINGFIELD, GA
 BRYCE KRINER — SAINT MARYS, GA
 CALEB VAUGHN — PIKE COUNTY, GA
 CAMARI TERRELONGE — GRAYSON, GA
 CARA TROTTER — MACON, GA
 CHLOE HOBBS — LEESBURG, GA
 CHRIS IZZO — NORCROSS, GA
 DJ NARCISSE — PALM BEACH, FL
 DYLAN ADAMS — JOHNS CREEK, GA
 EMILIO HENRIQUEZ-QUALLO — DOUGLASVILLE, GA
 EMILY BALOGH — GREENSBORO, GA
 EMMA TEW — HOOVER, AL
 EMMA LIZ SOLTAY — MILLEDGEVILLE, GA
 ERIC MICKLON — VALDOSTA, GA
 FELISA VASQUEZ — CANTON, GA
 GABBY GURROLA — COLUMBUS, GA
 GABRIELLE JACKSON — STOCKBRIDGE, GA

GREYSON HUNDT — JOHNS CREEK, GA
 GAHANNAH SPEECHLEY — LOCKPORT, IL
 ISHVA PATEL — VALDOSTA, GA
 IZZY FERERE — DACULA, GA
 JACK DAVIS — ATHENS, GA
 JACKSON SCHOENBORN — FORTSON, GA
 JACOB NOHR — MARIETTA, GA
 JALIE PHILLIPS — EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GA
 JASON LAI — WARNER ROBBINS, GA
 JAY PATEL — COLUMBUS, GA
 KARINA NIRENBERG — PEACHTREE CITY, GA
 KREEYA TRIVEDI — MACON, GA
 KUNJ PATEL — COLUMBUS, GA
 KYLEE HOLMAN — RINGGOLD, GA
 LANDIN CUNNINGHAM — WARM SPRINGS, GA
 LILA TURBIVILLE — PENSACOLA, FL
 LILLY ACTON — COLUMBUS, GA
 LINDSEY CHILDS — BAY MINETTE, AL
 MACKENZIE BYRD — ROCKMART, GA
 MADDIE TURBERVILLE — WRIGHTSVILLE, GA
 MATTHEW CAMPBELL — ROME, GA
 MATTIE PAIGE WILLIS — CUMMING, GA
 MEI-LING MIQWE — MACON, GA

MICAH SCOTT — MCDONOUGH, GA
 MICHAEL BOSTER — CUMMING, GA
 MICHAEL ECHOLS — SHARPSBURG, GA
 NEELEY THOMAS — WAYCROSS, GA
 PAARTHIVI JOSHI — CUMMING, GA
 PREET JANI — ALBANY, GA
 RACHEL GARVER — GILBERT, AZ
 RAYNA PARAMESH — MARIETTA, GA
 REGAN GIBSON — CANTON, GA
 SAM LAND — MACON, GA
 SAM NORRIS — ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA
 SHAHI PATEL — WARNER ROBBINS, GA
 SHOURYA DHRUV — WARNER ROBBINS, GA
 SHULER REYNOLDS — LAWRENCEVILLE, GA
 SRINIKETH EDUPUGANTI — CUMMING, GA
 SWATHI KOTRAKONA — SUWANEE, GA
 TIFFANY CHAU — CUMMING, GA
 TIMO ANTHONY-SAWYERR — LAGOS, NIGERIA
 TORI NOAH — THOMASVILLE, GA
 TREVOR DANIELS — ACWORTH, GA
 VICTORIA VANDER LEEST — SENOIA, GA
 WESTON SUMMERS — SPRINGFIELD, GA
 ZAC GOLUBEFF — WILLIAMSON, GA