



HOW TO

# PREPARE FOR NORTHWESTERN

A WEBINAR FOR NEW TRANSFERS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES

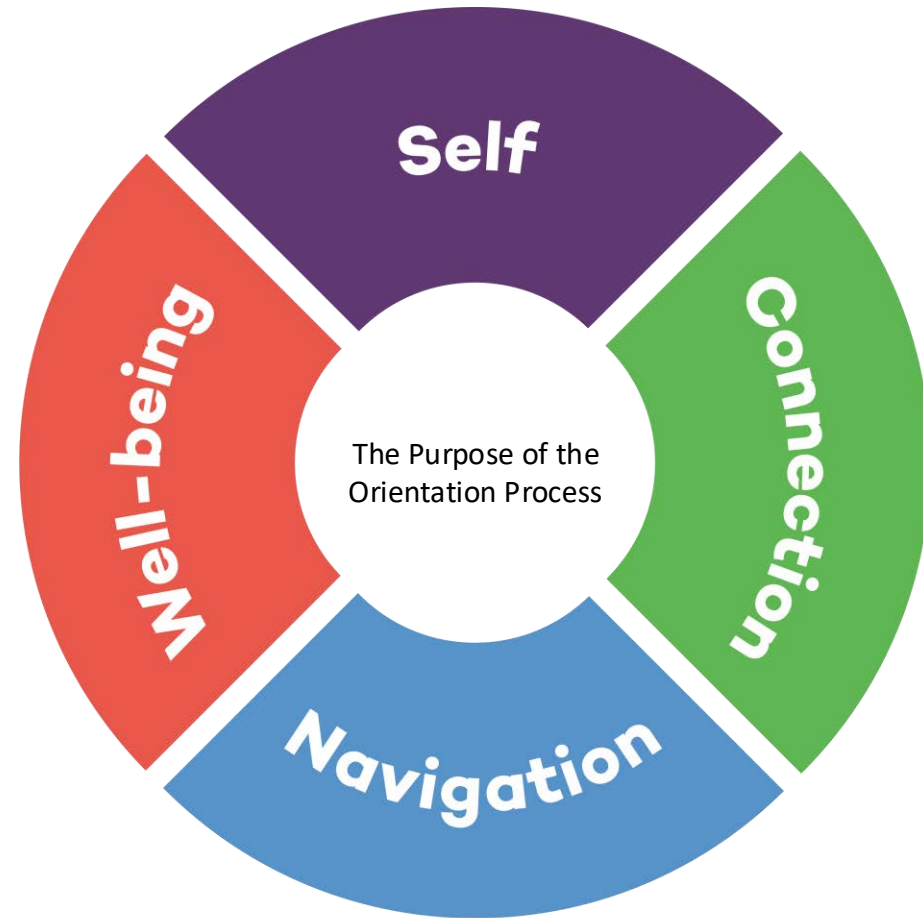
**June 18, 2026**

7 p.m. CDT

# In This Session

- New Student Orientation Process
  - Purple Prep
  - Before the Arch
  - Wildcat Welcome
- Families Supporting Their New Student
- Planning Dates
- Q&A

# Purpose of Orientation



# Your New Student Orientation Process

Northwestern's orientation process consists of three components to successfully launch students into their first year.

## 1

### Purple Prep

- **June 3-September 14, 2026**
- Foundational orientation tasks to mark your start as a Wildcat
- Modality: Virtual

## 2

### Before the Arch

- **July-September 14, 2026**
- Optional opportunities to learn from current students about the emotional and social aspects of your transition
- Modality: Virtual

## 3

### Wildcat Welcome

- **International Wildcat Welcome: September 14-15**
  - **Wildcat Welcome: September 15-22**
  - Take part in campus traditions, build connections, learn to navigate campus, and register for fall classes
  - Modality: In-person, on-campus
- 

# Purple Prep

June - September

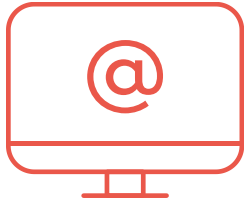
## Foundational orientation tasks to mark your start as a Wildcat

- Purple Prep provides foundational information and includes all summer tasks to complete, with a new set of deadlines each month.
- Tasks range from submitting your housing contract to immunization forms to virtual orientation modules.



# Purple Prep

June - September



## Purple Prep Website

- Find everything you need to know.
- The one-stop location for details about summer tasks and information you need to know prior to starting in the fall



## Purple Prep Checklist

- Keep track of requirements
- A personalized tool for managing all your summer tasks



## Purple Prep Email

- Delivered the first and third Tuesday of each month, with info on upcoming tasks and noting any updates or changes to your entry

[northwestern.edu/purple-prep-transfer](https://northwestern.edu/purple-prep-transfer)

# Before the Arch

July - September

- Virtual, optional opportunities to hear from current students about the social and emotional aspects of transition
- Delivered weekly through the Class of 2030 & Incoming Transfers Canvas Course, including videos, webinars, podcasts, and more
- Canvas Course to launch in July
- Prompted to learn more in Purple Prep email





# **CAESAR 101 FOR TRANSFERS**

**TUESDAY, JULY 28  
7 PM CDT**

STUDENT  
**TRANSITION  
EXPERIENCES**

*Transfer students register for Fall courses on Tuesday, August 11, coordinated by each academic school.*

# Wildcat Welcome

September 15-22, 2026

International Wildcat Welcome : September 14-15, 2025

**Take part in campus traditions, build connections,  
and learn to navigate campus**

- September 13: International student move-in day
- September 14-15: International Wildcat Welcome
- September 15: New student move-in day
- September 15-22: Wildcat Welcome
- September 23: First Day of Classes



# Wildcat Welcome

September 15-22, 2026

International Wildcat Welcome : September 14-15, 2026

**Take part in campus traditions, build connections, and learn to navigate campus**

- Begins when you move to campus
- Programs to build connections with others, learn about Northwestern, and take part in campus tradition



# Wildcat Welcome

## What to expect during Wildcat Welcome

- New student move-in day (September 15)
- Support from peer mentors:
  - ✓ Peer Adviser (PA)
  - ✓ International Peer Adviser (IPA)
  - ✓ Resident Assistant (RA)
- Build connections through PA Group, Residential area, & social-based programs
- Campus traditions: March Through the Arch, Class Photo
- Campus tour



# Wildcat Welcome

## Timeline for Learning the Schedule

**August**

Programmatic overview  
released

**September**

Personalized schedule  
released



# After Orientation

**Transition does not end after the first week.**

- The Office of Student Transition Experiences continues to support you as a student past orientation.
  - ✓ Twice quarterly emails with important dates, upcoming events, and highlighted resources relevant to important topics that quarter
  - ✓ Additional events and programs each year that will lead you through common experiences, such as learning how to rent housing off campus, leadership building, and celebrating milestones



# Family Overview

## Office of Family Engagement

- Family Engagement provides resources, communication, and programming for parents and family members.
- We help with the transition of new Wildcat families.
- We support families throughout their students' undergraduate experience.
- We provide training and leadership development opportunities for current students (Family Coordinators & Family Ambassadors).



# Family Overview

## Communication

- **Family Engagement Website**
  - ✓ [bit.ly/NU-Family](https://bit.ly/NU-Family)
- **Parent & Family E-mail List**
  - ✓ <https://go.dosa.northwestern.edu/parentlist/>
- **Family Engagement Email Address:** [family@northwestern.edu](mailto:family@northwestern.edu)
- **[New Parent & Family Webinar Series](#)**
- **[Parent and Family Virtual Resource Guide](#)**
- **Wildcat Family Recap**
- **Official Northwestern University Parents & Families Facebook & Instagram**
  - ✓ [www.facebook.com/northwesternfamilies](https://www.facebook.com/northwesternfamilies)
  - ✓ [www.instagram.com/wildcatfamilies](https://www.instagram.com/wildcatfamilies)





# Partnering with Family Members to Support Their Students

Family  
Engagement  
Website

[bit.ly/NU-Family](https://bit.ly/NU-Family)

## Community Resources

HOME > COMMUNITY RESOURCES > FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES

### For Students

### For Student Affairs Staff

### For Parents & Families

Family Communication

Family Weekend 2026

FAQs for Families

Things to Do: Evanston & Chicago

Parent and Family Guide

Parent & Family Orientation

Prep Talk

March Through the Arch 2025

Student Leaders

Family Engagement partners with family members of all undergraduate students to ensure we create a supportive environment to aid in student learning and development. All information for family members, including programs, communication, and resources, can be found in this section.

As your child becomes a Wildcat, you too are becoming a vital part of the Wildcat Community. At Northwestern, we strongly believe that family members provide crucial support for the new experiences a student will encounter during college. The beginning of a college career often brings changes in relationships with family and friends. Welcoming, understanding and adjusting to these changes is an exciting challenge for all involved.



# Planning Dates

## September

**13** International student move-in day

**14-15** International Wildcat Welcome

**15** New student move-in day

**15-16** Parent & Family Orientation

**15-22** Wildcat Welcome

**23** First day of class

## October

**23-25** Family Weekend

## November

**25-29** Fall Break

## December

**7-12** Final Exams

**12** Halls close for winter break @ 12pm

## January 2027

**2** Halls open for winter quarter @ 12pm

Dates are subject to change. View the [Purple Prep for Transfers website](#) for the up-to-date calendar.

# Connect with Your Class

Follow @wildcatwelcome on social media



Transfer Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/nutransfers2026/>

**Your International Peer Adviser Group**

- Coming by end of July

**Your Peer Adviser Group**

- Coming by late August





Q & A

# Questions After the Webinar?

**Purple Prep for Transfers Website**

**Student Transition Experiences**  
transition@northwestern.edu

**Family Engagement**  
family@northwestern.edu

**Residential Services/Move-In**  
housing@northwestern.edu

**Student Health Insurance**  
student.insurance@northwestern.edu

