

HOW TO

PREPARE FOR NORTHWESTERN

A WEBINAR FOR THE CLASS
OF 2030 AND THEIR FAMILIES

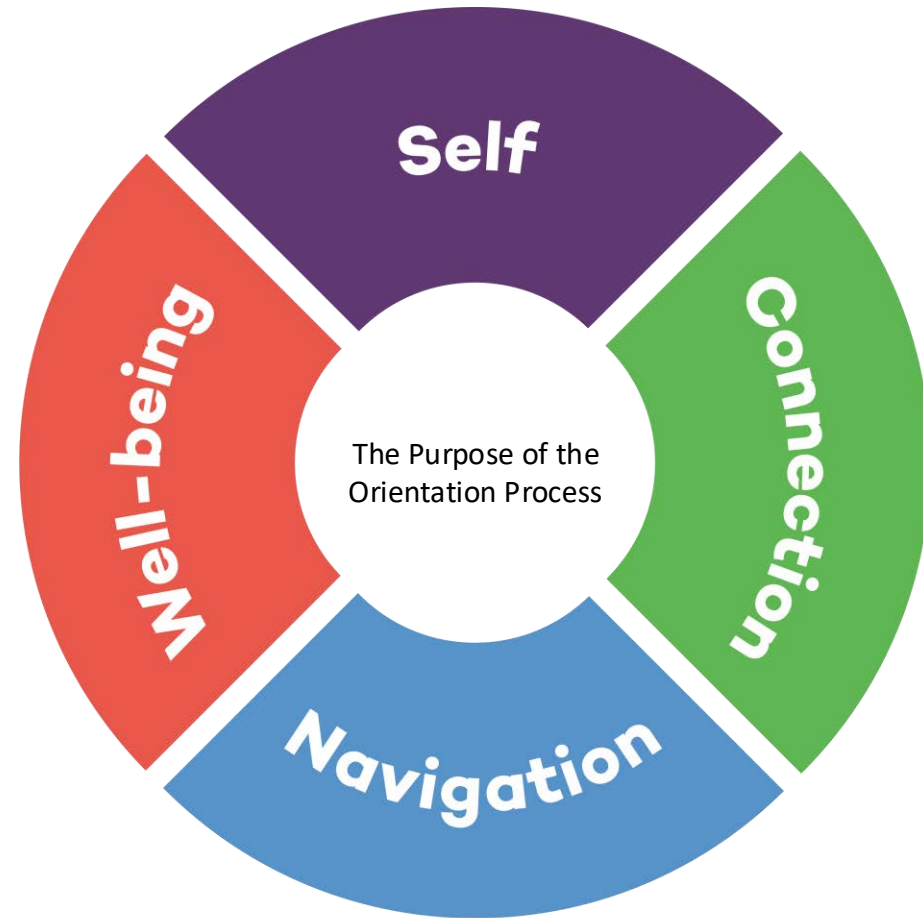
May 12, 2026

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
- Current Student Panel
- 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

- **May 5-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

May - 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

May - 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

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 2029 & Incoming Transfers Canvas Course, including videos, webinars, podcasts, and more
- Canvas Course to launch in July
- Prompted to learn more in Purple Prep email



Wildcat Welcome

September 15-22, 2026

International Wildcat Welcome : September 14-15, 2025

Take part in campus traditions, build connections, learn to navigate campus, and register for fall classes

- 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, learn to navigate campus, and register for fall classes

- 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
 - Academic advising & fall quarter course registration
 - 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
- **Parent & Family E-mail List**
 - ✓ <https://go.dosa.northwestern.edu/parentlist/>
- **Family Engagement Email Address:** 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
 - ✓ www.instagram.com/wildcatfamilies





Parents & Families

Partnering with Family Members to Support Their Students

Family
Engagement
Website

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 website](#) for the up-to-date calendar.

Connect with Your Class

Follow @wildcatwelcome on social media



Class of 2030 Instagram

- [Instagram.com/northwesternwildcats2030](https://www.instagram.com/northwesternwildcats2030)

Your International Peer Adviser Group

- Coming by end of July

Your Peer Adviser Group

- Coming by late August



Student Panel

- **Brett, Third Year**
 - Hometown: San Diego, CA
 - Major: Journalism and Gender & Sexuality Studies
- **Jenny, Third Year**
 - Hometown: Glendale, WI
 - Major: Psychology
- **Maya, Third Year**
 - Hometown: Columbus, OH
 - Major: Civil Engineering
- **Megan, Third Year**
 - Hometown: Louisville, KY
 - Major: Neuroscience



Q & A

Questions After the Webinar?

Purple Prep 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





THANK YOU!

Find all information at northwestern.edu/purple-prep

