WESTMONT

First Connections Schedule

First-Generation College Student Track

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Arrival & Check-in
Check in at the La Paz Rd entrance and proceed to the check-in station on Kerrwood Circle. You will then be directed to your residence hall where you may begin unpacking your belongings and settling into your new room. If you've already moved onto campus, as, for example, an athlete, please do check in during this timeframe.
Location: La Paz Rd Entrance & Kerrwood Circle

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Move-in & Unpack
Once checked-in, take some time to unpack your things and settle into your room.
Location: Residence Halls

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch
Enjoy lunch in our Dining Commons.
Location: Dining Commons, Kerr Student Center

12:00 p.m. Campus Tour (optional)
A student guide will show you and your guests around campus, highlighting key points in the student life experience.
Location: Dining Commons, Kerr Student Center

1:30 p.m. Welcome (Students & Guests)
Students and guests hear from our community members that also identify as first-generation college students. Come and be inspired as you start your academic journey at Westmont.
Location: Global Leadership Center, Simmons

2:40 p.m. Student Small Groups (Students)
Meet other students and reflect together on how to get a good start at Westmont. Groups will be led by a Student Success Coach and a first-generation college student leader.
Location: Global Leadership Center, Keller Plaza

2:40 p.m. Supporting Your Student (Guests)

Hear practical ways that you can support your student through the new journey they are embarking upon. Learn about the many resources available to them, and how you can best challenge, encourage, and support them from afar.
Location: Global Leadership Center, Hughes

3:30 p.m. Faculty and Staff Speed Connections (Students)
This is a First Connections favorite! Get to know faculty and staff from across campus, two minutes at a time. Developing deep interpersonal relationships with our friendly faculty is a strong Westmont value. Speed Connections provides a fun, easy, and fast-paced opportunity to launch these new friendships.
Location: Global Leadership Center, Simmons

4:30 p.m. Residence Life Staff Meet-and-Greet (Students & Guests)
Residence Life staff will gather the students and guests in their assigned residence hall for an introduction and some Q&A.
Location: Global Leadership Center, Simmons

5-5:20PM Break

5:30 p.m. Family Dinner (Students & Guests)
All students and their guests are invited to share a family-style meal with the President, other members of the executive team, faculty, and staff.
Location: Deane Lawn

8:00 p.m. Student Game Night (Students) - optional
Join several other incoming students for a fun evening of casual, involved or potentially silly games.
Location: Clark A Lounge

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Thursday, August 24, 2023

8:30 a.m. Breakfast (Students)
Grab your breakfast and join us for conversation and connection.
Location: Founders Room, Kerr Student Center

8:45 a.m. Coffee and Donuts with the Westmont Parents Council (Guests)
Parents and other guests enjoy some breakfast treats and mingle with faculty, staff, and members of the Westmont Parents Council.
Location: Physics Patio, Winter Hall, 3rd floor

9:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions 1 (Students & Guests)
10:35 a.m. Concurrent Sessions 2 (Students & Guests)
Students and guests select from one of the four options below for each of the two sessions. Each session will be offered twice.

Financial Aid and Budgeting Tips & Tricks

Sean Smith, Director of Student Financial Services will go over some financial aid essentials and will discuss ways to make college more affordable (scholarships, work study, etc.). Come hear advice about how to stretch your funds and use what you have wisely.
Location: Winter Hall 106

Academic Planning & Career Readiness

We will have representatives to share about general education, majors, and graduation requirements, global education and the Cove (Career Opportunities and Vocational Exploration).
Location: Winter Hall 206

Thriving in Your Classes

Hear from one of our student success coaches (SSCs) how to not just survive but to thrive in your academic work. This session will focus on practical and proven strategies of college success. Some of the topics will include: syllabus review, navigating Canvas, note-taking, seeking support and communicating with professors, time management, and study skills.
Location: Winter Hall 212

Cultural Transitions

Jim Wright, co-director of Westmont in Cairo, will lead us in a discussion about transitioning

into a new culture well. How do I retain and celebrate important elements of my culture and upbringing in this new place? How do I appropriately embrace aspects of this new culture? How do I have conversations about these topics with classmates who may not know how to do so? And how do I do it all with grace and mercy for those around me and for myself?
Location: Winter Hall 216

11:30 a.m. First Connections Closing (Students & Guests)
Come be encouraged as you are launched into this new journey of higher education, focused on the end goal of graduation and attaining your degree.
Location: Winter Hall, 1st Floor Atrium

You will then join the all-student orientation beginning at 1:30pm. Check-in at the Welcome tent on Kerrwood lawn and make sure to get your Student ID photo taken.