Western Connecticut State University

Welcome Weekend

Fall 2026

August 21 – 24, 2026

FALL 2026 Welcome Weekend

Friday, August 21

Welcome to Western Connecticut State University! Don't forget to collect your **commemorative Welcome Gift** sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs in the Student Center Plaza. We hope this gift allows you to take pride in your new beginnings at WestConn as you embark on this incredible journey as a college student. We ask that you wear this gift during the "Entering the Gates" ceremony along with your WestConn Gear.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Resident Student Check-in and Move-in will take place in each student's residence hall. **Students must move in during their assigned color-coded move-in time only.** Members of various student organizations and athletics teams will be available to assist with luggage. Once you have moved in, go to the Student Center Plaza to check-in and receive your gift. You will need to bring your Student ID for check-in and move-in.

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
The **Campus Bookstore** will be open for students to purchase WestConn apparel and to purchase textbooks required for classes. The bookstore is located on the Midtown Campus on the first floor of the Student Center.

10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
LUNCH, Berkshire Dining Hall and Westside Marketplace. Resident students must swipe their meal card from 12 noon on.

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Commuter Student Check-in, Midtown Student Center Plaza.

12:00 p.m.
Alumni Legacy Photo – If one of your Parents or Grandparents is an Alumnus/a, please join us on the front steps of Old Main for our tradition of the "Next Generation" photo. Alumni sashes can be picked up on the Old Main lawn starting at 11:30 a.m.

1:00 p.m. REQUIRED
Entering the Gates ceremony. Students gather in front of Litchfield Hall wearing their Wolves T-shirt and free gift.

1:30 p.m. REQUIRED
Entering the Gates Ceremony in Alumni & Friends Circle (Rain location Ives Concert Hall)
As a new member of the WestConn community, you will enter through the university gates, symbolically beginning your life as a WestConn student. Students will lead the university president, deans, and other senior staff in academic regalia, as you enter and accept your new role as a responsible member of the WestConn community and university life.

2:10 – 3:10 p.m. REQUIRED
Gathering in the Quad (Rain location Berkshire Hall) – Join us for some fun in the Quad immediately following the Entering the Gates Ceremony. Enjoy music, light refreshments, games, mingling, and photo opportunities on the patio and Quad.

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. REQUIRED FOR COMMUTER STUDENTS
Commuter Student Workshop in the Midtown Student Center room 202

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Dinner at the Midtown Berkshire Dining Hall or Westside Marketplace
Families are welcome to join the students. The cost for family members is $13.60 per person. Family members can pay in the Midtown Berkshire Dining Hall or Westside Marketplace using cash, credit card, or Apple Pay.

7:30 p.m. REQUIRED FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS
Resident students will meet in their respective residence halls.

Friday Shuttle Bus Schedule
The shuttle bus begins service at 9 a.m. from the Westside campus to the Midtown campus. The shuttle's final pickup is at 11 p.m. To accommodate, the Danbury Fair Mall stops between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The trip will take about 45 minutes. Beginning at 6 p.m., the trip will be 30 minutes.
*These times are approximate - Please download the Wolves Campus Connect Shuttle Tracking App

Saturday, August 22

10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Berkshire Dining Hall is open for Brunch and Lunch. Resident students must swipe their meal card.

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
The **Campus Bookstore** will be open for students to purchase WestConn apparel and to purchase textbooks required for classes. The bookstore is located on the Midtown Campus on the first floor of the Student Center.

10:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Westside Marketplace is open.

12:00 p.m.
Tau Kappa Epsilon 24 Hour Jump-A-Thon- Fairfield Lawn
During the event, students can stop by to hang out, take part in yard games, use the bounce houses and obstacle course, dunk the TKE's using the dunk tank, and enter raffles for various prizes.

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Bandana and T-Shirt Decorating – The Quad (rain location-Fireside Lobby, Berkshire Hall)
Come and customize your own bandana or T-Shirt.

2:00 – 6:00 p.m. **COME TO HAVE FUN**
RecFest '26 … Come find us on the Recreation Field. Come prepared to have fun playing games like Sand Volleyball, Wiffle Ball, Kickball, Lawn Games and Rock Wall Climbing. There will also be an inflatable obstacle course and a Custom Airbrush Tattoos along with our Ice Cream Emergency Truck (2-5 p.m.). You will also be able to design your own bumper sticker or laptop skin. So, come join us for music, laughter and an opportunity to make lots of friends!

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Dinner at the Midtown Berkshire Dining Hall

Tau Kappa Epsilon 24 Hour Jump-A-Thon (continues through the night)- Fairfield Lawn
During the event, students can stop by to hang out, take part in yard games, use the bounce houses and obstacle course, dunk the TKE's using the dunk tank, and enter raffles for various prizes.

Saturday Shuttle Bus Schedule

The shuttle bus begins service at 9 a.m. from the Westside campus to the Midtown campus. The shuttle's final pickup is at 11 p.m. To accommodate, the Danbury Fair Mall stops between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The trip will take about 45 minutes. Beginning at 6 p.m., the trip will be 30 minutes.
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Sunday, August 23

Happening until 12:00 p.m.
Tau Kappa Epsilon 24 Hour Jump-A-Thon- Fairfield Lawn
During the event, students can stop by to hang out, take part in yard games, use the bounce houses and obstacle course, dunk the TKE's using the dunk tank, and enter raffles for various prizes.

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
The **Campus Bookstore** will be open for students to purchase WestConn apparel and to purchase textbooks required for classes. The bookstore is located on the Midtown Campus on the first floor of the Student Center.

10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Berkshire Dining Hall is open. Resident students must swipe their meal card.

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Westside Marketplace is open. Resident students must swipe their meal card.

2:00 –3:00 p.m. **COME TO HAVE FUN**
Take it or Leave It Game Show! - Midtown Student Center Theater
Hosted by your favorite Orientation Leaders, you may get a chance to win a $250 gift card of your choice…**IF** you pick the correct case! Based on the TV Show 'Deal or No Deal'. Audience members have the chance to win gift cards as well!

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Act Out, Midtown Student Center Wolves Den
This is a live interactive theater experience presented by The Center for Empowerment and Education raising awareness and effecting social change utilizing their educators/actors in theatrical scenarios depicting real life situations.

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Dinner at the Midtown Berkshire Dining Hall

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. **COME TO HAVE FUN**
Campfire Kickoff!- Science Building Lawn
An unforgettable evening sponsored by Fraternity & Sorority Life Council (FSL)
Join us at 7 p.m. on the Midtown Quad for a night filled with fun and excitement! Play lawn games, grab a bite to eat, and roast some s'mores while you listen to live music. Bring your friends and experience the lively spirit of Greek Life. You won't want to miss this epic event – see you there!

8:00 p.m. **COME TO HAVE FUN**
Outdoor Movie: "Pitch Perfect"- Science Building Lawn
Once you get your Burger and Smores, sit and relax as "Pitch Perfect" plays on our giant inflatable screen. Free commemorative WestConn blanket to the first 50 moviegoers!

Sunday Shuttle Bus Schedule

The shuttle bus begins service at 9 a.m. from the Westside campus to the Midtown campus. The shuttle's final pickup is at 11 p.m. To accommodate, the Danbury Fair Mall stops between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The trip will take about 45 minutes. Beginning at 6 p.m., the trip will be 30 minutes.
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Monday, August 24

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Berkshire Dining Hall is open for Breakfast and Lunch. Resident students must swipe their meal card.

7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Westside Marketplace is open. Resident students must swipe their meal card.

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **REQUIRED FOR KATHWARI HONORS STUDENTS**
Honors Student Orientation – Student Center Multipurpose Room (down the long hallway from the bookstore)
The Kathwari Honors Program welcomes all incoming first-year Honors students, incoming Honors transfer students, and students newly admitted to the Associate Honors Program. This interactive morning is designed to help students connect with one another, meet Honors faculty and staff, and begin building a supportive community before classes begin. Students will learn about the academic expectations, unique opportunities, resources, and experiences that define the Kathwari Honors Program while discovering what it means to *Explore Deeply, Engage Fully, and Embrace Openly*. **Light continental breakfast will be available.**

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
The **Campus Bookstore** will be open for students to purchase WestConn apparel and to purchase textbooks required for classes. The bookstore is located on the Midtown Campus on the first floor of the Student Center.

1:00 p.m. **COME TO HAVE FUN AND BE INSPIRED**

Don't Quit Your Daydream with Zack Gowen – Ives Concert Hall Sponsored by Gear Up

In this high-energy, interactive keynote "Don't Quit Your Daydream," former WWE Superstar and resilience expert Zach Gowen delivers the real, raw story of defying the odds: from battling cancer and a leg amputation as a child, to becoming the first amputee to compete on American Ninja Warrior without a prosthetic, to overcoming drug addiction, and rising as a recognized leader and role model.

His story powerfully illustrates that setbacks and challenges don't define you; how you respond does. Come be inspired and get equipped to get ready to turn your own dreams into reality while staying resilient against life's toughest challenges.

3:30 p.m. **REQUIRED FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES**

WestConn Athletics Opening Meeting – Westside Athletic Complex (WAC)

This meeting is required for all student-athletes and will begin promptly at 3:30 p.m. in the Westside Athletic Complex (WAC stadium). Wear a NAVY BLUE or ORANGE shirt for the annual all-student-athlete photo during this time. Contact your coach with questions.

4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Dinner at the Midtown Berkshire Dining Hall

5:00 –7:00 p.m. **COME TO HAVE FUN**

CenterStage Welcome Picnic– Westside Campus Center North Plaza

CenterStage Club is hosting a welcome back picnic to socialize with new students and enjoy some food!

Monday Shuttle Bus Schedule

The shuttle bus begins service at 9 a.m. from the Westside campus to the Midtown campus. The shuttle's final pickup is at 11 p.m. To accommodate, the Danbury Fair Mall stops between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. The trip will take about 45 minutes. Beginning at 6 p.m., the trip will be 30 minutes.

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Tuesday, August 25

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

The Shuttle Bus resumes its regular schedule – download the https://www.wcsu.edu/shuttle/wcsushuttle/ to view schedule

Important things to note:

Please have your student ID with you at all times

Make sure you check-in on the Student Center Plaza

Questions call the Office of Student Affairs 203-837-9700

Suggestions for other things to do on campus and around Danbury:

- Walk into **Downtown Danbury** and eat at one of the local restaurants
- **Danbury San Gennaro Festival** on Ives Street in Downtown Danbury August 19-23 (WCSU Shuttle will depart from 5th Avenue) Friday 5 – 11, Sat & Sun 1 – 11 pm
- Take the HART bus to go **Bowling** in Danbury or New Milford, or perhaps visit the **Elephants Trunk Flea Market** in New Milford on Sunday (pick up your U-PASS at the Student Center Information Desk for free HART bus transportation)
- Go **Hiking** in the Westside Nature Preserve or Tarrywile Park
- Go **Shopping** at one of the local stores: Target, Wal-Mart, Costco, BJ's
  - Go **Ice Skating** at the Danbury Ice Arena, a 10-minute walk from the Midtown campus (**www.danburyice.org**)