



GATEWAY TO SERVICE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

FALL 2026 SCHEDULE

August 17—23



WASHINGTON

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Sunday, August 16, 2026

9:00 am	RESIDENCE HALLS OPEN—STUDENTS MOVE IN
9:00 am – 12:00 pm	REGISTRATION & ADVISING (Begin in the Admissions Office) 3 rd Floor, Wilkinson Hall—Room 342
	STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES Student Accounts Clearance 3 rd Floor, Wilkinson Hall—Room 351
12:00 – 1:00 pm	ONBOARDING FOR RISING SCHOLARS (Lunch provided for Rising Scholars) Dr. Ralph Johnson, VP for the Center for Student Life and Dean Christopher Banks, Director for the Center for Student Success Fireside Room—Wilkinson Hall 103-A
12:00 – 2:00 pm	LUNCH (on your own)
2:00—3:00 pm	CAMPUS BOOKSTORE VISIT Wilkinson Hall 1st Floor
3:00—5:00 pm	SETTING UP OF RESIDENCE HALL ROOMS— Students get their rooms organized
5:00 – 7:00 pm	DINNER—DINING HALL OPENS Wilkinson Hall, 2 nd Floor
7:00 p.m.	RESIDENCE HALLS ORIENTATION (Report to your designated hall) Halcyon or Morrison Halls

2026 FALL

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION SCHEDULE



WASHINGTON

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Monday, August 17, 2026

7:00 am—9:00 am	BREAKFAST Wilkinson Dining Hall
8:30 am—12:00 pm	BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION— REQUIRED FOR ALL BIOLOGY MAJORS <i>SET-UP FOR SUCCESS in the Department of Biology and Chemistry-</i> <i>Science Building Amphitheater Room 206</i>
9:00 am—12:00 pm	REGISTRATION & ADVISING —Begin in the Admissions Office—Wilkinson Hall Room 342 FINANCIAL CLEARANCE —Office of Student Accounts—Wilkinson Hall Room 351
12:00—1:00 pm	LUNCH Dining Hall—Wilkinson Hall, 2 nd Floor <i>Sligo Church Atrium</i>
1:00—1:30 pm	ORIENTATION CHECK-IN (ALL NEW STUDENTS) Sligo Church Atrium, 7700 Carroll Ave, (Greenwood Ave entrance), Takoma Park, MD 20912 <i>Sligo Church Sanctuary</i>
1:30—2:30 pm	ORIENTATION KICK-OFF—OPENING SESSION—WELCOME MESSAGES FROM UNIVERSITY OFFICERS Dr. Cheryl Kisunzu—University Interim President, Dr. Elfreda Blue—University Provost, Dr. Patrick Farley—Executive Vice President/CFO <i>Sligo Church Fellowship Halls</i>
2:30—3:00 pm	INTRO TO YOUR WAU ACCOUNTS: EMAIL & D2L—DESIRE TO LEARN ONLINE CLASS PLATFORM Rosalee Pedapudi—WAU Director of Information Technology Services <i>Sligo Church Fellowship Halls</i>
3:00—3:45 pm	INTRODUCTION TO SELF-SERVICE: REGISTRATION, DEGREE PLANNING, & TIMELY DEGREE COMPLETION Lynn Zabaleta, Registrar <i>Sligo Church Sanctuary</i>
3:45—4:30 pm	WAU ADVENTIST CULTURE—A PLACE WHERE YOU ARE LOVED—WHERE YOU BELONG “HEALTHY YOU”—UNIVERSITY POLICIES ON WELL-BEING, ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS Dr. Ralph Johnson, Vice President for Student Life <i>Sligo Church Sanctuary</i>
4:30—4:50 pm	CAMPUS SAFETY & SECURITY—PRESENTATION John Cake, Director-Campus Safety and Security <i>Sligo Church Atrium</i>
4:30—4:50 pm	PARENTS' INFORMATION BREAKOUT SESSION Christopher Banks, BHCSS Dean, and Dr. Ricardo Flores, Chief of Institutional Effectiveness & Technology <i>Kindly proceed to the WAU Dining Hall for the Gateway Banquet for all new students and their families</i>
5:00—5:45 pm	“WAU GATEWAY BANQUET”—FOR ALL NEW STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES WAU Dining Hall—Wilkinson Hall 2 nd Floor <i>Kindly proceed to the WAU Commons area for the Gateway Ceremony for all new students</i>
6:00 pm—7:00 pm	“WAU GATEWAY CEREMONY” FOR ALL NEW STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES—FOLLOWED BY AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL—On WAU Commons (<i>Gateway Ceremony & Ice Cream Social held in WH Lobby in case of rain</i>) Dr. Cheryl Kisunzu, President; Dr. Elfreda Blue, Provost; AVP Dirk Whatley, Christopher Banks, BHCSS Dean

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ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

7:00 am— 9:00 am	BREAKFAST Wilkinson Dining Hall
8:00 am—12:15 pm	BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION— REQUIRED FOR ALL BIOLOGY MAJORS <i>SET-UP FOR SUCCESS in the Department of Biology and Chemistry—</i> <i>Science Building Amphitheater Room 206</i>
9:00 am—12:00 pm	REGISTRATION & ADVISING —Begin in the Admissions Office—Wilkinson Hall Room 342 FINANCIAL CLEARANCE —Office of Student Accounts—Wilkinson Hall Room 351
12:00 pm—1:00 pm	LUNCH WITH YOUR ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF Dining Hall—Wilkinson Hall, 2 nd Floor
15-Minute Break	<i>Please make your way to Sligo Church Sanctuary for this afternoon's Orientation sessions</i>
1:15 pm—2:15 pm	"LADIES & GENTLEMEN" TITLE IX WORKSHOP – "ADDRESSING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN HIGHER EDUCATION" John Cake, University Title IX Coordinator
15-Minute Break	
2:30 pm—4:00 pm	BAFA' BAFA' – A CROSS-CULTURAL DISCUSSION ON DIVERSITY Sligo Church Atrium and Fellowship Halls (Back entrance on Greenwood Avenue) Dr. Ralph Johnson—Vice President for the Center for Student Life
15-Minute Break	
4:15 pm—4:45 pm	CAMPUS LIFE: CO-CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES & STUDENT ASSOCIATION Cindy Ming, Executive Assistant to the VP for the Center for Student Life Princeton Samuel, President of Student Association
15-Minute Break	
5:00 pm—7:00 pm	DINNER Wilkinson Dining Hall
7:00 pm	MEET NEW FRIENDS—FUN TIMES FYE Leaders and Student Association Games at the Student Association Room — Wilkinson Hall Room 108

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ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

7:00 am—9:00 am	BREAKFAST Wilkinson Dining Hall
8:00 am—11:15 am	BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION— REQUIRED FOR ALL BIOLOGY MAJORS <i>SET-UP FOR SUCCESS in the Department of Biology and Chemistry</i> Science Building Amphitheater Room 206
9:00 am—9:45 am	LIBRARY RESOURCES & TOUR OF COMPUTER LAB AREAS FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY Kathy Hecht—Access Services Manager Weis Library
15-Minute Break	Sligo Church Sanctuary
10:00 am—10:40 am	CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS RESOURCES Dean Christopher Banks—Director of the Betty Howard Center for Student Success Associate Dean Fitzroy Thomas—Career & Internship Services Director, Disability Services Director Nedelka Sellers—First-year Experience and Progressions Coordinator, Tutoring Center Coordinator
10:40 am—11:00 am	Sligo Church Pastoral Team: Ice Cream Treats Meet and Greet With New Students at Sligo Atrium
11:00 am—12:00 pm	FACULTY PANEL— “OUR EXPECTATIONS 4 YOUR SUCCESS—AS WE PARTNER WITH YOU” Sligo Church Sanctuary
	<i>Transfer Students Are Now Dismissed ~</i>
12:00 pm—1:00 pm	LUNCH —Wilkinson Dining Hall
	Required for <i>all new international students</i>—undergraduate, graduate, freshmen, and transfers.
1:00 pm—5:00 pm	INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION (See schedule on page 6) Dr. Beulah Manuel, Director – International Student Program Sligo Church Fellowship Halls
	All sessions this afternoon are at Sligo Church
1:30 pm—2:00 pm	INTD 105 (FYE) BREAKOUT SESSION—Discussion of Expectations BHCSS Dean, FYE Coordinator, FYE Instructors, and FYE Student Leaders Sligo Church Sanctuary
2:00 pm—2:15 pm	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SESSION Sligo Church Sanctuary
2:15 pm—3:00 pm	CENTER FOR STUDENT LIFE: HEALTH CLEARANCE & COMPLETE WAIVER FORMS FOR FRESHMAN FIELD TRIPS Cindy Ming, Executive Assistant to the VP of the Center for Student Life
2-Hour Break	
5:00 pm—7:00 pm	DINNER

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ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

Wilkinson Hall Room 411

Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 1:00 pm—5:00 pm

1:00 pm—1:30 pm	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, & OVERVIEW OF ISO “Getting to Know” – Icebreakers
1:30 pm—1:45 pm	STUDYING IN THE US (Video)
1:45 pm—2:15 pm	“A WHOLE NEW WORLD—ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN THE U.S.”
2:15 pm—2:30 pm	“YOUR HEALTHY YOU—TAKING CARE OF YOUR MENTAL HEALTH” “HEALTH/MEDICAL INSURANCE PLANS” “SEXUAL ASSAULT LAWS IN THE U.S.”
2:30 pm—3:15 pm	SEVIS & IMMIGRATION: “How Do I Stay in Status”?
3:15 pm—3:30 pm	BREAK (Snacks will be provided)
3:30 pm—3:45 pm	F-1 EMPLOYMENT (On/Off Campus, CPT, OPT)
3:45 pm—4:05 pm	INTRODUCTION & BRIEFING: Graduate Programs
4:05 pm—4:25 pm	STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT: GENERAL STUDIES ADVISING, TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS, CAREER & INTERNSHIP SERVICES, AND TUTORING SERVICES Fitzroy Thomas, Director of Disability Services and Career & Internship Services
4:25 pm—4:40 pm	FILLING FORMS FOR YOUR SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC STUDIES & CAREER ASPIRATIONS
4:40 pm—5:00 pm	THE INSIDE SCOOP: GET ADVICE FROM CURRENT WAU STUDENTS—STUDENT PANEL
5:00 pm—7:00 pm	DINNER Wilkinson Dining Hall

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ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Thursday, August 20, 2026

7:00 am—8:45 am	BREAKFAST FOR FYE GREAT FALLS FIELD TRIP PARTICIPANTS Wilkinson Dining Hall
9:00 am	DEPART FOR GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK FIELD TRIP FOR FRESHMEN (Required for students registered for INTD 105 FYE: First-Year Experience— ALL Freshmen) Board buses at the Halcyon Hall parking lot at 9:00 am (<u>Buses will depart at 9:15 am sharp!</u>)
9:30 am-10:30 am	BREAKFAST FOR ALL OTHERS Wilkinson Dining Hall
9:30 am—5:00 pm	NURSING DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION—Transfers or 4th Semester Nursing Students. Boyer Building—See Nursing Orientation Schedule on page 8.
12:00—1:00 pm	LUNCH Wilkinson Dining Hall
3:00 pm	RETURN FROM NATIONAL PARK FIELD TRIP FOR FRESHMEN
3:00 – 5:00 pm	BREAK—2 HOURS FOR REST AND RELAXATION
5:00 – 7:00 pm	DINNER Wilkinson Dining Hall



WASHINGTON

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Thursday, August 20, 2026

NURSING STUDENT ORIENTATION

Edyth T. James Department of Nursing

9:00 am—5:00 pm

Health Science Building—Room 215—217

9:00 am—9:05 am	NURSING ORIENTATION REGISTRATION Dr. Jercilla Murmu, Director of Nursing
9:05am—9:20 am	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION DEVOTION & PRAYER Dr. Cheryl Kisunzu, University President
9:20 am—10:40 am	DEPARTMENT OF NURSING OVERVIEW— INTRODUCTION OF FACULTY & STAFF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (Student Handbook) Dr. Jercilla Murmu, Director of Nursing
10:40 am—11:10 am	SKILLS LAB/SIMULATION LABS Dr. Oluwakemi Oponubi, Professor and Skills Lab Coordinator
11:10 am—11:40 am	CAMPUS LIFE Dr. Ralph Johnson, Vice President of the Center for Student Life
11:40 am—11:55 am	CAMPUS SECURITY AND PICTORIAL DIRECTORY John Cake, Director of Safety & Security
12:00 pm—1:00 pm	LUNCH WAU Dining Hall, Wilkinson Hall Building #1
1:00 pm—2:00 pm	WAU ACADEMIC SUPPORT RESOURCES Christopher Banks, Dean—The Betty Howard Center for Student Success (WH 133)
2:00 pm—3:00 pm	“FROM STUDENT TO NURSES: INSIGHTS FOR YOUR NURSING JOURNEY” Advice and reflections from former students and nurses
3:00 pm—5:00 pm	MANDATORY D2L & ATI TRAINING SESSION—EXAMSOFT Dr. Helen Wilson, Professor Dr. Dhaya Nandipamu, Professor

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Friday, August 21, 2026

7:00 am—9:30 am	BREAKFAST Wilkinson Dining Hall
30-Minute Break	
10:00 am-11:30 am	“YOUR CAREER PATH” PANEL PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION Office of Career and Internship Services Fitzroy Thomas, Director of Career and Internship Services Student Activity Center
30-Minute Break	
12:00—12:45 pm	LUNCH Wilkinson Dining Hall
1:00 pm	BOARD BUSES & DEPART TO MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE—WASHINGTON, DC TRIP (Required for all students registered for FYE INTD 105—ALL Freshmen) Board buses at the Halcyon Hall parking lot by 1:00 pm <i>(Buses will depart at 1:15 pm sharp)</i>
5:00 pm	RETURN FROM WASHINGTON, DC TRIP
5:00 – 6:30 pm	DINNER Wilkinson Dining Hall
30-Minute Break	
7:00 pm	*NEW STUDENT CONSECRATION SERVICE— FOR ALL FRESHMEN & NEW TRANSFERS ESPECIALLY FOR YOU~ <i>(For all new students and their families)</i> <i>(New students are asked to wear black and white business casual clothes)</i> Dr. Ralph Johnson, VP for the Center for Student Life Sligo Church Sanctuary <i>*For students living off-campus, please bring a change of clothing in preparation for the New Student Consecration Service. On Thursday, August 21, you will be notified of the location where you are to leave your clothes and dress.</i>

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Saturday, August 22, 2026

6:15 am	BOARD BUSES & DEPART TO OCEAN CITY, MD—FOR SLIGO-BY-THE-SEA SABBATH TRIP (For ALL New Freshmen and New Transfers) Board buses at the Halcyon Hall parking lot by 6:15 am (<i><u>Buses will depart at 6:30 am sharp</u></i>)
9:00 am	ARRIVE TO OCEAN CITY, MD
10:00—11:00 am	SLIGO-BY-THE-SEA: SABBATH SCHOOL
11:00 am—12:30 pm	SLIGO-BY-THE-SEA: SABBATH WORSHIP
12:30—1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00—3:00 pm	GRAND FINALE: FELLOWSHIP AND SONGS OF PRAISES BY THE BEACH
3:00 pm	BOARD BUSES TO DEPART FROM OCEAN CITY, MD—TRIP BACK TO TAKOMA PARK, MD
6:30 pm	RETURN TO WAU CAMPUS
5:00—6:00 pm	DINNER Wilkinson Dining Hall
6:30—7:30 pm	DINNER FOR NEW FRESHMEN & NEW TRANSFERS RETURNING FROM SLIGO-BY-THE SEA Wilkinson Dining Hall



WASHINGTON

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Sunday, August 23, 2026

ATHLETICS STUDENT ORIENTATION

2:00-4:00 PM

Student Activity Center

10:30 am—2:00 pm	BRUNCH Wilkinson Dining Hall
2:00 PM	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF STAFF (AD, Assistant AD, SID, Athletics Recruiter, Athletics Trainer, Faculty Athletic Rep, and Coaches)
2:00—2:15 pm	TEAM ICEBREAKER & GIVEAWAYS—<i>Make New Friends</i>
2:15—2:35 pm	YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS—<i>Essential Actions</i>
2:35—2:55 pm	RESIDENCE LIFE
2:55 pm—3:10 pm	TEAM ICEBREAKER & GIVEAWAYS
3:10 pm—3:30 pm	STUDENT LIFE
3:30—4:00 pm	ATHLETICS Presentation by Assistant Athletics Director Presentation by Compliance Coordinator Presentation by Coaches Presentation by Office Manager Presentation by Athletics Director

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GATEWAY TO SERVICE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Hosted by:
The Betty Howard Center for Student Success
First-Year Experience and Progressions
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