

Western Launch Parent & Family Newsletter

August marks the final stretch before the academic year begins, and for many families, preparations are in full swing. Whether you're booking travel, purchasing supplies, or helping your student review important dates, this is a key time to get organized. As move-in day and Orientation Week approach, encourage your student to check their Western email regularly for updates, review the move-in schedule, and confirm any required forms or payments. Taking care of these details now will help ensure a smooth transition to campus life in September.



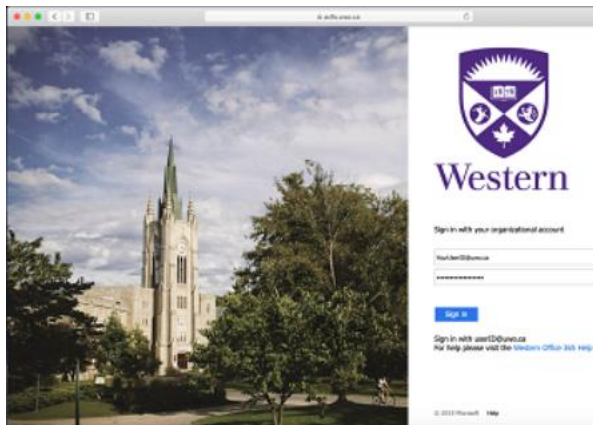
Important Dates

September 1st- Labour Day
September 4th- Fall/Winter Classes Begin
September 12th- Last day to add or drop a Fall/Winter 24-week course or a Fall 12-week course. Courses dropped by this date will not appear on a transcript.
September 30th- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (non-instructional day)
October 11th-13th- Thanksgiving Weekend (University closed Monday Oct 13th)
December 11th - 22nd - Mid-year Examination Period (Do not book any travel during the exam period)

[University Sessional Dates](#)

O-Week

Western's Orientation Week (O-Week), running September 1st to September 6th, welcomes new students with a mix of high-energy events like concerts and silent discos, as well as relaxed activities such as movie nights and community engagement opportunities. Faculty-specific sessions help students connect with classmates and prepare for their academic journey. Students can download the O-Week 2025 app to view the full schedule. To participate, students should confirm that their O-Pass was included in their ancillary fees. If the orientation fee was not included in your tuition, you can opt in once you arrive on campus. [Learn more here.](#)



Outlook

Encourage your student to set up and check their Western email regularly, as it's the primary way the University shares important updates about academics, events, and campus services. Students can activate their account by visiting myoffice.uwo.ca and logging in with their Western User ID and password. Once set up, they should monitor it frequently to ensure they don't miss deadlines, announcements, or opportunities throughout the year. [Learn more here.](#)



OWL Brightspace

Brightspace is Western's online learning platform, where students can access course materials, submit assignments, participate in discussions, and view grades. Encourage your student to log in through owl.uwo.ca using their Western credentials before classes begin to familiarize themselves with the layout and tools. A great way to get familiar with Brightspace is to complete the [Launch Online Modules](#). This series of online Orientation modules will have students learn more about services and supports before they arrive~ Getting comfortable with Brightspace early will help them stay organized and on top of their coursework throughout the term. [Learn more here.](#)



CliftonStrengths



Western ONECard Pick-Up Clifton Strengths

Your Western ONECard is more than just a Photo ID Card. The Western ONECard functions as an identification card for exams and the student bus pass; it acts as your student's library card; meal plan card; and can be used for door access and vending machine purchases. It is also required to access Campus Recreation and to pick up a parking permit or keys. Students living in residence will get their Western ONECard on move-in day. Off campus students will need to pick up their OneCard during designated pick-up days. If your student loses their card, there will be a fee to replace it. Replacement Cards are available in Student Central at the Info Desk in the Western Student Services building.

*ONLY your student can pick up their Western ONECard. Access cannot be given to anyone to pick it up on your student's behalf. Valid Photo ID must be shown.

[Learn more here.](#)

Western offers all incoming students the opportunity to complete the CliftonStrengths assessment (valued at \$33 CAD per assessment), a tool that helps them identify their top talents and learn how to apply them in academics, leadership, and personal growth. By understanding their strengths early, students can make more intentional choices about their studies, campus involvement, and career planning. Encourage your student to complete the assessment and explore the resources Western provides to help them put their strengths into action. [Learn more here.](#)



Intramurals at Western

Taking part in Intramural Sports is a great way to get involved and meet friends at Western. Participants can enjoy a fun, equitable, and safe playing environment! Meet new people, enjoy friendly competition, and learn new skills in our facilities around campus. And who doesn't want to challenge for the right to wear "The Purple Shirt", an Intramural Champion tradition! Campus Recreation's Intramural program is open to all Western students and Campus Recreation members. [Learn more here.](#)



Fee Payment Options

All undergraduate students are automatically enrolled in the Standard Payment Plan, but students may choose to enroll in the Flexible Payment Plan. If your OSAP entitlement and Anticipated Aid (Western University scholarships, bursaries or awards) for the 2025/26 academic year will cover or exceed the amount of fees owing, then enrollment in a payment plan is not required. If you will be living in Residence for the 2025/26 academic year, please DO NOT apply for a Flexible Payment Plan until your housing charges have been added to your Statement of Account. If you apply prior to your charges being billed, Residence charges will not be included on your payment plan, and you will be required to pay the balance of those fees by the due date on your Statement of Account. [Learn more here.](#)



Indigenous Student Orientation Day

Come meet other first year students for a fun day with the Indigenous Student Centre (ISC)! During the Indigenous Student Orientation, you will also meet ISC staff, learn about resources and services offered on campus, and meet some amazing student leaders! Included in the day: a campus tour, lunch, and off-campus outing. [Learn more here.](#)



First-Year Student Bursaries

Western University has a robust Financial Aid program that helps students from low-income families overcome financial barriers and food insecurity to succeed academically at Western. Costs considered include tuition and ancillary fees, residence fees, rent, food, books & equipment, and more. Assistance is provided through awards, bursaries, and the Work-Study program. [Learn more here.](#)

Western  StudentExperience

Western Launch

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launch.uwo.ca