

## Reminders for Students - Preparing for the Semester

- View the academic calendar at [wmich.edu/registrar/academic-calendar-2026-27](http://wmich.edu/registrar/academic-calendar-2026-27)
- Review the WMU recommended laptop specifications for your college at [wmich.edu/laptop](http://wmich.edu/laptop)
- Explore purchasing or renting textbooks (can be ordered online, bundled, and picked up) through the WMU Bookstore at [www.bkstr.com/westernmichiganstore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials](http://www.bkstr.com/westernmichiganstore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials)
- Review move-in schedule, packing lists, and helpful tips at <https://wmich.edu/housing/new-students/movein#schedule>
- Review WMU Alert options at [wmudps.wmich.edu/safety-info.php#alert](http://wmudps.wmich.edu/safety-info.php#alert) and sign up for visitor text alerts by texting WMUPublicSafety (not case sensitive) to one of the following numbers: 226787 or 67283. Your student may want to sign up for the RAVE Guardian app.
- Students with disabilities should request accommodations through Disability Services for Students by filling out the DSS-Accommodate Public Form. Review the form at [wmich.edu/disabilityservices/eligibility-process](http://wmich.edu/disabilityservices/eligibility-process)

## Reminders for Students - Final Tasks

- The day after students register for classes, they will be required to activate two-factor authentication as part of the WMU log-in process. We recommend using the Duo mobile app on your smartphone. Learn more at [wmich.edu/it/2FA](http://wmich.edu/it/2FA). It is important that they do this before arriving on campus in August!
- Students must submit final high school and/or college transcripts, and AP/IB test scores to avoid delays in financial aid disbursement and future course registration.
- Fall Welcome is required for all first-time beginner students and highly encouraged for transfer students. Encourage your student to participate! Learn more at [wmich.edu/transitions/fall-welcome](http://wmich.edu/transitions/fall-welcome)
- First-year beginner students must complete the Vector Online Modules and the Online Orientation Modules by 9/1/26.

## Paying the Student Account Balance

- Semester tuition and fee invoices are generated 4-5 weeks before the start of the semester. The semester invoice includes tuition, fees, room and board, pending financial aid, the student's class schedule, and the tuition due date (which is typically the first day of the semester or session). Charges for registration completed after this date are available to view within the student's GoWMU account.
- If paying with a credit card, a convenience fee is charged by WMU's third-party payment processor Touchnet Paypath to process the transaction. Credit or debit card payments on student accounts can only be made online. There is no convenience fee charged for payments with a checking or savings account.
- If you plan to view/pay your students' account, your student needs to grant you Authorized User Access by logging in to GoWMU with their Bronco NetID and password. Get instructions at [wmich.edu/accounts-receivable/parents/authorized-user](http://wmich.edu/accounts-receivable/parents/authorized-user)
- The student and any authorized users on the student account receive an email/text notification when the invoice/monthly statements are ready for viewing online. Student emails are sent to their wmich.edu email address.
- For information about the University Payment Plan options, visit [wmich.edu/accounts-receivable/payments/university-payment-plan](http://wmich.edu/accounts-receivable/payments/university-payment-plan)
- If your student has a third-party sponsor who should be billed for their tuition charges, get more information about this at [wmich.edu/accounts-receivable/payments/third-party](http://wmich.edu/accounts-receivable/payments/third-party)
- Consider encouraging your student to set up an electronic refund method within the Payment & Account Information App on GoWMU.



## WMU Family Checklist



**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
Merze Tate College  
Office of Student Transitions

## General Topics for Discussion

- Discuss campus safety and decisions regarding alcohol and drug use.
- Discuss time management, study skills, and mutual expectations for staying in touch.
- Encourage students to complete their profile on Handshake at [wmich.joinhandshake.com/stu](http://wmich.joinhandshake.com/stu) to search for on and off-campus jobs and internships. Note that student employees must provide documentation to their employers to show their identity and authorization to work. Discuss a plan to ensure that students have the appropriate documentation if they plan to work while they are on campus.
- Provide remainder of life skills (including doing laundry, managing bank accounts, eating well, etc.)
- Remind your student to check their WMU email account frequently.
- Students' time at WMU may include stress, complicated decisions, and challenging situations. Encourage your student to reach out for help when they are struggling. Review counseling resources with your student at [wmich.edu/healthcenter/counseling](http://wmich.edu/healthcenter/counseling).

## Reminders for Parents and Families - Connecting with WMU

- Save the date for Family Weekend - October 30th - November 1st!
- Sign up to receive the Family Connection newsletter at [wmich.edu/studentaffairs/familysignup](http://wmich.edu/studentaffairs/familysignup)
- Guardians of current students can receive campus communications from the Office of the President and Office of the Provost by providing their student's WIN number on the same website.
- Explore the Bronco Guide at [wmich.edu/broncoguide/families](http://wmich.edu/broncoguide/families)
- Housing and Residence Life provides a wealth of information for parents and families to help support their students. Visit [wmich.edu/housing/parent/concerns](http://wmich.edu/housing/parent/concerns) to learn more.

## Managing Healthcare Info

- Review the top questions parents and families ask Sindecuse Health Center most often at [wmich.edu/healthcenter/about/top10-parent](http://wmich.edu/healthcenter/about/top10-parent). This includes information about insurance, transferring medical records, confidentiality, where to go when Sindecuse is closed, and more.
- Your student should know their current and maintenance prescription medications (consider transferring any prescriptions to Sindecuse Pharmacy).
- Have your student take a photo of insurance cards to keep on their phone. They can also upload a copy of the card to their account on Sindecuse's patient portal as needed.
- Review how to make an appointment with a health care provider, including at Sindecuse Health Center, and the importance of checking messages through a provider's secure portal.
- Students under the age of 18 will need a parent or guardian's permission to receive many types of treatment at Sindecuse. Complete and sign the Medical Treatment for Minors Authorization form at [wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u89/2023/Minor-Treatment\\_form021\\_2023.pdf](http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u89/2023/Minor-Treatment_form021_2023.pdf)



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