

# New Eph Update: First-Year Essentials

Williams  
College

August 22, 2023, EDITION 13



## THE FINAL NEWSLETTER!

### What to Expect during First Days!

Class of 2027! Your arrival day is fast approaching and we hope you are excited as you prepare to begin your college life! If you are not participating in a Pre-O program (you would have been receiving communications about that all summer) then you should expect to arrive to campus on Thursday, August 31. The [First Days Schedule](#) has been online for a while and is updated frequently. In addition to reviewing the First Days Schedule again, below you will find some additional information to consider!



## What is First Days?

First Days is Williams College's orientation program. Adapting to college takes a lot and there is much to learn when you get here. This isn't just a continuation of high school, this is a major transition in your life. From independent decision making, to learning that almost EVERYONE (including you) is likely to ask for help at some point. Old formulas for academic success may need to shift as new ones develop. Your new best friend might change 10 times before the end of the year. How do you adapt to all that is new and unfamiliar? These are the scenarios and questions that our First Days program hopes to help you with!

There are many required sessions throughout the schedule indicated by an (R) next to the location. There is a reason for this and your JAs will be rounding you up regularly to help you keep track of where you need to be and when. You will travel to and from these sessions with your entire entry and JA co-group.

**Here are some schedule highlights! This is not a complete review of the schedule, but some things we want to point out.**

### August 31

**8am-12pm Arrival!** Check in will be at Pareksy! Our friendly Campus Safety Services and Williamstown Police Department will be on hand to direct you as you arrive by car. Your questions will be answered, and what may look daunting will soon make sense.

**1pm-1:30pm GOODBYE HUGS!** Whether you are in your dorm room or finishing lunch on the quad with your family/friends, this is the time to hug and part ways. This can be challenging for both student and family/friends so we want to make sure it is on your radar that after 1:30pm you are unlikely to see your family/friends for the rest of First Days. You will be in sessions and starting your new college life. Please plan for this!



### **8pm-First Night Fest! A special welcome to the Class of 2027!**

Join us on the Paresky Quad for your first night out on campus! We will be serving you [Sisters of Anarchy Ice Cream!](#) 5 flavors including a vegan option. In addition to **soccer darts**, **inflatable basketball**, **skiball**, **a bouncy slide**, and **live FLUFFY doggies**, Dean Walsh invites you to give it your best shot and **Dunk the Dean in an ice-cold dunk tank!** That's right, dunk your first-year class dean! The first student to dunk Dean Walsh will receive a commemorative plaque and a photo opp with Dean Walsh. Press "play" on the GIF above for a teaser!

### **Sign up for Capped Events**

Among the many optional events planned for the evenings during First Days, a few events have limits on participation so if you are interested, reserve your space and sign up today! The links to sign up are included in the First Days schedule and below. Keep in mind, if you sign up, please **SHOW** up. Signing up fills a seat that will no longer be available to others.

These include...

**Monday Sept 4 at 12pm Pop-up Yoga** - bring your own mat if you have one, some are available for use, [sign up here](#)

**Monday Sept 4 at 7pm Faith and Environment Sorbet Social** – capped at 35, [sign up here](#)

**Tuesday Sept 5 at 6pm Make Fresh Apple Cider with the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives** – capped at 30, [sign up here](#)

**Tuesday Sept 5 at 7pm Bob Ross Paint night with the Area Coordinators** – capped at 50, [sign up here](#)





**Tuesday Sept 5 at 7pm-10pm Mini Golf Library Night** – 13 groups of up to 5 players, [sign up here](#)

**Wednesday Sept 6 – The day before classes start! Transition to full academic mode.**

Throughout First Days, you will learn a lot of about the college and how you will learn to navigate the many changes coming your way. On this day, we will revisit some of that, but also emphasize what you need to know and understand before your first day of classes. You may be tired by now but you do not want to miss any part of the activities and sessions on this day. See below for highlights.

Writing a Williams college paper is different than in high school! And P-sets take more time than you think! Who do you reach out to when things don't go the way you think they will? What does a Dean's Office really have to do with me? What is the honor code and why I really need to understand it in the age of A.I and Grammerly? Why you NEED the library! Have questions about Accommodation needs? Many, or most, of these questions will apply to you at some point so get a handle on it before classes begin!

**Most sessions on this day are REQUIRED. Review the First Days schedule and get plenty of sleep ahead of time.**

**We're excited to see you August 31 and to spend First Days getting to know you and helping you settle in to life at Williams. Until then, be well and safe travels!**

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## **A Note about Title IX**

Last week we told you to expect a required Title IX module for all incoming students. Unfortunately that is delayed, however please keep an eye out for further communications regarding this required training for students.

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FIRST-YEAR LANDING PAD

MEET THE DEAN OF STUDENTS TEAM

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU NEED HELP WITH!

PAST EDITIONS

FOLLOW US FOR EVENTS, UPDATES, & MORE!

For All New Ephs — [first-year@williams.edu](mailto:first-year@williams.edu) /413-597-4171

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