

Greetings Scholars!

I am pleased to welcome you to the Student Transition Program (STP) at the University of Mary Washington (UMW)! I look forward to meeting and working with you in the coming months and upcoming academic year; we hope to help make your first year at Mary Wash as positive and memorable as possible. The effects of COVID-19 have been unimaginable and continue to impact the everyday lives of college students. Nonetheless, I'm extremely proud of the efforts put forth by my colleagues to reopen the campus in the safest and most productive ways possible. On that same note, I assure you my team and I are working equally hard to provide you, **STP 2021**, with a great first-year experience!

The STP summer pre-college experience will run **Monday, July 12th-Friday, July 23rd 18th**. Over the next couple of months, I will send you a series of messages with updates about the schedule and other pertinent information regarding the STP summer experience. In the meantime, here's what I can tell you:

- **New Student Orientation (NSO):** STP participants are encouraged to register for New Student Orientation (NSO) session **four: Thursday, June 17th**
 - During NSO session four, there will be an allotted time scheduled for a virtual '*STP Meet & Greet*' that will consist of:
 - i. an introduction to the STP Summer Peer Counselors who will mentor you during the summer and fall semesters
 - ii. updates about the summer and fall
 - iii. a Q&A session
- **Move-In/Move-Out:** STP participants will reside in **Arrington Hall** during the summer experience. **Move-in** will take place on **Sunday, July 11th** between the hours of **8:00am-12:00 noon** and move-out will be **Friday, July 23rd** beginning at **3:00pm (program participants are asked to be out of the residence hall by 8:00pm)**.
 - To promote social-distancing and safety, every student will be assigned their own room in the residence hall and will share a suite area (i.e., bathroom) with one other program participant.
- **COVID/ Covid Testing:** STP will follow [UMW's testing and isolation protocols for summer 2021](#). All program participants will be required to complete an **entry test during move-in** on Sunday, July 11th and **one additional prevalence test** during the two-week program (date TBD). I will provide more details regarding this process once they've been finalized but here's what else I can tell you:
 - STP students will be held to the UMW "Return to Campus" standards of: [Monitor](#). [Mask](#). [Distance](#). [Clean](#). Outside of the classroom experience, the summer program will provide opportunities for organized and informal relationship building and networking with other students, faculty, and staff at the university. Additionally, students will have access to various areas of campus for meetings, recreation, and simply to hang out (e.g., fitness center, HCC, etc.). Program participants will be expected to wear a mask in public and make every effort possible to maintain the safety of themselves and others while in these common spaces.

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- Any student who can provide valid proof of vaccination may be exempt from daily attestation and the need to quarantine in the case of close contact with someone who tests positive.
- Any STP participant who tests positive for COVID will be immediately placed in isolation housing and will remain there until a parent/guardian can come pick them up. The STP director will work with the student to complete all final requirements of their summer course(s) remotely so that the student will receive credit for said course(s).
- **Summer Course(s):** During the summer program, participants will complete one college-success course (i.e., EDUC. 101) that will account for two-credit hours, applicable towards your degree. There is potential that another course, a one-credit hour, general education requirement, may be added (more details to come).
 - The course(s) will be taught via face-to-face instruction.
 - Textbooks will be provided.
- **Health & Wellness:** STP requires that program participants submit all required documentation by the UMW Health Center prior to arriving to campus for the summer experience. The forms are located in the health center's 'Student Portal' highlighted in yellow on the left-side of their website; you can access the portal through the following [link](#).
- **Meals:** All meals during the weekdays (i.e., Monday-Friday) will be prepared for pickup by university dining services; the seating area of the dining facility will be closed. Daily, I will provide students will a link that will enable them to place their meal orders for the following day, which will include breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
 - Students will need to place their orders for the following day no later than noon
 - Peer counselors and program staff will work diligently to assist and remind students to place their daily orders
 - Students will be provided a designated place and timeframe to pick up each meal
 - Meals will be bagged, sealed, and labeled with individual student's name.
 - Alternative, off-campus dining options are being explored for the weekend (i.e., Friday dinner-Sunday dinner); more details to come.
- **Disability Resources:** The Office of Disability Resources (ODR) has been designated by the University of Mary Washington as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. If you feel you require accommodations for your summer/fall 2021 classes and/or throughout your time at UMW, please complete the [Registration Form](#) and provide appropriate documentation. ODR specialists will work diligently to provide you appropriate accommodations starting summer 2021. If you are in need of [Housing Accommodations](#) throughout your time at UMW, please complete the required [registration form](#) and provide your [Housing Accommodation Request Form](#) as soon as possible. Should you have questions, or specific needs around housing, ODR also recommends you contact their office at 540-654-1266.

I appreciate your patience as we navigate and work to set up the best summer experience possible! Again, this is the first of a series of updates I will provide regarding the summer program. Nonetheless, if you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at (540) 654-1726 and/or email me. Otherwise, I'll be in touch soon!

Can't wait to meet you,

Justin

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