



Welcome Week

2026

August 27- August 30



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Welcome!

Welcome Week is the beginning of your Wilson College story. Over the next several days, you'll meet classmates, connect with faculty and staff, explore campus traditions, and discover the resources that will help you thrive. Every activity has been thoughtfully designed to help you feel at home, build lasting friendships, and prepare for a successful first semester and beyond. We encourage you to participate fully, ask questions, and embrace every opportunity. Welcome to the Wilson community!

Sessions at which your attendance is required are noted in orange with a “*”, but we hope that you will take advantage of all opportunities to get to know Wilson better.

Thursday, August 27

8:00 am – 11:00 am Check-In/Move-In for Residential Students
Lenfest Commons – Lobby

11:00 am – 12:00 pm Check-In for Commuting Students
Lenfest Commons Lobby

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Get Your Wilson ID
Lenfest Commons, Student Financial Services Center
If you did not receive your student ID during the summer Phoenix Days, stop by today to have your photo taken and get your ID.

If you are unable to get your ID picture taken today, the Student Financial Services Center will be open from 8am – 5pm on Friday, August 28.

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Farewell Lunch for New Students and Families

Lenfest Commons

* Please note: Students and families are welcome to eat at any time during the 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. designation.

After sharing lunch together, it's time for final hugs, high-fives, and goodbyes. Students will continue with Welcome Week activities, while families join President Wes for a session designed especially for them. **After President Wes' session, all families will depart campus, except families of winter and spring student-athletes, who will meet with the Athletic Director at 2:00 pm.**

1:30 pm

Family Farewell (Families Only)

Library Patio

Goodbyes are never easy, but they mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter. Join fellow Wilson families for a special gathering as we celebrate your students' journey into the Phoenix family.

President Wes will share words of wisdom as your student begins this new adventure. Remember that your family is now part of the Phoenix family too. Together, we rise, support, and soar!

1:30 pm

***Meet Your Orientation Team (New First-Year and New Transfer Students Only)**

Laird Green

Meet the upper-class students who will be your guides, campus experts, and biggest cheerleaders throughout Welcome Week and beyond.

2:00 pm

Ready to Help Your Phoenix Soar: Athletics Family Session

For families of winter and spring athletes, including Equestrian Western and Hunt Seat teams
Brooks Science Center, Auditorium

Every great Phoenix has a strong support system. Join Director of Athletics Andrea Hoover-Erbig to learn what you need to know before competition season begins.

2:45 pm

Commuter Connection

Allen Auditorium, Warfield Hall

Being a commuter student doesn't mean missing out on the full Phoenix experience. Meet fellow commuter students, get answers to your questions, and learn how to make the most of your time at Wilson. Your experience is what you make of it, and we're here to help you soar!

3:15 pm

Commuter Campus Tour

Departing from Allen Auditorium

Don't just drive to campus - discover it! Join us for a tour designed to help commuter students learn the ins and outs of Wilson. Discover a new favorite spot, find your classrooms, and become a campus expert in no time.

4:30 pm

***The Wilson Welcome**

Alumnae Chapel, Thomson Hall

Join members of the Wilson community for an exciting celebration to officially launch Welcome Week. Experience the energy, traditions, and pride that make Wilson a special place.

**Following The
Wilson Welcome**

Dinner with your Orientation Team

Jensen Dining Hall

Join your Orientation Leader and other new students for dinner in the dining hall.

6:15 pm

***Residential Life Meeting: Roommates, Neighbors & Everything in Between**

Alumnae Chapel, Thomson Hall

Meet your floor mates, your Resident Assistant (RA), and the people who will help make your residence hall a great one. Learn the "how-to's" of community living.

Required for all new students living on campus.

6:15 pm

Phoenix Pause: Commuters Time Out in the Student Center

Lenfest Commons, Student Center (lower level)

Take a break and make yourself at home in Wilson's newly renovated Student Center during this relaxed commuter-focused Welcome Week event. Stop by to connect with fellow commuter students, unwind between activities, and enjoy a variety of fun DIY projects designed for creativity, conversation, and stress relief before heading over to the evening S'mores Event on the Odds Quad.

Encouraged for all new students commuting to campus.

7:30 pm

S'MORE Fun

Odds Quad (Behind Desert Hall)

Join us at the fire pit on the Odds Quad for a night of sweet treats. Bring your appetite for s'mores and your excitement for the year ahead. Receive a free t-shirt while supplies last.

Friday, **August 28**

7:00 am – 8:30 am

Breakfast

Jensen Dining Hall

8:30 am

***Navigating the Academic Experience**

Brooks Science Complex, Auditorium

Dr. Deb Austin, Associate Dean of Academic Advising, Dr. Anne Coleman, Dean of Student Success, and Jean Hoover, Registrar, will help you understand academic expectations, campus resources, and strategies for success at Wilson College.

10:00 am – 10:45am

***Advisor Meetings**

Various locations – refer to the back of your nametag for your specific location.

11:00 am – 11:50 am

***First-Year Seminar Class (attendance is required for first-time, full-time students)**

Meeting locations will be posted in the Lenfest Lobby and on the Wilson Portal

Take your first step toward academic success by attending your First-Year Seminar class. You'll meet your instructor, learn what to expect during the semester, and begin developing the tools, habits, and relationships that will help you thrive at Wilson.

11:00 am – 11:50 am

For Transfer Students Only!

Learning Commons, Library

Welcome to the Wilson family! This session is your opportunity to connect with fellow transfer students, meet the staff who are here to support you, and learn about Wilson's academic resources, campus services, and involvement opportunities that will help you hit the ground running. Whether you're transferring from a community college or another university, we're excited to help you feel right at home.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch

Jensen Dining Hall

1:00 – 1:15 pm

***Meet Your Orientation Team**

Main Green (in front of Warfield)

Meet your Orientation Leader (OL) and other members of your group to line up for Convocation.

1:30 pm

***Convocation (wear your new Wilson t-shirt)**

Alumnae Chapel, Thomson Hall

*****Please line up on the driveway in front of Edgar Hall (white Administration Building) no later than 1:15 pm for the procession.***

Academic Convocation is the official opening of the academic year and one of the College's most meaningful traditions. Together, new students, faculty, staff, and administrators celebrate the opportunities that lie ahead while reaffirming Wilson's commitment to scholarship, integrity, and community. The ceremony culminates with the signing of the Wilson College Honor Principle, symbolizing your commitment to the values that unite us all.

Following Convocation Class Photo

3:30 pm

***Claws, Coke, & College**

Brooks Science Complex, Auditorium

Special Guest Speaker: Archie Messersmith-Bunting

Through an engaging and inspiring presentation, Archie Messersmith-Bunting shares his personal story to spark honest conversations about making healthy choices, supporting friends, and building a caring campus community. Students will learn how to recognize when someone may need help, gain confidence in having meaningful conversations, and discover how small acts of compassion can make a lasting difference.

Immediately following Phoenix Pride: Traditions, Leadership, and You

Brooks Science Complex, Auditorium

Meet Wilson's student government (WCGA) officers and discover what it means to be part of the Phoenix community. Learn about campus traditions, student organizations, leadership opportunities, and the many ways to get involved both inside and outside the classroom. You'll also discover how your voice can make a difference by sharing ideas, advocating for positive change, and helping shape the Wilson student experience from your very first semester.

5:00 pm

Cookout on the Patio

Library Patio

9:00 pm

Entertainer John Rush

Sarah's Café, Lenfest Commons

A Wilson College favorite is back! Join us for an unforgettable evening with the always-entertaining John Rush, whose high-energy show combines incredible talent, humor, and voluntary audience participation that keeps students talking long after the performance ends. Whether you're seeing him for the first time or you're excited for another great show, this is the perfect way to laugh, connect with friends, kick back and relax.

Saturday, August 29

7:00 am – 9:00 am

Breakfast

Jensen Dining Hall

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

***The Wilson Community**

Jensen Dining Hall

Get ready to build community alongside members of the Student Development staff, Resident Assistants, and Orientation Leaders. This interactive experience is a great opportunity to meet new classmates and talk together about creating a campus culture where everyone can thrive and expect involvement, respect, and belonging while standing strong against hazing and sexual misconduct.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch

Jensen Dining Hall

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

The Hunt for Blaze

Jensen Dining Hall

“**The Great Game**” transforms the Wilson College campus into an exciting, app-based adventure where teams compete in a race against the clock. Using your phone, you’ll explore campus landmarks, solve interactive puzzles, uncover hidden clues, and complete challenges inspired by Wilson’s traditions and campus culture. Success depends on teamwork, creativity, and quick thinking as you climb the leaderboard for a chance to win prizes. Bring your competitive spirit and get ready to discover Wilson in a whole new way!

2:00 pm

*** Bold Connections: Game On!**

Laird Hall

Ready to meet your fellow Phoenix and discover what connects us? This interactive session makes getting to know others easy, fun, and memorable. You’ll uncover shared interests, learn from different perspectives, and see how each person’s story helps create the welcoming Wilson community we all share.

4:00 pm

First Year Blessing of the Animals

Lenfest Commons Fountain Area

Experience one of Wilson's most beloved traditions. Join Chaplain Andy Hart for a special Blessing of the Animals celebrating the joy and companionship pets bring to our lives. All new students are welcome to bring their pets to this event, but animals are not required to participate - everyone is invited to join this meaningful Wilson tradition and begin your journey with a little extra love.

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Dinner

Jensen Dining Hall

9:00 pm

Bingo!

Jensen Dining Hall

Join us in the dining hall for bingo, prizes, and fun!

Sunday, August 30

10:00 am

Worship Service

Prayer Chapel – 006 Lenfest

Take a moment to recharge, reflect, and connect with the Wilson community during a brief interdenominational worship service led by Chaplain Andy. Whether you are seeking a spiritual connection, a quiet moment, or simply a welcoming place to meet others, all are invited. The service will be followed by fellowship, coffee, and doughnuts!

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Brunch

Jensen Dining Hall

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Activities Fair

Lenfest Commons and Lenfest Breezeway

Discover all that Wilson has to offer! Meet returning students, explore campus clubs and organizations, and find the activities, interests, and communities that are right for you. Whether you're looking to try something new or continue a favorite passion, there's place for you - sign up today!

3:00 pm

Veterinary School Information and Planning Session

Warfield Auditorium

Thinking about pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine? This session will help you begin planning now.

4:00 pm

Stables Orientation

Brooks Science Center Auditorium

Anyone who is registered or planning to take a riding class **MUST** have an orientation session. Barn policies will be explained, an overview of the horses will be given, and release forms will be signed. Students who do not attend an orientation meeting will not be permitted to ride. Information for new boarders will be provided at the conclusion of the orientation meeting.

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

President's Picnic

Sharpe House Lawn (in front of Disert Hall)

Experience one of Wilson College's most beloved Welcome Week traditions: dinner at the home of President Fugate! Each year, Pres Wes welcomes new students to his home to celebrate the start of the fall semester.

8:00 pm

Movie Night - Pitch Perfect

Jensen Dining Hall

Grab some popcorn, settle in, and enjoy a screening of Pitch Perfect with your fellow Phoenix! As you watch, play along on your phone with a themed game of Pitch Perfect Bingo by marking off iconic songs, quotes, characters, and memorable moments from the movie. Complete your bingo card for a chance to win prizes.

**Classes begin at 8:00 a.m. on
Monday, August 31, 2026!**

Fall 2026

Classes begin: August 31

Last Day to Add/Drop: September 4

Wilson Weekend: September 18-19

Fall Break: October 19-20

Last Day to Withdraw: November 9

Thanksgiving Break: November 25-27

Classes End: December 11

Final Exam Period: December 14-18



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