



Bearprints for Success Frequently Asked Questions

WashU
Fall 2024

Our goal is to help you find success at WashU

We hope that this list of campus resources will help you as you find your place here at WashU. These resources were all discussed during your Bearprints class, but if you have any questions, you can always reach out to your instructor or email bearprints@wustl.edu.

Academic Support & Tutoring

- I am aware that I need a tutor or math help... however the deadline to apply for PLTL has passed. Is there a reliable alternative?
 - [Residential Peer Mentoring \(RPM\) Hours](#): RPM Hours are open to all students during regular hours in common areas on the South 40. There are also sessions for specific courses. (Highly recommended by upper-division students!)
 - [Math Help Room](#): TAs from the math department are available on a drop-in basis in Urbauer 317B.
- I need help with Chemistry!
 - Your first stop should be the course's Canvas page. Chemistry has a small army of TAs and they have lots of office hours (sometimes late into the night). Attending office hours to get help is a great initial step. Also, you can go alongside another student if that seems intimidating!
 - [RPM Hours](#) on the South 40 are a good, drop-in option. This page has a schedule of all drop-in mentoring hours and you can sort by course.
 - The Learning Center keeps a list of [all General Chemistry resources](#).
 - If you are an engineering major, McKelvey will cover the cost of chemistry tutoring for you.
- What's the best campus resource for people who want to build better study habits?
 - [Academic Skills Peer Coaching](#) is run by the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL).
 - Student testimonial: "I've had nothing but great experiences with Matched Academic Mentoring. It is more one on one help, and you can apply at any point throughout the semester."
- Useful websites:
 - [The Learning Scientists: Six Strategies for Effective Learning](#).
 - Dr. Pooja Agarwal's [Retrieval Practice.org](#).
- Where is a quiet place that I can study alone?
 - There are 7 libraries on the Danforth campus. Each one is slightly different and has study areas that might work for you. Olin library has multiple study room options, some of which are used on a first come, first served basis. Some of the study rooms are reservable, while some of them are specifically for groups.
 - Talk to upper-division students, like your WUSAs, to learn where they like to study. Try a few spots out and see what works for you!

Registration & Course load

- Is it a bad idea to take 18 credits this fall semester?
 - Reach out to your advisor for informed advice on this.
- I'm still confused on pass/fail courses, how do they differ to grade courses?
 - For Arts & Sciences students, you have the ability to take a limited number of courses pass/fail. These cannot be used to meet distribution requirements where grades are required. Because the pass option is larger (essentially equates to Grades A-C) it allows you flexibility around a course that might be challenging for you, or something outside of your comfort area that you don't want to affect your academic record.
 - If you still have questions, reach out to your academic advisor as soon as possible.

Housing

- Should I live on the South 40 or in the Village next year? Which is better?
 - South 40 and The Village are both amazing student housing options with great dining options and accessible amenities! Here are two opinions from students that may provide useful insight:
 - “Honestly, South 40 is better for most students due to better dining options (Paws & Go >>> Millbrook Market, Bear's Den is usually better than Village Dining but it fluctuates). More amenities and resources are located on the 40 (RPM Hours, the Swamp, sports courts, Gregg storefronts), and it is overall just a happier place to be most of the time. The Village is closer to main campus, and lots of athletes choose to live there because of proximity to athletic facilities. Village East and Millbrook are arguably the best places to live on campus but are very hard to secure, especially for sophomores. Village East and Millbrook are also the only housing in the Village with common rooms, while almost all sophomore housing on the 40 has common rooms.”
 - “I loved living in the village my sophomore year. It is much more quiet and closer to campus. I didn't run into many issues with dining and sometimes preferred the Village Mart over Paws!”
- How do I mail a package?
 - The main mail room for campus is in Hitzeman on the South 40. If you have concerns about delayed packages, you can be assured that things will be easier once we are a little bit further into the semester. The mail room is currently experiencing overwhelm after move-in, purchasing new semester textbooks, etc. All mail should be directed to your MSC number (not your residential hall). [Mail Services has a webpage with basic instructions just for students, including picking up or shipping packages.](#)
- How does the Dining Coffee Club Card work?
 - If you have the Coffee Club Card, you will receive complimentary hot drip coffee, iced drip coffee, iced tea, and hot tea at Café Bergson in the DUC, Cherry Tree in The Bear's Den, and Coffee Connection in The Village. If you purchase a platinum meal plan, you will automatically be eligible to receive a complimentary Coffee Club Card for each semester. Coffee Club Cards can be picked up from the Dining Services office in Eliot A.
 - If you do not have a Platinum Meal Plan, the Coffee Club card costs \$149.99 per semester.
 - The Coffee Club Card excludes specialty coffees, espresso drinks, and cold brew.
- How does the gym work?
 - As a fulltime student, you have automatic membership to [WashU Recreation](#). This includes all Rec facilities, including Summers Rec Center and the South 40 Fitness Center, as well as most [BearFit group exercise classes](#).

- How does the campus shuttle work?
 - You can track campus shuttles using the [TripShot app](#). If you are using the shuttle to get to class (if, for instance, you have a class or practice at the 560 Music Center in the Loop), it is recommended that you budget 30 minutes in case the shuttle is delayed. The TripShot app is usually, but not always, accurate.
- How does public transportation work in St. Louis?
 - Every incoming student received a UPass at check-in on move-in day. This pass works for all [Metrolink and Metro Bus routes](#).

Mental & Physical Health

- How can I get a counseling or therapy appointment?
 - Counselors at the Center for counseling & Psychological Services provide ongoing counseling by scheduled appointment.
 - The [“Let’s Talk”](#) program is a drop-in service where students can have a brief, information consultation with a counselor from time to time.
 - One virtual option is [TimelyCare](#) a 24/7, virtual care service. All enrolled WashU students who pay the health and wellness fee have access to free, telehealth support which offers 24/7 TalkNow consultations and twelve free scheduled counseling appointments per year, as well as psychiatry and medical visits. These services are available to you throughout the year, including the summer months. Registering is easy and can be completed in only five minutes! [Download the TimelyCare app](#), register using your WUSTL email address, and access the Talk Now feature anytime, day or night.
 - For an asynchronous option, [Therapy Assistance Online](#) (TAO) offers a resource library, including a First-year Toolkit designed to help incoming students transition and adjust to their new college environment.

Jobs and Careers

- How do I find a **campus job**?
 - Start your on-campus job search with the Center for Career Engagement in the DUC. Many on-campus jobs are also posted on [Handshake](#).
- How prepared do I need to be to meet with a career coach?
 - Not at all! Career coaches in the Center for Career Engagement are here to meet with students at all stages – from exploring career paths, to providing feedback on job application materials, to preparing for interviews.

Have a question that's not answered here? Email bearprints@wustl.edu and we'll help you out!