

2024 / 2025



NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

FAMILY GUIDE



nwmissouri.edu/parents/





Welcome to the **BEARCAT FAMILY**

On behalf of the Northwest Missouri State University community, it is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend a warm welcome to the incoming Class of 2024! As you embark on this new chapter of your life, we are thrilled to have you join our Bearcat family.

Northwest is more than just a campus; it is a vibrant community where students are encouraged to thrive, grow, and succeed. From our esteemed faculty to our dedicated staff, everyone is committed to supporting your academic, personal, and professional development.

One of the key ingredients to a fulfilling collegiate experience is getting involved, and I strongly encourage each and every one of you to take advantage of the countless opportunities available here at Northwest. Whether it's joining a student organization, participating in intramural sports, engaging in community service projects, or exploring academic pursuits outside of the classroom, there is something for everyone to be a part of at Northwest Missouri State University.

Always remember, once a Bearcat, always a Bearcat. This motto embodies the spirit of camaraderie and pride that defines our university. At Northwest, our promise to you is graduation. With dedication, perseverance, and support from your fellow Bearcats, faculty, and staff, we are committed to helping you achieve your academic goals and aspirations.

As you settle into campus life, know that you have our unwavering support every step of the way. We focus on student success, every student every day. If you ever have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here for you.

Once again, welcome to our incoming class of 2024! We look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish and the lasting memories you will create during your time here.

Go Bearcats!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Tatum". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

Lance Tatum Ph.D.

Northwest Missouri State University President



TABLE OF CONTENTS

First-Year Experience	4
Living on Campus	6
Campus Involvement	9
Student Services	12
General Information	14
Stay Connected	15



NORTHWEST
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY



FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

Northwest's First-Year Experience is a holistic approach to transitioning to college life.

The programs below are established to build a foundation for your student's success.

- Summer Orientation, Advisement and Registration (SOAR)
- Advantage
- University Seminar
- First-year advising

Encourage your student to work with their advisors, faculty and mentors to aid in their success and discover their own journey.

Advantage is our welcome program, and a continuation of summer Orientation that takes place during the first week on campus. Your student is **required to attend** and will have opportunities to meet new students, learn more about campus and get settled into their new environment.

ADVANTAGE SCHEDULE

Fall Move-in Day | Aug. 22 (see page 6 for details)

Advantage | Aug. 22-25

First day of classes | Aug. 26

WINTER WELCOME FOR SPRING 2025

Spring Move-in Day | Jan. 10

Winter Welcome | Jan. 10-12

First day of classes | Jan. 13



BEARCAT TIP

Required Advantage events, including University Seminar, begin Friday, Aug. 23. For details, visit

www.nwmissouri.edu/advantage

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

The Student Success Center (SSC) is the hub for academic success at Northwest and focuses on transitioning, advising, supporting and connecting students to maximize their academic potential. The SSC supports student learning and contributes to growth and development from orientation to graduation.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Northwest provides all undergraduate students with personalized advising that ensures their individual major and career goals are aligned and supported.

This approach includes:

- Assistance with course selection and registration
- Connection to campus resources
- Introduction to profession-based experiences to support their major

Professional advisors, who specialize in specific academic areas, including deciding, provide holistic support to first and second year students. Faculty advising is introduced in the second year, while professional advisors are still available for student support.

In the third year, students transition to faculty for academic support and advising, providing valuable career advice as students matriculate through their degree programs.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS COACHING

Select students may work with a success coach to provide additional support. For students interested in working with a success coach, contact: studentsuccess@nwmissouri.edu.

UNIVERSITY SEMINAR

University Seminar is a one-credit course students take during their first semester. Students can choose from a traditional University Seminar or themed sections:

- Global perspective
- Leadership development
- First-generation



ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Encourage your student to participate in the FREE academic support services below:

- **Tutoring** is available for most general education courses and some upper-level courses. Appointments can be scheduled as individual or small group face-to-face sessions or as individual online sessions.
- **Supplemental Instruction** offers peer-led study groups for traditionally challenging courses multiple times a week.
- The **Writing Center** helps students develop and reinforce critical writing skills for any of their writing needs.
- Additional academic support includes the Math Lab, study skills appointments and more.



TRIO

Northwest's TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) is a federally funded program serving first generation and/or low-socioeconomic students, as well as students with disabilities. The program supports student success through individualized academic, financial, career, and personal coaching to increase retention and graduation rates and to foster a sense of belonging at Northwest. Participants benefit from program resources, activities, professional staff, and peer mentors who assist students through to graduation. Apply early as spots are limited.

LIBRARY SUPPORT

Northwest's library provides a unique and modern learning environment that meets the individual needs of your student.

Library services include:

- Private study rooms
- Equipment for classroom projects
- Research and citation assistance



LIVING ON CAMPUS

MOVE-IN INFORMATION

We are excited to welcome you to campus!

Move-in Day for fall 2024 is Thursday, Aug. 22.

Students will receive an university email with detailed information about signing up for a move-in time.

Cat Crew volunteers will be available to assist families with your student's belongings. There is no limit to the number of helpers your student can bring.



BEARCAT TIP

If you are commuting to campus, complete the Commuting to Northwest card found at

Page 4

nwmissouri.edu/admissions/forms/commuter.htm



RESIDENTIAL LIFE STAFF

Resident Directors (RD) are professional staff who manage residential buildings and oversee residential staff.

Resident Assistant (RA)

Each floor has a resident assistant who will acquaint your student with the hall community and University policies.

For information about residential hall policies, visit www.nwmissouri.edu/housing/current/handbook

Inclusion Assistants (IA)

Inclusion Assistants are students living in the residence halls who assist the RAs with building an inclusive community for all residents.

RECEIVING AND SENDING MAIL

The University's Mail and Printing Services delivers U.S. Postal Service mail to each residence hall Monday through Friday. Packages are sent parcel post (UPS, FedEx, DHL, etc.) and distributed to the residence halls within two business days of arriving on campus.

Mailing address:

Northwest Missouri State University

Student's name

Student's room number and residence hall

800 University Dr.

Maryville, MO 64468

Items in the room

(all items must remain in the room)

★ One twin bed per person



★ Air Conditioner
★ Heater

★ One desk and chair per person

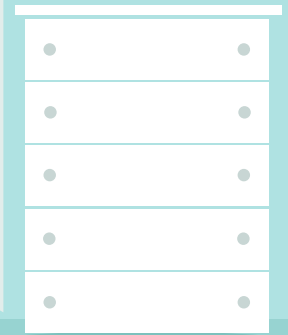
★ Active computer network outlet/wi-fi for each person

★ One closet per person



★ Overhead light

★ One dresser per person



Lofts are provided in all halls except Millikan (rentals available) and South Complex (bunking only).

THINGS YOU MAY WANT TO BRING

- TV
- Umbrella
- Dishes, glasses, mugs, silverware
- Coffee maker
- Extra-long phone charger cord
- Power strip
- Microwave oven (700 watts or less)
- Small refrigerator (not to exceed 5 cubic feet with 2.5 Amperage)
- Flashlight
- Window coverings
- Laundry soap/basket
- Toiletries with carrying case
- School Supplies
- Items to personalize your space
- Linens, towels, pillows

- Twin Extra Long Bed Sheets= (Dieterich/Millikan Standard Twin)

What NOT to bring

- Double-sided foam tape
- Pets (other than fish)
- Candles
- Electric cookware (if it glows, it is a no!)
- Command strips
- LED Light Strips
- Extension Cord

INSURANCE

Students are responsible for insuring the laptops issued by Northwest against fire, theft and water damage.

RES LIFE POLICY:

nwmissouri.edu/housing/current/handbook/community-policies.htm



BEARCAT TIP

Don't bring your whole closet. Make sure you and your roommate do not bring duplicate items, like a microwave.

RESIDENTIAL DINING MEAL PLANS

CAMPUS DINING OPTIONS

Residential Unlimited

- Unlimited meals/week
- \$200 declining balance

14 Swipes/Week

- 14 meals/week
- \$200 declining balance

10 Swipes/Week

- 10 meals/week
- \$500 declining balance

How does declining balance work

Students can use their declining balance to purchase food from our retail locations and vending. It can be used at any retail location: Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, McAlister's, Qdoba, and Buffalo Wild Wings. The amount of your dining dollars will decline with each purchase. If you run out, you can add more at anytime.

OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO LIVE OFF CAMPUS

Students who live off-campus can use any of the above memberships as well as access to 10, 25, 50 or 75 block plan. These block plans are entries into the Bearcat Commons and do not rollover from semester to semester.

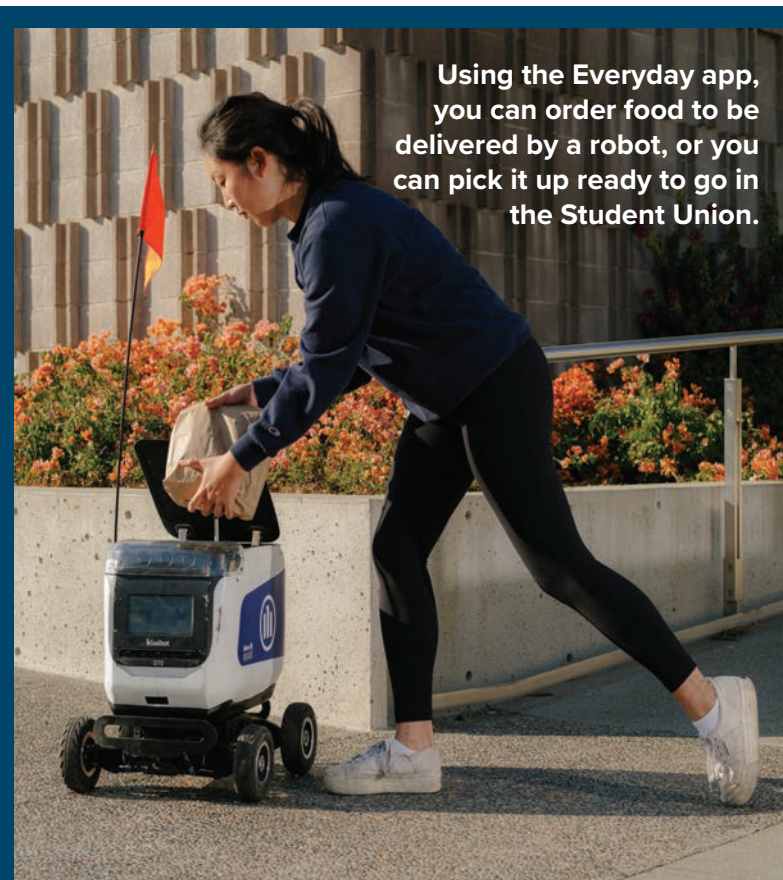


What can THE BEARCAT CARD be used for?

- Vending machines
- Library/ interlibrary loans
- Textbook Services
- Fitness Center (membership required)
- Student Rec Center
- As a Meal Card

What can A MEAL CARD be used for?

- Bearcat Commons
- Chick-fil-A
- Starbucks
- McAlister's
- Qdoba
- Buffalo Wild Wings

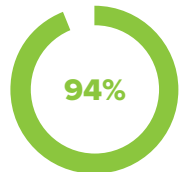


Using the Everyday app, you can order food to be delivered by a robot, or you can pick it up ready to go in the Student Union.



CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

OFFICE OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



Overall Success Rate

Freshmen persist at 94% when involved in one or more student organizations.

Northwest students have an opportunity to network, gain leadership skills, build creative skills and enhance the Bearcat experience through involvement in student organizations.



BEARCAT TIP

Encourage your student and their families to attend the Family Weekend on **Sept. 27-29**.

For more info visit
www.nwmissouri.edu/getinvolved/familyweekend



NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

WELLNESS SERVICES

Wellness Services, located on the northwest corner of campus in the Wellness Center, is the hub for campus health and wellness initiatives. Wellness Services is staffed with licensed clinical staff, licensed mental health professionals, and health educators to provide comprehensive health and wellness care to Northwest students, including:

- Outpatient clinical services
- Counseling services
- Wellness education and prevention
- Public health services

For more information, visit nwmissouri.edu/wellness.



CAMPUS RECREATION

Campus Recreation offers robust opportunities for students to stay engaged and fit.

- The Foster Fitness Center features cardio and weight-lifting equipment, group exercise courses and personal training.
- The Hughes Fieldhouse is an indoor facility offering a 300-meter track and indoor fields for year-round intramural sports. Intramural offerings total as many as 30 or more per year.
- The Student Recreation Center includes basketball and racquetball courts, an 18-hole disc golf course on campus and a suspended track for walking and running.
- Mozingo Outdoor Education Recreation Area (MOERA), located at Mozingo Lake Recreation Park features a challenge course, climbing tower and wall, trap shooting, an observatory and other outdoor recreational activities.



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT



Northwest relies on students to help our offices while gaining valuable experiences. Encourage your student to explore on-campus job opportunities and positions online at nwmissouri.edu/hr/student/jobs.

Northwest's Career Pathing program offers students an opportunity to advance in their position and earn higher pay while participating in personal and professional development. The Maryville community also offers many employment options for Northwest students.



BEARCAT TIP



If your student plans to apply for jobs, make sure they bring identification cards necessary for employment. Don't forget interview clothes, or check out the Career Closet on campus for interview attire!

CAREER SERVICES



Northwest provides resources, events and opportunities for students to develop skills and build networks with employers, faculty, staff and alumni benefiting students in their lifelong career journey.

Encourage your student to participate in Career Services events and take advantage of resources to ensure they are career ready, day one. Examples of services:

- Career counseling/assessment
- Resume creation and review
- Identifying internship opportunities
- Interview coaching and practice
- Events such as Career Day and Mock Interview Day
- Career Closet – free professional attire!
- Profession-based learning experiences



STUDENT SERVICES

UNIVERSITY POLICE

University Police serves to maintain a safe campus environment, discourage inappropriate activity and provides preventative education for students, faculty and staff. For more information, visit nwmissouri.edu/police/.

Residential Life works closely with University Police to provide students with a safe living environment. All exterior residence hall doors are secured 24/7 with an electronic access system. Video cameras are located within all residential halls and academic facilities on campus.

SAFE RIDE HOME PROGRAM

The Safe Ride Home program is a safe and timely transportation service within the city limits of Maryville, offered by students, for students. The program provides a daytime retail shuttle and nighttime taxi service. The schedule, including operation days and hours, is located on the Northwest website. Rides may be requested through the app or by calling during operation hours.

Northwest also offers a taxi service for late-night transportation when students are in situations that they feel are unsafe.





FINANCIAL

FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid should be completed each year. This can be done at studentaid.gov/fafsa.

IMPORTANT FINANCIAL CONVERSATIONS TO HAVE WITH YOUR STUDENT

Before your student begins their first year at Northwest, discuss with them the importance of being fiscally responsible. For example, your student may need to learn how to:

- Budget money
- Use a credit card responsibly
- Pay bills
- Balance a bank account
- Use a debit card
- Write a check

RESPONSIBLE SPENDING

Your student may have selected a membership that includes Dining Dollars. This means the money is already credited to their account and declines as they use it at campus retail locations, including Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, McAlister's, Qboda, Starbucks, Chick-fil-A and Buffalo Wild Wings.



BEARCAT TIP

Encourage your student to be cognizant of charges on their monthly bill with their Bearcat Card.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Northwest complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which provides guidelines on storage and release of student and former student records.

For more information about FERPA, visit nwmissouri.edu/registrar/privacy.htm.



GENERAL INFO

VIEWING STUDENT RECORDS

1. Online access to view account and pay bills

- Log into CatPAWS
- Click 'Account Tab'
- Navigate to 'Payment Center'
- Click 'Authorized Users'
- Add an authorized user

This will generate an email that will be sent to the new authorized user with login instructions to the Payment Center.

2. Release of information concerning grades, student account and financial assistance

- Log into CatPAWS
- Click 'Student Tab'
- Click 'Authorize Release of Information'

BEARCAT EQUITY

Bearcat Equity is the system for students, faculty and staff to share concerns about bias or discrimination, whether it's based on race, sex, religion, national origin, LGBTQ, gender identity, disability, age, veteran status, or your viewpoint or experience with any of these – any situation where you perceive, witness, or are directly impacted by a discriminatory message delivered by someone in the campus community, or in Maryville. Our goal is for everyone to feel safe, welcome and included in the community and, most importantly, comfortable being whoever they are.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Northwest is committed to providing students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in the University's programs, courses and activities. Title IX and Equity, Accessibility and Accommodations provides learning and living accommodations to any student with a documented disability. For more information and an accommodations application, visit nwmissouri.edu/titleixequity/accessibility/.

TEXTBOOKS AND LAPTOP PROGRAMS

Like any major employer, we provide your student with the tools and technology they need to be successful.

Primary textbooks and laptop are included

- Saving your student more than \$6,800 over four years.

Textbooks and a laptop can be picked up during Advantage. For computer specifications, visit

nwmissouri.edu/admissions/laptop/.



STAY CONNECTED



KEEP IN TOUCH

It is important to us that families feel connected to their student and the Northwest Community. Sign up for the Bearcat Family Connection Newsletter at nwmissouri.campusesp.com

We also have an email dedicated to parents and families: family@nwmissouri.edu

BEARCAT FAMILY CONNECTION

nwmissouri.campusesp.com

Join for

- Access to important campus news and deadlines
- Personalized newsletters on your schedule
- Announcements via email and text message
- Sharing of updates with friends and family





IMPORTANT NUMBERS



Student Account Services and Cashiering Offices

Billing and refunds.....	660.562.1578
Payment arrangement	660.562.1583

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

Scholarships, loans, grants, federal work study.....	660.562.1363
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Student Success Center

Course schedule changes, advisement and Advantage	660.562.1695
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Residential Life and Auxiliary Services

Room selection, room changes and meal plan	660.562.1214
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University Police

660.562.1254

Wellness Services

Health History Form, immunizations.....	660.562.1348
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General Information

call 660.562.1212 or toll free at 800.633.1175



NORTHWEST
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nwmissouri.edu/parents/

Student Success Center
studentsuccess@nwmissouri.edu
660.562.1695

