

2023 / 2024



# FAMILY GUIDE

[nwmissouri.edu/parents/](https://nwmissouri.edu/parents/)



# Welcome to the **BEARCAT FAMILY**



Congratulations incoming Class of 2023! We are excited for you to join the Bearcat family. When you step on campus very soon, you'll see what we mean when we say "Once a Bearcat, always a Bearcat."

Families, as the semester is right around the corner, we encourage you to start talking to your student about the many ways they can get connected on campus.

- Join a club or organization they are passionate about (and they will meet new friends along the way).
- Focus on the learning environment and understand what it takes to be successful - in and out of the classroom.
- Encourage hands-on learning experiences.
- Experience the Bearcat culture by attending lectures, recreational activities, performing arts and athletic events.
- Engage with our proud alumni and community members.

Our goal is to ensure the success of your student, so don't be afraid to ask questions!

And a message to your student: Dream big, Bearcats. You can achieve anything you put your mind to! Take care of yourself, take care of others, work hard, stay focused, and you will soon become part of our more than 80,000 proud Northwest alumni and friends.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Hooyman".

Dr. Jamie Hooyman, Provost  
Northwest Missouri State University







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## 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.

### BEARCAT TIP



*Required Advantage events, including University Seminar, begin Friday, Aug. 18. For details, visit [nwmissouri.edu/admissions/fye/advantage](http://nwmissouri.edu/admissions/fye/advantage).*

### ADVANTAGE SCHEDULE

**Fall Move-in Day**  
Aug. 17 (see page 6 for details)

**Advantage**  
Aug. 17 -20

**First day of classes**  
Aug. 21

### WINTER WELCOME FOR INCOMING SPRING STUDENTS

**Spring Move-in Day**  
Jan. 5

**Winter Welcome**  
Jan. 5-7

**First day of classes**  
Jan. 8





# 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 student 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](mailto: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 2023 is Thursday, Aug. 17.**

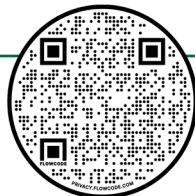
Students will receive an email with detailed information about moving into the residence halls, including sign-up times and instructions.

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, be sure to complete the [Commuting to Northwest card](https://nwmissouri.edu/admissions/PDF/Accept%20Commuter%20Form.pdf) found at [nwmissouri.edu/admissions/PDF/Accept%20Commuter%20Form.pdf](https://nwmissouri.edu/admissions/PDF/Accept%20Commuter%20Form.pdf).*



## 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 [nwmissouri.edu/reslife/Fine\\_Print](https://nwmissouri.edu/reslife/Fine_Print).

### Inclusion Assistants (IA)

Inclusion Assistants are students living in the residence halls who assist the RAs with building an inclusive community for all residents. IAs facilitate programs focused on helping residents learn about each other and how they interconnect as a community.

## RECEIVING AND SENDING MAIL

The University's Mail and Copy Center 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



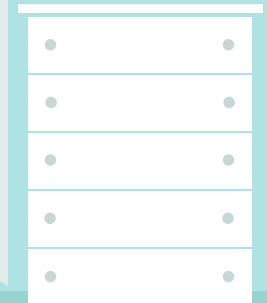
★ Air Conditioner  
★ Heater

★ One closet per person



★ Overhead light

★ One dresser per person



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

## THINGS YOU MAY WANT TO BRING

- TV
- Hair dryer
- Wrinkle release spray
- Umbrella
- Dishes, glasses, mugs, silverware
- Coffee maker
- Extra long phone charger cord
- Powerstrip
- Wastebasket
- George Foreman grill
- 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
- items to personalize your space
- linens, towels, pillows (twin extra-long sheet)

### What NOT to bring

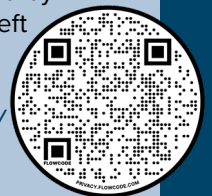
- double-sided foam tape
- pets (other than fish)
- candles
- electric cookware (if it glows, it is a NO!)
- Command strips

### 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](http://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

### What is declining balance?

Students can use their declining balance to purchase food from our retail locations.

### How does declining balance work?

It can be used at any retail location: Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, McAlister's, an Qdoba (and Buffalo Wild Wings coming spring 2024). The amount of your dining dollars will decline with each purchase.

## 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 do?

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

### What can A MEAL CARD do?

- Bearcat Commons
- Chick-fil-A
- Starbucks
- McAlister's
- Qdoba
- Buffalo Wild Wings (Spring 2024)

A “ghost kitchen” on the lower floor of the Student Union will allow customers to order meals from retail venues such as MrBeast Burger, using a mobile dining app, and pick up orders at a central location or request delivery by autonomous robots known as Kiwibots.

**NEW  
for  
2023!**





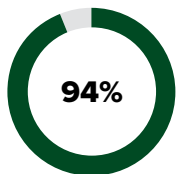


### BEARCAT TIP

Encourage your student to attend the Organizational Fair on Aug. 30 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center to learn about the different organizations on campus and how to get involved.

# 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.

## OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) is dedicated to providing educational and campus experiences at Northwest in the area of diversity and social justice. The ODI provides learning opportunities for students, employees and community members across cultures, facilitates personal identity development, and creates awareness and programming during heritage months. ODI encourages everyone to have diversity in thought and participation in multiple dialogues to enhance intercultural competency.





## 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](http://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](http://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 their Social Security card or current passport. 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/](http://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](https://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, ghost kitchen space including Mr. Beast Burger, Starbucks, Chick-fil-A and Buffalo Wild Wings (Spring 2024).



### 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](https://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://nwmissouri.campusesp.com)

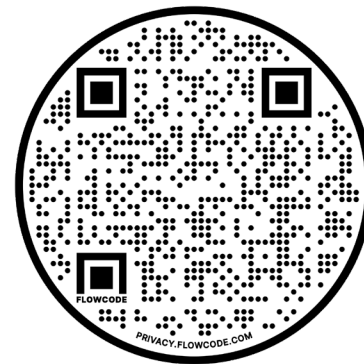
We also have an email dedicated to parents and families: [family@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:family@nwmissouri.edu)

## BEARCAT FAMILY CONNECTION

[nwmissouri.campusesp.com](http://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

## Student Success Center

Course schedule changes, advisement and Advantage ..... 660.562.1695

## Residential Life and Auxiliary Services

Room selection, room changes and meal plan ..... 660.562.1214

## University Police

660.562.1254

## Wellness Services

Health History Form, immunizations..... 660.562.1348

## General Information

call 660.562.1212 or toll free at 800.633.1175





# NORTHWEST

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MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

[nwmissouri.edu/parents/](http://nwmissouri.edu/parents/)

Student Success Center  
[studentsuccess@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@nwmissouri.edu)  
660.562.1695

