



2025-2026

FAMILY GUIDE

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY





Welcome to the **BEARCAT FAMILY!**

On behalf of the Northwest community, it is with great pleasure and excitement that I extend a warm welcome to our incoming students and families. As you embark on this new adventure, we are thrilled to have you join the 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 student's academic, personal and professional development.

A key ingredient to student success is student involvement. I strongly encourage students to take advantage of opportunities starting their first semester on campus. Whether it be joining a club or playing a sport, there are many ways to get involved!

Always remember - Once a Bearcat, always a Bearcat. This motto embodies the spirit, camaraderie, and pride that defines our university. At Northwest, our promise is graduation. We are committed to helping every Bearcat achieve their academic goals and aspirations!

Once again, welcome. We look forward to seeing all that your student will accomplish and the lasting memories they will create during their time here.

Go Bearcats!

Dr. Lance Tatum

President of Northwest Missouri State University

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CONGRATS, YOU'RE A BEARCAT!
SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW FAQ'S AND
IMPORTANT DATES.



NORTHWEST

BE EVERY YOU

- 1 RELAX**
Chill out in a hammock near Colden Pond.
- 2 CHEER LOUD**
Attend an athletic event at Bearcat Stadium.
- 3 STAY ACTIVE**
Play intramural sports at the Student Recreation Center.
- 4 RECHARGE**
Pick up some Starbucks and study with friends at B.D. Owens Library.
- 5 SHARE YOUR STORY**
Take some pics by our iconic Administration Building and Memorial Bell Tower.
- 6 GET CAREER READY**
Meet with employers during Career Day at Hughes Fieldhouse.
- 7 TRENDING**
Check out our new cybersecurity major and cybersecurity lab in Colden Hall!
- 8 ALC & R.T. Wright Farm**
Dive into agriculture and see what a career in this industry could look like for your student.
- 9 CONNECTIONS**
Northwest alumni are 80,000 strong with members all over the world.
- 10 BEAUTIFUL TREES**
Northwest is home to the Missouri Arboretum and features 160 different species of trees!
- 11 WALKABLE CAMPUS**
Enjoy 26 miles of sidewalk to bike and walk to classes. Most buildings are a 10-minute walk or less.
- 12 CAMPUS LIVING**
Hudson Hall is an example of where your student could live on campus.



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NAMED
SAFEST
COLLEGE CAMPUS
IN MISSOURI
BY
 YOUR LOCAL SECURITY



FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

Northwest's First-Year Experience is a holistic approach to transitioning to college life. These programs are designed to help your student build a solid foundation their first year:

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

Advantage is our welcome program and a continuation of SOAR that takes place 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. 21

Advantage
Aug. 21-24

First Day of Classes
Aug. 25

WINTER WELCOME SCHEDULE:

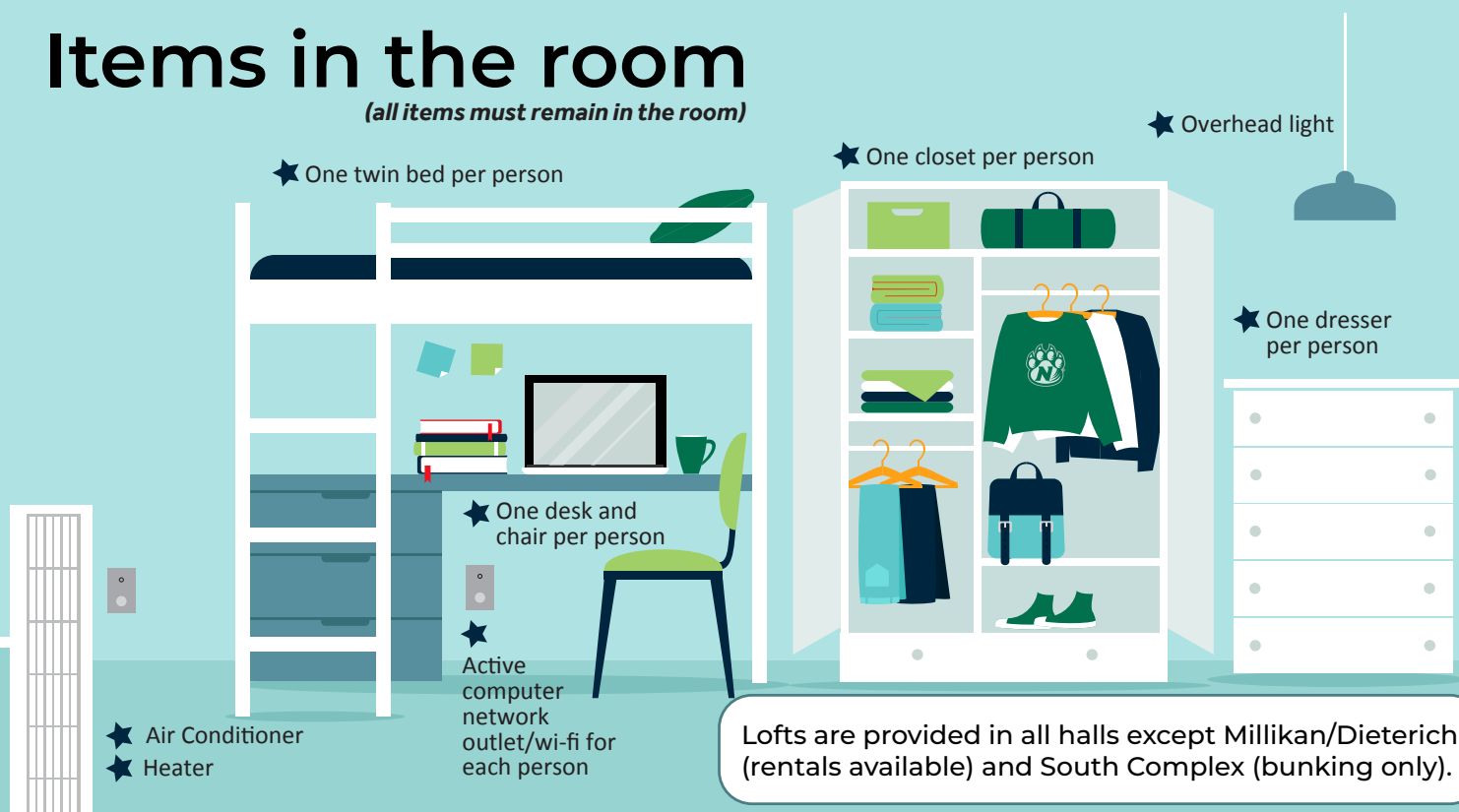
Spring Move-in Day
Jan. 9

Winter Welcome
Jan. 9-11

First Day of Classes
Jan. 12

Items in the room

(all items must remain in the room)



LOOKING AHEAD

WHAT TO PACK (AND LEAVE BEHIND):

Packing for college can be an adventure. Make it fun by planning a shopping day with your student to grab all the "must-haves." Here's a handy guide to make sure they're ready to roll.

Dorm life must-haves:

- TV
- Hair dryer
- Wrinkle release spray
- Umbrella
- Dishes, glasses, mugs, silverware
- Coffee maker
- Extra-long phone charger cord
- Power strip
- Waste basket
- 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
- Room decorations
- Linens, towels, pillows (twin extra-long sheet)

Leave these at home:

- Double-sided foam tape
- Pets (other than fish)
- Candles
- Electric cookware (if it glows, it's a no!)
- Command strips

If your student has wish-list items, consider creating one on Amazon before graduation.

Speaking of living on campus: Encourage your student to hop in the Housing Portal to meet potential roommates and chat with future classmates!

SOAR Days: Meet, greet and get ready!

SOAR (Summer Orientation, Advisement, and Registration) is just around the corner. This is the perfect time for your student to connect —not just with their roommate, but with other Bearcats, too! Encourage them to dive in, meet new friends and begin building those lifelong friendships. This is also when students meet their advisor and get their schedule!

If they haven't picked a SOAR date yet, encourage them to do so today!

SCAN QR CODE TO LOG
IN TO THE HOUSING
PORTAL



SCAN QR CODE TO
LEARN ABOUT SOAR



MONEY MATTERS

LET'S TALK DOLLAR SIGNS

Understanding the financial impact of college can seem overwhelming. That's why the Office of Scholarships and Financial Assistance is there to help your student navigate this process like a pro!

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

The Office of Scholarships and Financial Assistance helps students with questions on:

- Scholarships
- Federal work-study
- Grants
- Student loans

Just a heads up! Financial aid offers are processed and emailed out in April. Whether your student needs help accepting an award or submitting the FAFSA, no problem is too small around here. Encourage your student to contact us at 660.562.1363 or finaid@nwmissouri.edu.

Remind your student to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to maximize their financial aid options.

Stuck on the FAFSA?

Scan the QR Code for tips and frequently asked questions.



MANAGING THE DETAILS

Student Account Services helps students stay on top of payment details like:

- Monthly billing and payments
- Installment plans
- Refunds

With these resources readily accessible, your student can focus on their degree, and you can hopefully breathe a little easier.

For questions, reach out at 660.562.1583, email bursar@nwmissouri.edu or visit nwmissouri.edu/studentaccounts.

FERPA: PRIVACY MATTERS

Northwest takes student privacy seriously, complying with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. To learn more, visit nwmissouri.edu/registrar/privacy.htm

Meet Financial Assistance Counselor

Brayden Major

bmajor@nwmissouri.edu | 660.562.1363



ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Every student's journey to success is unique, and we're here to support them every step of the way. We're also here for you, because we know that behind every successful Bearcat is a team of cheerleaders.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic advisement is a valuable resource available to your student. We consistently outrank regional and national benchmarks because we take advising seriously and personally. Students rave about our advisors, calling them approachable, knowledgeable and genuinely invested.

Pro tip: encourage your student to build a strong connection with their advisor!

- **First and Second-Year Support:** Advisors guide students through the critical early years and assist with everything from course registration to connecting on campus.
- **Faculty Mentors:** By year two, students begin working with faculty mentors, who bring real-world insights and profession-based experiences to the table.

Did you know? Each student receives their personalized Four-Year Plan – a guideline designed to help them map out their courses and stay on track.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The Student Success Center (SSC) - located inside B.D. Owens Library – offers support to students from their first day of class up until graduation. The SSC helps students transition to campus life, navigate college-level courses and utilize helpful resources such as:

- **Tutoring:** One-on-one or small group sessions are offered for most Northwest Core courses and some advanced classes.
- **Supplemental Instruction (SI):** These peer-led study groups aid students through challenging courses and incorporate several learning styles.
- **Math Lab:** For math classes up to Calculus II, students can receive expert help.
- **Writing Center:** Students may receive assistance and tips on writing essays, lab reports, creative projects and more.
- **Student-Athlete Success Program (SASP):** Student athletes learn how to maintain busy schedules while meeting NCAA guidelines.

TIPS: HELPING YOUR STUDENT SHINE

We're big believers in teamwork. Here's how you can play a pivotal role in your student's success:

- **Cheer them on to class:** Attendance matters - showing up is half the battle!
- **Encourage connections:** Suggest they visit faculty during office hours to ask questions.
- **Empower them:** Remind your student to get to know their advisor - Northwest staff are very friendly!





CAMPUS RECREATION GETTING INVOLVED

Campus Recreation's goal is to keep Northwest students engaged, active and energized. Whether your student is a gym enthusiast or looking for a fun way to stay active, we've got them covered.



- **Foster Fitness Center:** Stocked with cardio machines, weight-lifting equipment, group exercise classes and more, the Foster Fitness Center offers many ways to stay fit.
- **Hughes Fieldhouse:** This indoor facility features a 300-meter track and field that is perfect for personal use or year-round intramurals. (We have 30+ options to choose from!)
- **Student Recreation Center:** Basketball, disc golf, racquetball, you name it. The Student Recreation Center offers several amenities for your student!
- **Mozingo Outdoor Education Recreation Area (MOERA):** Located at Mozingo Lake Recreation Park, MOERA features a challenge course, climbing tower, trap shooting, an observatory and several outdoor adventures.



Did you know? First-year students involved in at least one student organization have a **96% success rate**. Why? Student involvement helps students find their people, develop leadership skills and succeed overall.

From student organizations to intramural sports, we have something for everyone.

CHECK IT OUT!



STAY CONNECTED! JOIN BEARCAT FAMILY CONNECTION

We get it—your student’s college adventure is your adventure too. That’s why we created the Bearcat Family Connection newsletter!

Stay in the loop with important campus updates, event reminders and all things Northwest. Don’t miss a thing—your VIP pass to the Bearcat journey awaits!

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
GET STARTED**



Reasons to join Bearcat Family Connection:

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



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@NWMOSTATE





NORTHWEST
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

