Welcome to Rice from Student Success Initiatives

As a new student, you will first interact with Student Success Initiatives (SSI) during Orientation Week—the week designed especially for incoming freshmen and transfer students to get acclimated to the academic, social, and cultural life at Rice. You are most likely very excited and possibly a bit nervous about starting your first year in college. From the day you arrive on campus through graduation and beyond, there are many people and departments available to support you as you transition to the academics, culture, and life at Rice. First Year Programs, the office within SSI that plans Orientation Week, also provides multiple outlets for all new students to find their place and a community on campus before, during, and after O-Week.

You will receive information from First Year Programs and your residential College over the summer months containing details about O-Week and life in the College. This includes information about our New Student Checklist that can be found on our website at success.rice.edu/checklist, requirements for moving onto campus such as obtaining a vaccination for meningitis, and information about your new roommate or suitemate and O-Week student leaders.

There are parts of the week that might be loud and energetic with a great deal of activity; at other times, you will be able to quietly connect with others in your College and field of study. No matter what the event, the main purpose of O-Week is to allow you to prepare for your time at Rice and to become acquainted with your new home on campus.

For more information, visit: success.rice.edu/oweek

Before You Arrive

Complete all necessary forms and other items on the New Student Checklist. There are deadlines throughout the summer so check back often.

success.rice.edu/checklist

Utilize “Matriculating Class of 2019” page on Canvas. It includes materials for academic planning resources, O-Week information, and tools to help you transition to life at Rice!

canvas.rice.edu

After College assignments are mailed in mid-July, connect with your roommates and potential suitemates to determine what to bring to campus in the fall. You can also take advantage of SSI’s partnership with Residence Hall Linens to purchase room supplies.

success.rice.edu/linens

At the end of the summer, you and your family should plan for Move-In which will be on the morning of August 18th and is the official start of Orientation Week. Please note: we are unable to receive shipments of your items or allow you to move in earlier than this day/time.

success.rice.edu/oweek

Connecting With SSI

After O-Week, you will have frequent opportunities to engage with Student Success Initiatives both in the classroom and around campus. Our team strives to help students as they transition to Rice in a variety of ways. We offer programming, trainings, and practical skill-building to help with time management, learning styles assessment, study skills, interpersonal communication, career guidance and more. Since there are many critical resources on campus, SSI can be a great starting place if you are unsure of where to begin. This means that we also collaborate and facilitate interactions with other departments and community partners to help you achieve success as you define it.

Individual Advising

Staff members in SSI are available to support all students through a variety of needs, obstacles, and learning opportunities. We work to help you be successful in the classroom and to develop successful habits in your relationships, study skills, career paths, and more outside of the class environment. We also partner with other offices to provide students with holistic support as they may need it. Please contact us at success@rice.edu to set up an appointment.

Learn more at success.rice.edu
Other Programs from SSI
Below you will find some other ways that SSI works to support new students as they make Rice their new home. Whether you enroll in a section of UNIV 110 in the fall or spring, become a mentee for our Rice Firsts network, or just want to stop by our office for a chat, know that Student Success Initiatives is designed to help you find your path and thrive at Rice.

First Generation Student Support
Rice Firsts is a peer-based mentoring program for incoming first generation students. By pairing you with a peer mentor who is also among the first in their family to attend college, Rice Firsts aims to provide a mentor to first-year students who is familiar with the first generation student experience. Mentors will serve as guides throughout a mentee’s first year at Rice, providing important insight into how to successfully make the academic, social, and interpersonal transition to college and our community. Many first-generation students enter college with lots of questions about everything from financial aid to academic help. Rice has a broad range of departments that are prepared to address any variety of questions that students and parents/guardians may have.

UNIV 110—Foundations for Self-Discovery & Lifelong Learning
Your first year at Rice will be full of new experiences, new friendships, and new opportunities. UNIV 110 is a course that has been developed for incoming freshmen to explore all that Rice has to offer and to help as they transition to their new home. The class is structured around a unique format: it challenges students to utilize personal values to examine their potential major and career path, find balance in their personal and academic lives, and consider ways to get involved on campus.

UNIV 110 is taught by a team of upperclassmen student Peer Guides and professional staff members to provide a wide range of knowledge and connections to the resources that exist on campus to enhance their progress at Rice.

New Families Orientation
On the afternoon of Sunday, August 18th, while you are moving into your College and getting to know your O-Week groups, your family is invited to a special orientation program geared toward acclimating them to your new home, resources for support, and connect with campus leadership.

After you have begun to get settled, each residential college will host a welcome brunch and provide families with a chance to say goodbye before the program begins. There will be a brief introduction to the college and its leadership team followed by an official Welcome to Rice by President David Leebron, our Dean of Undergraduates, and more. Families will have the opportunity to get to know some of the academic departments and student services available to students. The day’s events should conclude around 6:30 pm.

Important Dates

June 1st
Deadline for many forms including the Health Data Form, College Information Form, Roommate Information Forms, and Guardian Information Form. success.rice.edu/checklist

July 8th
College assignments will be mailed. These cannot be provided over the phone, and you must submit your Health Data Form to receive your College assignment.

July 15th
Colleges will mail O-Week details, rooming assignments, and O-Week group information. You must submit your Health Data Form to receive this information.

July 29th: Deadline to Order Residence Hall Linens success.rice.edu/linens

August 10th
Tuition and fees payment are due via the Bill Payment Suite of your Esther account.

August 18th-24th: Orientation Week 2019
All new students are required to attend and live on campus for O-Week. More information including a tentative schedule will be available this summer. success.rice.edu/oweek

August 26th: First Day of Fall Classes
New students will register for courses during O-Week and can adjust their schedules even after classes have begun.

September 27th-28th: Rice Families Weekend famweek.rice.edu

October 14th-15th: Fall Midterm Recess

November 28th-29th: Thanksgiving Break

December 6th: Last Day of Classes

December 11th-18th: Final Examinations Period
Students’ individual finals schedules will vary somewhat within this period based on their particular course schedule.