



New Student Orientation 2026 Residential First Year Schedule

Events highlighted in Yellow are Optional. All other programming is mandatory.

Wednesday, September 2nd

8:00am-12pm Residential Check-In.....North Brock Parking Lot

Welcome to RMC! You have been assigned a Check-In time. Please plan on arriving close to that time, folks arriving early will not be allowed entrance to the check-in area until their check-in time block begins. You will enter the North Brock Parking Lot from North Center Street. Once you arrive you will be greeted by Captains and directed through next steps (picking up your room key and student ID!).

11am-2pm Lunch.....Estes Dining Hall

Student meal plans will be active and Estes is open for lunch. Families wishing to dine in Estes with their students will be able to purchase lunch at the door for \$12.00 plus tax. Please note Credit Cards are the only accepted form of payment at the dinning hall.

4pm Official RMC Welcome.....Fountain Plaza

Join us at the Official RMC Welcome on Fountain Plaza, where students and families will be greeted by the Orientation Team and campus partners. Kick off Welcome Weekend with energy, connection, and RMC spirit!

4:30pm-5pm Crew Time.....Assigned Locations

Students will be led from Fountain Plaza to their first in-person meeting and Crew Talk. Crew Talks are led by Captains and occur each day.

5pm-6:30pm Dinner.....Estes Dining Hall

6:30pm-7:15pm Resident Assistant (RA) Meeting.....Residence Halls

RAs are returning students who live in residence halls and are a source of support for residents. Hall meetings provide an opportunity for students to meet their neighbors and for RAs to distribute important information.

7:30pm-8:30pm Matriculation Candlelight Ceremony.....Fountain Plaza

Students will then take part in the Matriculation Ceremony. The Matriculation Ceremony is one of the long-standing traditions at RMC. Its purpose is to administer the Pledge of Academic Integrity to all entering students. Upon completion of the oaths, new students are officially members of the RMC Community.

8:30pm-10pm First Night.....Residence Halls

Enjoy an evening in the new student residence halls meeting new people and engaging in games and activities.

Thursday, September 3rd

8am-8:30am Breakfast.....Estes Dining Hall

8:30am Crew Time.....Assigned Location

9am-10am Leading the Yellow Jacket Way Blackwell Auditorium

Students will explore what it means to live with integrity, respect, and civility as members of the Yellow Jacket community. The program emphasizes building a culture of belonging and acceptance on campus and practicing positive citizenship in our community. Students will leave with practical steps to embody the mission statement in their academic, social, and civic lives as they begin their RMC journey.

10:15am-11:15 am Engagement Track

Attend one of the following sessions:

Find Your Place: Exploring Involvement on Campus.....Blackwell Auditorium

Hear from fellow students as they share their experiences, lessons learned, and the ways getting involved has shaped their college journey.

Finding Your BLISS at RMC.....Dollar Tree Room

College is better when you have people in your corner. Come discover how BLISS helps women build academic confidence, make meaningful connections, explore culture and identity, and thrive at RMC.

The Secret to Developing Relationships.....Truist Theater

Discover simple strategies for building meaningful connections, finding your community, and developing relationships that can support you throughout your college experience.

Your Future Starts Now: Get Involved, Get Prepared.....Copley 100

Explore ways to get involved, build skills, and connect with opportunities that will prepare you for success in your future career or professional program.

11:30am-1pm Healthy Hive Part 1.....Blackwell Auditorium

Creating a Safe, Respectful Campus Community: Wellness, Belonging, and Campus Resources

Part 1 of The Healthy Hive equips you with knowledge and skills to foster a safe, respectful campus community. Through education and discussion on alcohol and drug use, sexual agency and consent, dating and relationships, bystander intervention, and healthy group dynamics, you will learn how to make informed choices, identify risky behaviors, and contribute to a shared culture of accountability and care.

1pm-3pm Free Time and Lunch.....Estes Dining Hall

3pm-4pm First Year Success Course Meeting.....Assigned Locations

Did you know that everyone in your crew has the same first-year advisor? Today is your first meeting! Advisors will provide advice, opportunities for questions, and time to schedule one-on-one meetings for Orientation and the first week of classes.

4pm-4:30pm Crew Time.....Assigned Locations

4:30pm-7pm Advising Meetings/Free Time/Dinner.....You Decide!

We know today has been busy! Take some time for you or spend some time with new friends. Check-in with your Crew about Dinner in Estes Dining Hall.

7pm-10pm Rock the Brocks.....Brock Commons and Brock Center

Join some of your Captains in the Brock Center for some movement, whether that is some pick-up basketball, yoga, or volleyball. Or join some of your Captains in Brock Commons to paint a door stop or do other crafts!

Friday, September 4th

8am-8:30am Breakfast.....Estes Dining Hall

8:30am Crew Time.....Assigned Location

9am-9:45am Student Support Panel.....Blackwell Auditorium

Students will hear from student leaders across campus about the peer supports available to them and how they have used support themselves. This is a great opportunity for students to ask questions and learn from their fellow YJs!

10am-12pm Academic Engagement Track

Attend one session in each block:

10-10:45am

Building Your Time Management Toolbox.....Andrews Multi-Purpose Room

Gain practical tools and techniques to organize your schedule and stay on top of academic and personal responsibilities.

Let's Talk Access: An overview of Accessibility Resources at RMC.....Copley 100

Learn more about what the Accessibility Resources office and how we support students.

Let's Explore the World: Study Abroad and What It Can Do For You...Truist Theater

Studying abroad offers students an opportunity like no other! At RMC we know the impact of studying abroad in a student's academic, personal, and professional life. Whether you're interested in one of our study-travel courses or want to fully immerse

yourself in a semester abroad, now is the time to start thinking. Come explore the world with the Office of International Education (OIE) and learn what study abroad can do for you!

The Hidden Curriculum: The Unwritten Rules of RMC.....Dollar Tree Room

Uncover the unspoken norms, expectations, and social know-how that shape success at RMC but aren't taught in a syllabus.

The Art of Yes, No, or Maybe.....Blackwell Auditorium

Develop the decision-making skills needed to prioritize commitments and say yes only to what truly aligns with your goals.

11-11:45am

Organized-ish: Supporting Executive Functioning in College.....Copley 100

Trying to keep up? Learn simple strategies to get organized, stay on track, and survive college life without having it all together.

Note Your Problem: Examining Note Taking Strategies.....Andrews Multi-Purpose Room

Explore different note-taking methods to find the approach that best fits your learning style and helps you retain information more effectively.

Balancing Academics and Self-Care.....Blackwell Auditorium

Learn practical strategies for maintaining your well-being while managing the demands of college coursework.

Let's Explore the World: Study Abroad and What It Can Do For You...Truist Theater

Studying abroad offers students an opportunity like no other! At RMC we know the impact of studying abroad in a student's academic, personal, and professional life. Whether you're interested in one of our study-travel courses or want to fully immerse yourself in a semester abroad, now is the time to start thinking. Come explore the world with the Office of International Education (OIE) and learn what study abroad can do for you!

Learning Across Traditions: A Scriptural Reasoning Conversation...Dollar Tree Room

Are you interested in reading / discussing scriptures from different traditions together with your peers? Join Chaplain Kendra Grimes as we explore the theme of "Learning & Education" and reflect upon Muslim, Christian, and Jewish texts on this theme. Scriptural Reasoning is not about debate or academic exploration, but it is simply

focused on listening/discussing/learning from one another. Contribute to a safe, respectful campus community.

12pm-12:30pm Class of 2030 Photo.....Day Field

12:30pm-2pm Advising Meetings/Lunch/Free Time

2pm-3pm What Does it Mean to be Well? Blackwell Auditorium

Students will explore the different aspects of wellbeing and learn about campus resources that can support them in their wellness throughout their time at RMC.

3:15pm-5pm The Healthy Hive-Part 2..... Blackwell Auditorium

Understanding Your Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct, Adam's Law, and Sexual & Relationship Conduct (Title IX) Policy

Part 2 of The Healthy Hive will explore how individual actions and group behaviors impact the wellbeing, safety, and integrity of our campus community. This session focuses on community standards, the consequences of policy violations, and how to recognize and report harmful behavior (e.g., Student Conduct Code, Adam's Law Against Hazing, and Title IX policy). Whether you're navigating a group, supporting a peer, or reflecting on your own choices, this session will empower you to lead with integrity, advocate for equity, and

5pm-7pm Dinner/Free Time.....Estes Dining Hall

7:30pm League Championship.....Day Field

Come compete with your League for the League Cup and etch your name in history!

Keep the connections growing after a League is crowned this year's Champion with field games on Day Field! Also, keep an eye out for a late-night pizza drop in the Village and at Mary Branch Circle!

10pm Late Night Pizza Drop.....The Village and Mary Branch

End the night with pizza delivered by the Captains. There will be tables of pizza in both the Village and Mary Branch Plaza.

Saturday, September 5th

8am-9am Breakfast.....Estes Dining Hall

9am-9:30am Crew Talk.....Assigned Locations

9:30am-10:30am What Does it Really Take to Become Successful?....Blackwell Auditorium

Dr. Rishi Sriram, Associate Professor and student affairs administrator at Baylor University (Waco, Texas), regularly speaks at conferences and consults with colleges across the United

States on issues related to talent and college student success. Join him for an engaging presentation focused on the secrets to success in college.

11am-11:30am College 101.....Assigned Locations

You've heard it before - the college classroom is different. Captains will lead their crews through tools, tips, and “do's and don'ts” of the RMC classroom. Students are encouraged to bring their laptops!

11:30am-12pm Crew Talk.....Assigned Locations

12pm-3pm Where are My Classes/Advising Meetings/Lunch/Free Time

3pm-5pm ENGAGE RMC

Join the Captains for a variety of fun activities on campus and around Ashland. This is a great chance to meet new people, build connections, and start exploring your new home!

Mario Kart Mayhem.....Maker Space-McGraw Page Library

Ready, set, RACE! Grab your favorite character and battle it out in Mario Kart during orientation. Drift, dodge shells, launch bananas, and see who can claim the ultimate bragging rights.

Dink, Rally & Meet Your New Crew.....Brock Center

Whether you're a seasoned player or have never picked up a paddle, everyone is welcome. Grab a paddle, jump into a game, and meet some new people while having a little friendly competition.

Hoops, Hype & New Connections.....Brock Center

Lace up and hit the court for Pick-Up Hoops! Whether you're here to show off your handles, knock down a few threes, or just meet some new people, everyone is welcome.

Wander Ashland: Walking Trails & New Friends.....Fountain Plaza

Step outside, get some fresh air, and explore the walking trails of Ashland! Take a break from the orientation hustle, enjoy the scenery, and connect with new friends along the way. Meet at Fountain Plaza.

Touchdowns, Tailgates & Good Times.....Andrews Multi-Purpose Room

Grab your crew and get ready for a College Football Watch Party! Cheer for your favorite team, eat some snacks, meet new friends, and soak up the game-day energy together.

Create, Chill & Connect.....McGraw Page Library

Take a break and get creative with a relaxed crafts & connections session! Try your hand at paint-by-numbers, crocheting, and other fun crafts while hanging out and meeting new people.

5pm-6pm Where are My Classes?

5pm-8pm Dinner.....Estes Dining Hall

7pm-12am 2030: Live and Unexpected.....Brock Commons

Get ready for the 19th annual Live and Unexpected, hosted by the Commons Activities Board! This Randolph-Macon tradition is one of your first big nights of fun, friendship, and unforgettable memories. Spend the evening connecting with your fellow Yellow Jackets while diving into an incredible lineup of entertainment. Tackle escape rooms, sing your heart out with karaoke, get a laugh from a custom caricature, dance the night away at the silent disco, or strike up some fun with blacklight bowling in Fountain Plaza. It's bold. It's exciting. It's the perfect Saturday night kickoff to your RMC experience!

Sunday, September 6th

**10:30am Welcome Weekend Worship.....Duncan Memorial United
Methodist Church**

Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church is the RMC College Chapel. The worship service begins at 10:30 am and will be focused on welcoming our RMC students on Sunday, Sept. 6. The sermon will be a conversation between Pastor Nilse Furtado-Gilliam, Chaplain Kendra Grimes, and RMC President Michael Hill. The church choir is led by RMC Professor Antonio Hunt. Following the service will be a light reception for you to meet and mingle with church members. Everyone is welcome, whatever your religious identity may be.

11am-2pm Lunch..... Estes Dining Hall

Participation in New Student Orientation is an expectation of every first-year student.

Questions about your schedule? Ask your Captain. They are here to help!