

THIS IS HOW

# BEARS

(EN)

# ROLL

2024 ENROLLMENT GUIDE

MERCER  
UNIVERSITY

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# WELCOME

## Important Dates

- December** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2024–2025 academic year available at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- January 15** Future Mercerian Scholarship Application (FMSA) Deadline I
- February 1** Priority deadline to submit the FAFSA
- February** Financial aid notifications begin emailing to students who have completed the FAFSA
- March 1** 2024–2025 housing contract available  
Request any housing accommodations due to a disability 90 days prior to housing selection in June  
Begin submitting photo for Mobile Bear Card through the link sent to your personal email
- March 15** FMSA Deadline II
- March 18** Statement of Student Responsibilities available to sign
- March 22** Mercer Academic Profile (MAP) and Summer Orientation registration available to students who have submitted the enrollment deposit  
Begin requesting any academic accommodations due to a disability
- March 23 & April 19** Make It Mercer! on-campus events for accepted students
- May 1** National Decision Day  
Enrollment deposit due  
Application opens for Minority Mentor Program and Opportunity Scholars Program
- May 6** Deadline to submit housing contract for the self-assignment period
- May 20** Statement of Student Responsibilities due (Required to register for classes)  
MAP due
- May 31** Official SAT and/or ACT scores due (for test score submitters)  
Deadline to complete financial aid conversation with admissions counselor
- May 29–June 6** Housing Self-Assignment Period ..... (Access based on date of enrollment deposit)





# TO MERCER

June 14  
June 17  
June 19  
June 21  
June 24  
June 26

Six Summer Orientation options: Register for your preferred date when you complete your MAP (Space is limited per session)

- July 5** Deadline to register for Minority Mentor Program and Opportunity Scholars Program
- July 8** Deadline to accept financial aid in order for aid to be reflected on the billing statement
- July 15** Billing statement with account balance available for payment  
Payment plan available for sign up (Enroll by July 31 to receive discounted enrollment fee)  
Health insurance waiver available for Fall 2024 semester
- July 22** Bear Book Bundle welcome email sends and opt-out window begins

- August 1** Deadline to complete the immunization form process  
Official academic records due, including final high school transcript, dual enrollment college transcript, and AP and IB exam scores

Deadline to register for Mercer Firsts Program for first-generation students

**August 5** Move-in dates and times send via email

**August 16-17** Opening Days: First-year students arrive on campus

Student Records Release Authorization due

**August 18-20** Bear Beginnings Fall Orientation

**August 20** First day of fall semester classes .....  
Deadline to pay account balance or enroll in a payment plan

**August 26** Deadline to change Bear Book Bundle opt-in/opt-out status

**September 13** Deadline to submit health insurance waiver

*Students will not be able to begin classes until all documents have been received.*



**As you prepare to join the Mercer family, use this guide to complete your enrollment process. Within it you will find:**

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# YOUR NEXT STEPS

## LOG IN TO YOUR MERCER APPLICATION PORTAL

Access your Mercer application portal to complete these steps:

- ❑ **Submit your \$500 enrollment deposit** by May 1 to secure your spot in Mercer University's incoming class as well as your access to housing self-assignment and priority registration.
- ❑ **Submit the Future Mercerian Scholarship Application (FMSA)** by the first scholarship application deadline (January 15) or the second scholarship application deadline (March 15). The FMSA allows admitted first-year students to apply for the opportunity to receive additional scholarships based on academic interests, activities, and service.
- ❑ **Schedule a meeting to review your financial aid notification with your admissions counselor.** You and your counselor will discuss your financial aid notification and options along with any questions you may have. Financial aid notifications will be released beginning in February for students who have completed the FAFSA.
- ❑ **Complete your Mercer Academic Profile (MAP) and register for Summer Orientation,** available March 22, if you have submitted your enrollment deposit. The MAP is due by May 20.
- ❑ **Complete your immunization form process by August 1.** Failure to complete this process before classes begin may result in removal from classes.
- ❑ **Complete your health insurance waiver,** available July 15, if you choose to waive Mercer's automatic student health coverage for Fall 2024. You must complete the online waiver by September 13, or you will be responsible for the payment.



## ACCESS YOUR MYMERCER ACCOUNT

You will manage many of your enrollment steps through your MyMercer student account at [my.mercer.edu](https://my.mercer.edu). Your username and password will be sent from Mercer's Information Technology Help Desk to your personal email address that Mercer has on file.

Take these steps through your MyMercer account:

- ❑ **Complete your housing contract,** available March 1, by the May 6 deadline. Access to housing self-assignment is based on the date of your enrollment deposit, for students with a completed housing contract. See page 12 for more information.
- ❑ **Submit the Statement of Student Responsibilities,** available March 18, by the May 20 deadline to be eligible for course registration.
- ❑ **Accept your financial aid and complete all required documents** by your Opening Day.
- ❑ **Pay your account balance or enroll in a payment plan** by the first day of classes, August 20. Your billing statement will be posted approximately the week of July 15 for Fall 2024. See page 11 for more information.
- ❑ **Complete the Student Records Release Authorization** by your Opening Day to grant permission for Mercer to release academic or financial information to specified individuals (such as your parents/guardians). This information cannot be released unless the authorization form is received.
- ❑ **Complete Bear Book Bundle confirmation.** Students are able to reserve Bear Book Bundle materials or change enrollment status beginning July 21. See page 9 for more information.

When you log in to your MyMercer account, you may notice that a hold has been placed on your account. This hold is customary for first-semester students and will be removed upon completion of your enrollment at Mercer University.

## VISIT STUDENTAID.GOV

Some enrollment steps related to financial aid will need to be completed at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

- ❑ **Submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** by February 1 for priority consideration.
- ❑ **Complete Loan Entrance Counseling** and a **Master Promissory Note** over the summer if you are accepting federal loans. Funds will disburse to your account after these two actions are completed.





## CHECK YOUR EMAIL

You will receive information about completing enrollment steps via emails sent to both your personal email address and your Mercer email address.

Microsoft Office 365 is Mercer University's student email system. Mercer's Information Technology Help Desk will send your Mercer email login information to your personal email address that Mercer has on file.

Access and complete these steps through your email:

- ❑ **Choose your housing.** After you submit the housing contract, you will receive a notification the week of May 20 notifying you of the exact date and time to choose your room, roommate, and suitemates. *This notification will be sent to your Mercer email address.*
- ❑ **Register for Mercer's Minority Mentor Program by July 5.** Students from diverse ethnic, religious, and gender groups are invited to connect with fellow students and get acquainted with the Mercer community early. Additionally, students in the program benefit from the guidance of peer mentors and program advisors throughout the year.
- ❑ **Register for Mercer's Opportunity Scholars Program by July 5.** Designed to support first-generation college students, students from lower-to-moderate income backgrounds, and students utilizing access and accommodation services, this program allows eligible students to move to campus early, and connects them with academic and co-curricular resources before they begin the first semester. Students are paired with a student mentor and program advisor who will guide them throughout their time at Mercer.
- ❑ **Register to participate in the Mercer Firsts Program by August 1.** The Mercer Firsts Program connects first-generation college students with an experienced mentor, a community of support, and monthly workshops throughout the first year of college.
- ❑ **Complete the *Get Inclusive* online training course.** Mercer University is committed to providing a healthy and safe campus environment for every student, and all incoming students are required to complete an online sexual harassment and misconduct prevention training course.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Join us on campus for these exciting events that will help you prepare for your first year at Mercer.

- ❑ **Attend Make It Mercer! on Saturday, March 23, or Friday, April 19.** Exclusively for accepted students, Make It Mercer! is your opportunity to celebrate with your future classmates at the place you'll soon call home.
- ❑ **Attend Summer Orientation in June.** You will attend a dean's meeting, review your tentative fall course schedule with an academic advisor, and use your time on campus to prepare for the fall semester.
- ❑ **Arrive for Opening Day at your assigned time on Friday, August 16, or Saturday, August 17.** Residential students move into the residence halls, and commuter students attend a special commuter program.

## DOWNLOAD YOUR MOBILE BEAR CARD

All students use the mobile Bear Card, which serves as your Mercer ID.

- ❑ **Submit your photo for your Bear Card, beginning March 1,** following instructions that you will receive via personal email. Your mobile Bear Card gives you access to campus services and facilities such as your residence hall, dining locations, the fitness center, and the library.

The Bear Card is used to manage your meal membership and also includes a **Bear Bucks** account. Bear Bucks is a prepaid, stored-value account that is tied to your Bear Card. By making a deposit to your Bear Bucks account, you can pay at many on-campus locations as well as certain participating off-campus merchants. You can use Bear Bucks to purchase textbooks at Barnes & Noble in Mercer Village and for other miscellaneous expenses. Some merchants even offer discounts when you use your Bear Card. More details about the Bear Card and the list of locations that accept Bear Bucks are available at [undergrad.mercer.edu/bearcard](http://undergrad.mercer.edu/bearcard).

- ❑ **Request to have your official academic records sent to the Office of University Admissions by August 1.** These documents include your final high school transcript, dual enrollment college transcript, and AP and IB exam scores. *Failure to submit the required documents before classes begin may result in removal from classes.*





# UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid refers to any funds provided from a variety of sources that help you cover the costs of earning a college degree. There are two general categories of financial aid:

**Need-based aid** is provided based on a family's financial ability to pay for college, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**Non-need-based aid** may be offered based on academic merit, talent, or other specific criteria.

Students enrolling at Mercer may be eligible to receive financial aid from a variety of sources, such as University-funded aid, federal aid, and state aid. Types of financial aid available to Mercer students may include scholarships, student employment, grants, loans, and more. Students are also encouraged to apply for scholarships and aid from outside (private) sources.



## START WITH THE FAFSA

The first step in the financial aid process is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). Mercer's federal school code is **001580**. The information you provide on the FAFSA helps determine the types and amounts of financial aid for which you may be eligible, and this important step ensures that you are considered for all available financial aid.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships funded by the University or other sources may be awarded to qualified students based on academic credentials, talent, need, or other criteria. Most scholarships are gift aid and do not have to be paid back.



## GRANTS

Grants funded by University, federal, or state sources may be need-based or non-need-based, and may be awarded to qualified students based on grant-specific criteria. Most grants are gift aid and do not have to be paid back.



## LOANS

Loans are borrowed funds that must be repaid and vary in eligibility criteria, interest rates, and repayment requirements.

MORE THAN  
**90%**  
OF MERCER  
STUDENTS RECEIVE  
SCHOLARSHIPS.



94%

OF INCOMING  
GEORGIA STUDENTS  
RECEIVE THE HOPE  
OR ZELL MILLER  
SCHOLARSHIP.



## FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Federal financial aid programs for U.S. citizens and eligible non-citizens may be available to students who meet specific eligibility criteria. More information is available at [studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov).

- **Federal Pell Grants** are need-based grants typically provided to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need.
- **Federal Work-Study** is a type of employment partially funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Students seeking Work-Study opportunities must indicate their interest in Federal Work-Study on the FAFSA; you may update your FAFSA if it has already been submitted.
- The U.S. Department of Education offers **Federal Direct Loans** to students and **Direct Parent PLUS Loans** to parents.



## GEORGIA RESIDENTS

Residents of the State of Georgia may be eligible for:

- Merit-based scholarships, such as the HOPE or Zell Miller scholarships
- Residency-based Georgia Tuition Equalization Grant (GTEG)

If you don't intend to submit the FAFSA, remember to complete the Georgia State Financial Application (GSFAPP) to be eligible for state aid.

More information is available at [gafutures.org](https://gafutures.org).



## OUTSIDE (PRIVATE) SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND LOANS

Many agencies, employers, non-profits, and military organizations provide merit-based and/or need-based financial aid to qualified students. More information about outside sources is available at [financialaid.mercer.edu](https://financialaid.mercer.edu).

- **Scholarship Universe** is a free, one-stop-shop tool to search and apply for thousands of scholarships. This state-of-the-art scholarship system maximizes students' outside scholarship opportunities by matching students to various scholarship opportunities from different organizations. For more information, visit [financialaid.mercer.edu/outsidescholarships](https://financialaid.mercer.edu/outsidescholarships).
- **Sparrow** allows students to compare personalized private student loan offers from more than 15 lenders through a simple application. Using Sparrow is free, and it does not impact your credit score. Mercer recommends exhausting all federal and state eligibility before applying for a private education loan. For more information, visit [financialaid.mercer.edu/outsideloans](https://financialaid.mercer.edu/outsideloans).



## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

A wide variety of on-campus, part-time employment opportunities, including internships, are available for any students seeking to earn money and/or relevant work experience while enrolled in classes. Some positions may offer a small time commitment such as five hours per week, while others may offer up to 20 hours per week. On-campus positions and a select number of off-campus positions are available for students eligible for Federal Work-Study based on demonstrated financial need.

**All student employees must complete an I-9 form, which requires original copies of identification documentation to be presented to the Office of Student Financial Planning in person or virtually. Acceptable identification documents for U.S. citizens are a passport or two of the following: Social Security card, driver's license, or birth certificate.** For more information about student employment opportunities, visit [financialaid.mercer.edu/studentemployment](https://financialaid.mercer.edu/studentemployment).

## MILITARY RESOURCES

Military-connected students and families may be eligible for a variety of education benefits, such as the Yellow Ribbon Program, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance, and more. Visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at [va.gov](https://va.gov) to apply for education and training benefits.

Mercer offers an Army ROTC program with full scholarships and additional financial aid benefits for students aspiring to serve in the U.S. Army.

For more information and assistance, visit [mercerc.edu/military](https://mercerc.edu/military).





# ESTIMATING YOUR COST



## PRICE VS. COST

**Price** refers to a university's published dollar amount for tuition, fees, housing, and meal plan. Sometimes these are grouped as "tuition and fees" and "room and board." The dollar amount you will actually pay after all eligible financial aid has been applied may be less than the **price**.

**Cost of Attendance (COA)** is the estimated cost to attend college for one academic year. The U.S. Department of Education requires all colleges and universities to provide a COA that includes both estimated **Direct Costs** and estimated **Indirect Costs**.



## ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS

Your estimated **Direct Costs** will appear on your Mercer University **Financial Aid Notification** and are based on Mercer's Cost of Attendance and your enrollment plans. Your actual **Direct Charges** will appear on your Mercer University **Billing Statement** each semester and are due directly to Mercer.

PER YEAR

Tuition	\$41,808	→	This includes tuition for your full-time undergraduate program of study.
Fees	\$300	→	This covers a facility/technology fee.
Housing	\$7,412	→	On-campus housing charges may vary based on the residential option you select.
Meal Plan	\$7,744	→	First-year students living on campus are automatically enrolled in an unlimited meal plan. Charges may vary based on the plan you choose.
<b>Total Estimated Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$57,264</b>		Other fees may be included in your individual Direct Charges and may vary based on your program. Fees may be charged for laboratory use, internships, practicums, fieldwork, etc.



**70-95%**

of tuition is typically covered by federal, state, and Mercer-funded scholarships and grants for most incoming students.





## BEAR BOOK BUNDLE

Mercer's Bear Book Bundle program is an affordable textbook rental program for undergraduate students. With this convenient program, your required books and course materials are listed on your Mercer billing statement at an estimated rate of \$24 per credit hour. Through the program, you can enjoy access to all your course materials on or before the first day of class at an average savings of about 35-50%. All eligible students will be automatically enrolled in the Bear Book Bundle rental program. If you do not wish to participate in the program, you may opt out through your MyMercer account at [my.mercer.edu](http://my.mercer.edu) beginning 30 days prior to classes through the Drop/Add date for the fall semester. More information is available at [bearbookbundle.mercer.edu](http://bearbookbundle.mercer.edu).



## ESTIMATED OPTIONAL DIRECT COSTS

You have the option to pay for some of your college expenses directly to Mercer through two auto-enroll programs. If you choose to opt out of the programs, these estimated optional **Direct Costs** will become **Indirect Costs**.

PER YEAR

Bear Book Bundle	\$810	→	Based on your course selection, you will have various textbooks and digital materials that will need to be purchased for classes. Through the Bear Book Bundle rental program, required books and course materials are supplied and listed on your Mercer billing statement at an estimated rate of \$24 per credit hour. <i>See above for more information.</i>
Student Health Insurance	\$2,492	→	Students are required to have health insurance coverage and are automatically enrolled in Mercer's student health insurance plan. Students who have health insurance coverage under another policy (such as a parent or guardian) may waive the Mercer plan with proof of coverage. <i>See page 19 for more information.</i>



## ESTIMATED INDIRECT COSTS

Estimated **Indirect Costs** are typical expenses associated with attending college and are included in Mercer's estimated Cost of Attendance. **These costs are not due directly to Mercer University and will not appear on your Mercer University Billing Statement.**

PER YEAR

Books, Course Materials, Supplies, and Equipment	\$390	→	You may need to purchase additional school supplies, based on your course selection.
Personal Expenses	\$1,602	→	You may incur miscellaneous expenses related to clothing, laundry, recreation, and medical costs. Actual expenses may vary based on your individual needs.
Transportation/Travel	\$1,197	→	You may incur travel-related expenses such as gas, car maintenance, insurance, or airline flights, depending on your individual needs.
Federal Loan Fees	\$67	→	If you accept a federal loan, you will incur nominal loan fees, which will be deducted from your total federal loan disbursement. Additional loan fees may apply for Direct Parent PLUS Loans.
Housing and Food if Living at Home	\$7,803	→	Students who choose to live at home with a parent or guardian may incur expenses related to off-campus housing and food. These costs may be incurred regardless of college enrollment.





# PLANNING YOUR FINANCES

The **Office of Student Financial Planning** partners with students and families to make a plan including scholarships, grants, student employment, and other financial aid opportunities. For more information, contact the Office of Student Financial Planning at **478.301.2670** or **financialplanning@mercer.edu**, or visit **financialaid.mercer.edu**.

## FINANCIAL AID NOTIFICATION VS. BILLING STATEMENT

Once Mercer processes the information received from your FAFSA, the financial aid amounts for which you are eligible will be presented to you in your personalized **Financial Aid Notification**. You will be able to access your official **Financial Aid Notification** online via an email link sent to your personal email address. Keep in mind that your specific financial aid sources, such as scholarships, grants, and loans, will vary based on your eligibility for need-based and non-need-based financial aid. Your **Financial Aid Notification** is provided as a guide to help you plan how you will finance your college expenses. Remember that this notification is not a bill, and your actual direct charges may vary and will appear on your Mercer University **Billing Statement**. Official rates for tuition, fees, on-campus housing, and meal plans are published on Mercer University's website by May 1 for the upcoming academic year. The **Cost Estimator** form will be available in the spring to help estimate costs such as housing and meal plans.

## FINANCIAL AID DOCUMENT CENTER

All missing information or documents needed to complete the financial aid process will be listed in the Document Center, located in your MyMercer account at **my.mercer.edu**. Students will be notified if they have Verification requirements listed on their FAFSA that must be resolved before aid can be awarded or disbursed. Failure to complete the document requirements listed in the Document Center will cause a delay in the processing of financial aid and could cause a student to become ineligible if the document is not completed before the deadline.

### *Bear Tip for Parents!*

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects the privacy of student education records; therefore, billing notifications are sent to your student's Mercer email address. If you would like to access billing and account information, your student can add you as an **authorized payer** through their MyMercer account. Your student will also need to submit the **Student Records Release Authorization**, which grants Mercer permission to release academic and financial information to specific individuals such as parents or guardians.





Mercer University's **Office of the Bursar** oversees billing and payment processing for your direct charges due to the University. For more information, contact the Office of the Bursar at **478.301.1111** or **bursar@mercer.edu**, or visit **bursar.mercer.edu**.

## BILLING

- Student account balances for direct charges will be posted to your **Official Tuition Statement** in your MyMercer account. Your out-of-pocket balance is calculated using all accepted financial aid.
- Billing statements will be posted to your MyMercer account approximately 30 days prior to the start of each term; no paper statements will be mailed.
- View your billing statement, authorized payer information, and Student Choice Refunds method in your MyMercer account:
  - Select **My Finances**.
  - Select **Pay and Manage My Account**.
- Email notifications of billing and payment plan activity will be sent to your Mercer email address and to any authorized payers you have invited.

**Pay your Fall 2024 account balance or enroll in a payment plan by the first day of classes, August 20.**

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Mercer offers five ways to pay your bill:
  - Pay your account balance in full each semester.
  - Enroll in a payment plan.
  - Apply loans, including federal, private, or Parent PLUS loans.
  - Apply outside scholarships.
  - Use a combination of loans and a payment plan.

## PAYMENT PLANS

- Mercer offers payment plans that allow for payment of your account balance over multiple months. Benefits include: easy online enrollment, flexible payment options, and no interest charges. Students interested in a payment plan must enroll prior to the first day of classes. Payment plans will be available on July 15 for Fall 2024.
- Access your MyMercer account to enroll in a payment plan:
  - Select **My Finances**.
  - Select **Pay and Manage My Account**.
  - Select **Set up a Payment Plan** and follow the on-screen instructions.
- Choose from two available payment methods:
  - Automatic bank payment (electronic check)
  - Credit or debit card (additional fee will be assessed)
- An enrollment fee and down payment are due upon enrollment in a payment plan. Sign up by July 31 to receive the early enrollment discounted fee and pay your first semester's account balance over five payments. Applicable fees include:
  - \$40 early enrollment fee (through July 31)
  - \$50 enrollment fee (after July 31)
  - \$30 returned payment fee

Students who intend to use Federal Work-Study funds toward their account balance must enroll in a payment plan.





# LIVING ON CAMPUS

You're probably wondering what your new campus home will be like. The information on these pages will help you know what to expect. **All first-, second-, and third-year students are required to live in on-campus housing**, except for students who are at least 22 years of age, are married, live at home locally with a parent or guardian, or are veterans. Comprehensive University housing policies are available at [residencelife.mercer.edu/macon](https://residencelife.mercer.edu/macon).

## HOUSING CONTRACT

The 2024–2025 housing contract is available through your MyMercer account at [my.mercer.edu](https://my.mercer.edu) beginning March 1. Complete the contract by the May 6 deadline to be eligible for the self-assignment room selection process (in addition to submission of your enrollment deposit).

Access your housing contract through your MyMercer account:

- Under **My Homepage** and **Housing**, select **Macon Housing**.
- Select **Apply For Housing**.
- Select **2024–2025 Housing Contract**.

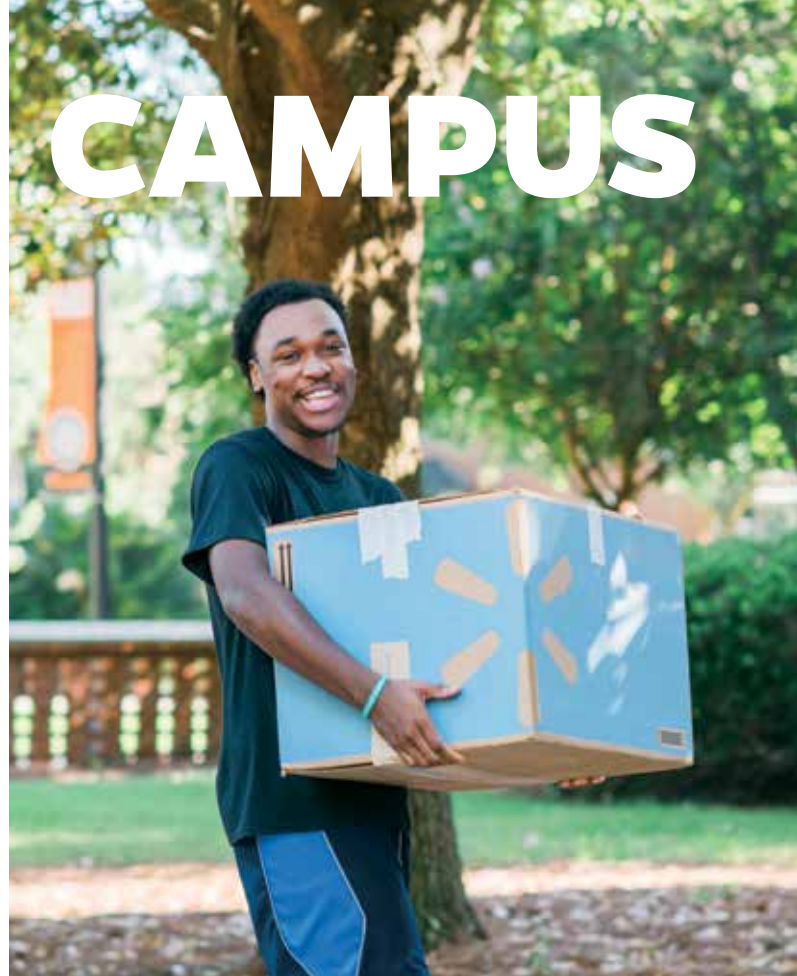
## SELF-ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

You will receive an email notification through your Mercer email account the week of May 20, indicating when you are scheduled to self-assign. During the self-assignment period of May 29–June 6, you will receive access to choose your housing assignment based on:

- The date your enrollment deposit was submitted
- Completion of your housing contract by May 6

## CHOOSING A ROOMMATE

You may choose your own roommate. Opportunities to meet a potential roommate include Mercer University's Class of 2028 chat through the ZeeMee app, a campus visit event (such as Discover Mercer), a Make It Mercer! accepted student event, and Summer Orientation.



### HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS

If you need housing accommodations due to a disability, submit your request to the Office of Access and Accommodation 90 days prior to housing selections to allow time to complete the verification process before the housing self-assignment period. Visit [access.mercer.edu/students/new](https://access.mercer.edu/students/new) to review procedures and make a request.



### FIRST-YEAR HOUSING

Residence halls typically reserved for first-year students include Boone, Dowell, Legacy, Plunkett, Porter, and Roberts halls.



## MOVING IN

You might have already begun to think about what kinds of things you'll need to bring to campus to get settled into your new home. Below are some suggested items you may want to have on hand as well as those better left at home.

### ✔ ITEMS TO BRING:

- Air purifier
- Alarm clock
- Clothes hangers
- Coffee maker/Keurig
- Computer/laptop and printer\*
- Curtains with tension rods
- Dehumidifier
- Desk lamp
- Ethernet cable
- Iron and ironing board
- Laundry detergent
- Microwave (1200 watts or less)
- Refrigerator (up to five cubic feet)
- Rug
- Small trash can
- Surge protector
- Towels and washcloths
- TV
- Twin XL bed linens

### ✘ ITEMS TO LEAVE AT HOME:

- Candles
- Charcoal, gas, or electric/indoor grills
- Chest freezer
- Electric heater
- Extension cord
- Fire pit
- Fryer, including air fryer
- Halogen light/lamp
- Hammer and nails
- Hoverboard
- Incense
- Motorized vehicles
- Neon light
- Toaster oven
- Wall mount for TV
- Wireless router

\*To avoid interference with Mercer's WiFi, please turn off the wireless function on your wireless printer.



## MAIL AND DOCUMENT SERVICES

The Student Post Office, located in the University Center, offers mail and document services, as well as package pickup.

## CAMPUS PARKING

All Mercer students are permitted to have a vehicle on campus at no additional charge. Lots are designated throughout campus for residential and commuter student parking. Request your parking decal through your MyMercer account at [my.mercer.edu](https://my.mercer.edu).

## COMMUTER STUDENTS

Local students who are living at home and commuting to campus can take advantage of the Commuter Lounge on the second floor of Tarver Library using their Bear Card.

If you have any questions, contact the Office of Housing and Residence Life at **478.301.2687** or [housing.macon@mercer.edu](mailto:housing.macon@mercer.edu), or visit [residencelife.mercer.edu/macon](https://residencelife.mercer.edu/macon).

## Bear Tip!

It is free to do your laundry in Mercer residence halls.





# DINING ON

# CAMPUS

Mercer Culinary Group provides students with a wide variety of delicious food offerings across campus that are sure to satisfy any craving and meet any dietary needs, including the availability of vegan and vegetarian options.

## Fresh Food Company

Also known as the “Caf,” the Fresh Food Company serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily and has something for everyone, with stations preparing traditional homestyle dishes, fresh-cooked pastas, specialty soups and sandwiches, and much more.

## Farmers Market

With a build-your-own salad bar, made-to-order sandwiches, and stir-fry station, as well as smoothies and frozen yogurt, the Farmers Market serves lunch Monday–Friday and dinner Monday–Thursday.

**IN A HURRY?** GRAB A TO-GO CONTAINER AND TAKE YOUR MEAL WITH YOU.

## University Center Food Court

### • CHICK-FIL-A

When you need your fried chicken fix, stop by Chick-fil-A for a sandwich or some nuggets with a side of waffle fries.

### • PANDA EXPRESS

If you're craving an egg roll, stop by Panda Express for favorites like broccoli beef, orange chicken, or kung pao chicken. And don't forget your fortune cookie!

### • TOBY'S CORNER

Toby's Corner is a 24-hour, on-demand market featuring grab-and-go dining options.

## Einstein Bros. Bagels

Located on the first floor of Tarver Library, Einstein Bros. Bagels offers fresh-baked bagels, sandwiches, salads, pastries, and desserts.

## Connell Student Center Food Court

### • BREWED AWAKENINGS

Serving Starbucks coffee, Brewed Awakenings is an express coffee bar offering beverages, bagels, pastries, and more.

### • TOT'S CORNER

Tot's Corner is a 24-hour, on-demand market featuring grab-and-go dining options.

### • WHICH WICH SUPERIOR SANDWICHES

For a sandwich tailored to your taste, stop by Which Wich and choose from more than 50 varieties of customizable “wiches.”



## MEAL MEMBERSHIPS

With a schedule full of classes, studying, and plenty of extracurricular activities, you need to stay fueled up. Mercer University offers a variety of campus dining options through a meal membership. With just a scan of your **Bear Card**, you'll be able to enjoy a delicious meal.

All residential first-year students are required to have a meal plan and are automatically enrolled in an Unlimited Plus meal membership, which allows you as many scans as you would like at the Fresh Food Company and the Farmers Market.

Meal memberships include **Dining Dollars** that can be used to buy a meal at any Mercer Culinary Group location. Some plans also allow you to exchange a scan for a meal at Mercer Culinary Group locations beyond the Fresh Food Company and the Farmers Market.

For more information about meal memberships on campus, visit [auxiliary.mercer.edu/meals/macon](http://auxiliary.mercer.edu/meals/macon) or contact Auxiliary Services at **478.301.2741**. If you require dietary accommodations or have concerns, contact Access and Accommodation at **478.301.2778**.



Enjoy a mixture of classic and local favorites just steps from campus in **Mercer Village** and **Mercer Landing**. Get your caffeine fix at Z Beans Coffee, your favorite dish at Margarita's Mexican Grill, and more.





# SUCCESS AT MERCER

At Mercer, we are committed to your success both in the classroom and beyond, and the entire Mercer team is dedicated to supporting you along the way.

The **Office of Academic and Advising Services (AAS)** focuses on enhancing your academic success, beginning with Summer Orientation before your first year. If you have any questions about orientation, your class schedule, or more, contact the Office of Academic and Advising Services at **478.301.2078** or **academicservices@mercer.edu**, or visit **aas.mercer.edu**.

## Summer Orientation and the Initial Advising Appointment

In June, you will attend a one-day **Summer Orientation** session. You will learn academic policies and procedures in your dean's meeting, review your tentative fall course schedule with an academic advisor, and use your time on campus to prepare for the fall semester.

## Opening Days and Bear Beginnings

Mercer's **Opening Days** are exciting and important days for all first-year students! Residential students move into their residence halls, and commuter students attend the Commuter Student Program. Mercer's **Bear Beginnings** Fall Orientation begins after your Opening Day and is filled with fun activities and events that will help you transition both academically and socially to life at Mercer. During this time, you will meet and get to know your **Peer Advisor (PA)**, your **Orientation Group (O-Group)** of fellow first-year students, and your

### University 101 (UNV 101)

instructor who acts as your academic advisor during your first year.

## UNV 101 Classroom Experience

You will continue building relationships with your PA, O-Group, and academic advisor on a weekly basis through the **University 101 (UNV 101)** fall semester classroom experience. During this 16-week course, you and your O-Group will explore and discuss important topics like successful study skills; diversity, equity, and inclusion; critical thinking; ethics; personal relationships; health; safety; academic planning; and career development.

## Academic Programs During the First Year

Throughout your first year at Mercer, the Office of Academic and Advising Services will invite you to attend special programs and events that will enhance your academic progress. Annual events tailored to your first-year experience include: **First-Year Fridays**, the fall semester workshop series for first-year students; **Majors in Minutes**, a fall semester academic majors fair; and other spring semester events. These programs are designed to equip you with the tools you will need throughout your time at Mercer.

First-year students who earn a 3.5 GPA or higher in their first or second semester at Mercer will be invited to join the **Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society** during the fall semester of their sophomore year.

## Academic Progress

Professors are able to offer insight into students' academic progress by communicating through the Student Success portal, which allows students, faculty, and University resources to connect and share feedback through an online platform. The Office of Academic and Advising Services and the Office for Student Success coordinate the **Four-Week Progress Surveys** for all new students, as well as **Midterm Progress Surveys** for students who are experiencing academic difficulty in a course. Academic advisors review progress reports with students to provide feedback and additional support in their academic transition to Mercer.

## Academic Advising

The Office of Academic and Advising Services offers supplemental information to students throughout their time at Mercer on topics such as academic requirements, pre-professional programs, and policies and procedures.



UNV  
101

PEER  
ADVISORS





The **Office for Student Success** is here to help you achieve your goals and thrive on your journey to graduation. In addition to one-on-one student support, the office facilitates programs that foster resiliency and other skills needed to succeed in college. Contact the Office for Student Success at **478.301.2655** or **studentsuccess@mercer.edu**, or visit **studentsuccess.mercer.edu**.

### Student Success Portal

Students can access the **Student Success portal** to review registration holds, receive feedback from instructors through Four-Week Progress Surveys and Midterm Progress Surveys, and connect to a success network.

### Real Talk

**Real Talk** is a monthly series hosted by the Office for Student Success that features Mercer speakers, their stories, and real talk about the ups and downs of navigating college. Real Talk is an opportunity to get to know the people behind the podiums and faces you see on campus, and learn that you are not alone in the challenges you face.

### Communication with Students and Families

The Office for Student Success and the Office of Academic and Advising Services offer ongoing support to both you and your family throughout your time at Mercer, regularly providing you and your family with email updates on academic programs and important dates, especially during your first year. Specific academic or financial information may be released to parents or guardians with your written consent via the **Student Records Release Authorization**, available in your MyMercer account.

### Success Appointments

The Office for Student Success offers **success appointments** for all residential undergraduate students on the Macon campus. During these one-on-one meetings, you will meet individually with an experienced staff member who will work with you to discuss your objectives for the semester and strategies for reaching your goals, as well as ensure you are connected with resources and support to assist you in your Mercer journey.



### Ongoing Academic Support

While you are at Mercer, you will have full access to Mercer's **Academic Resource Center (ARC)**, which provides a variety of student support services, such as tutoring and study skills assistance. **Supplemental Instruction (SI)**, another ARC resource, utilizes upperclassmen who have already successfully completed specific courses to assist current students in outside-of-class instruction.

### Class Registration

You will begin registering yourself for spring classes during the fall semester of your first year with support from the **Office of the Registrar**. The Office of the Registrar enrolls students in academic programs, facilitates the course registration process, ensures accuracy of academic records, and oversees transcript requests after enrollment at Mercer.

### Professional Development and Support

Mercer's **Center for Career and Professional Development** prepares students to succeed in work and life by providing customized and comprehensive career resources, such as assistance with creating a résumé and cover letter, searching for jobs and internships, preparing for interviews, learning how to network, and more.



For a full list of contact information for student services, visit [studentsuccess.mercer.edu/student-resources](https://studentsuccess.mercer.edu/student-resources).



# THRIVE AT MERCER



## ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATION

The **Office of Access and Accommodation** provides support and services for students and visitors with disabilities as required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADAAA).

Contact the Office of Access and Accommodation if you had a 504 Plan or IEP in high school or currently have a severe and/or chronic medical, sensory, or psychological disorder, or have a mobility impairment that requires accommodations in the classroom or with testing. Disability verification forms, the process overview, student responsibilities, and Mercer's ADAAA/504 policies and procedures can be found at [access.mercer.edu](https://access.mercer.edu).

To arrange for accommodations, visit [access.mercer.edu/students/new](https://access.mercer.edu/students/new) and follow these steps:

- Complete online application requesting accommodations.
- Schedule appointment with the Office of Access and Accommodation.
- Submit documentation from a licensed medical provider.
- Discuss approval with the Office of Access and Accommodation.
- Request online forms to notify faculty, instructors, or staff of accommodations once approved.

**NOTE:** You are responsible for attending required meetings and completing the process of clarifying and planning accommodations with each of your individual professors and with the Office of Access and Accommodation each semester.

For more information, contact the Office of Access and Accommodation at **478.301.2810** or [access@mercer.edu](mailto:access@mercer.edu).

## STUDENT WELLNESS

As a student with a valid Bear Card, you have access to a variety of wellness amenities, including exercise facilities, swimming pools, tennis courts, and basketball courts. For more information about exercise facilities, the Leroy Peddy Tennis Courts, Plunkett Pool, and more, contact the University Center at **478.301.5150**.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Mercer's **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** offers counseling services and resources to support students' mental health and well-being. All enrolled students are eligible to receive services. For more information, contact CAPS at **478.301.2862** or visit [counseling.mercer.edu](https://counseling.mercer.edu).

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Mercer University is committed to fostering a diverse community of scholars dedicated to making the world a better place, and our **Office of Diversity and Inclusion** strives to cultivate a holistic learning environment dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion in an ever-evolving global society. Learn more at [diversity.mercer.edu](https://diversity.mercer.edu).





## IT HELP DESK

Mercer University's **Office of Information Technology** maintains and supports technology and network services for the University. The IT Help Desk can assist you with network connectivity, troubleshooting, email access, and other common requests. Visit the New Students section of the IT website at [it.mercer.edu](http://it.mercer.edu). If you have any questions or need assistance, contact the IT Help Desk at [helpdesk@mercer.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mercer.edu) or **478.301.7000**.

## TITLE IX

Mercer University is committed to providing a safe educational environment that supports academic and professional growth of students and does not tolerate sexual harassment. The University's Title IX Coordinator oversees implementation of Mercer's Sexual Misconduct policy. If you have any questions, contact the Title IX Coordinator at **478.301.2788**.

## IMMUNIZATION

Students enrolling at Mercer are required to complete the Mercer University immunization form process. The form and immunization record are due to the Mercer University Student Health Center by August 1. Failure to complete this required process before classes begin may result in removal from classes. Mercer's immunization policy and the immunization form process are outlined at [mercer.edu/immunizations](http://mercer.edu/immunizations).

## MERCER POLICE

As the protective arm of the University, Mercer Police officers are certified by the State of Georgia and always on duty to ensure safety on campus.

For more information about campus safety and Mercer Police, visit [police.mercer.edu](http://police.mercer.edu).

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Mercer students are automatically enrolled in Mercer's student health insurance plan. Premiums are charged each semester and applied to the student's tuition bill. Students who have health insurance coverage under another policy (such as a parent or guardian) may complete a **health insurance waiver** online at [mercer.edu/healthinsurance](http://mercer.edu/healthinsurance) prior to the published deadline each semester.

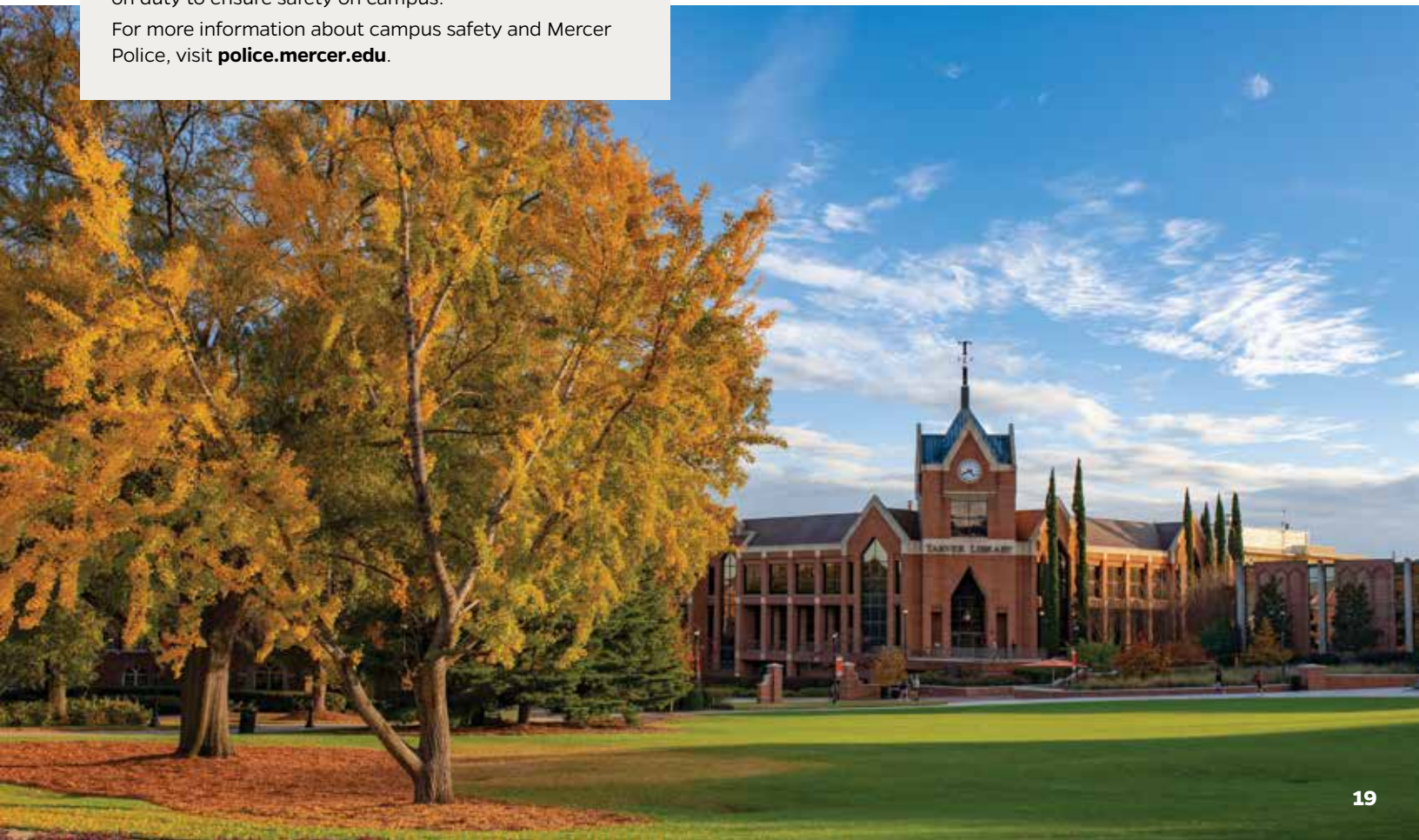
The waiver process for the Fall 2024 semester opens July 15. Any waiver completed prior to that date will not apply to the fall semester. The waiver must be completed by September 13 to avoid paying the charges for health insurance coverage under Mercer's student plan. Make sure you have your current health insurance identification card on hand when you begin the waiver process.

Your waiver will be immediately approved or denied through electronic validation. If it is approved, health insurance premiums will then be credited to your MyMercer account within five business days. If you have questions about Mercer's health insurance requirement or the waiver process, contact your admissions counselor for assistance.

### REMEMBER:

- Your coverage must be active by the first day of classes of the semester you are waiving.
- Each semester you are enrolled at Mercer, the waiver process **must be completed through the student insurance website by the specified deadline**.

**NOTE:** Chrome and Firefox are recommended web browsers for completing this process.





# LIFE AT MERCER

There are 155+ ways to plug into campus life, so get ready to have a full calendar!

## 5 Campus Traditions

**CLIMBING THE TOWER** | For more than a century, first-year students have climbed the tower of the Godsey Administration Building to sign their name—and leave their mark on the University.

**PILGRIMAGE TO PENFIELD** | To celebrate Mercer's 1833 founding in Penfield, Georgia, students pay homage to the University's roots by making a "pilgrimage" each fall to commemorate where Mercer was born.

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING** | Students gather to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season and hear carols performed by the Mercer Singers and theatrical readings led by faculty. The festivities culminate with the lighting of the Mercer Christmas Tree and are followed by Winter Wonderland in Mercer Village.

**FOUNDERS' DAY** | Each year, the Student Government Association welcomes a prominent Mercerian back to campus to share how Mercer has influenced his or her life.

**A RITUAL FOR LUCK** | A statue of University Founder Jesse Mercer sits proudly on the Historic Quad. Each year, first-year students and graduating seniors process across campus for Convocation and Baccalaureate respectively, pausing to rub Jesse Mercer's head for good luck along the way.

## 6 Annual Events

**BEAR FAIR** | Held at the start of each academic year, Bear Fair is designed to introduce new Mercerians to our many campus clubs and organizations.

**FAMILY WEEKEND** | Each fall, students can invite their families to campus to share a glimpse of the Mercer experience.

**BE A GOOD NEIGHBEAR** | Mercer's largest service event of the year involves hundreds of students in a day of service benefiting the Macon community each fall.

**HOMECOMING** | Mercerians look forward to Homecoming each year when they enjoy mixers, tailgating, spirit competitions, and cheering the Bears on to victory in football.

**BEARSTOCK** | Mercer's spring music festival, Bearstock, showcases music artists from a variety of genres.

**BEAR DAY** | The entire undergraduate community participates in this showcase event as students present outstanding research projects to their peers and faculty members.





## ATHLETICS

Mercer is a proud longtime member of NCAA Division I athletics, and the Bears compete in 18 intercollegiate programs.

### Men's Sports

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Football
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Tennis

### Women's Sports

- Basketball
- Beach Volleyball
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Volleyball

**Mercer Maniacs** paint up for games, host pre-game activities, and lead fans in cheering the Bears to victory.

The Mercer University **Cheerleading Squad** and **Dance Team** pump up the crowd at athletic events, supporting the Bears from the sidelines.

The Mercer University **Marching Band** and **Pep Band** keep the crowd cheering and relentlessly support the Bears in football and men's and women's basketball.



## FRATERNITY AND SORORITY PROGRAMS

Mercer is home to seven national sororities and 12 national fraternities, including two multicultural chapters. Membership opens doors to leadership and networking opportunities and provides avenues for philanthropic and community service.

## HONOR SOCIETIES

Numerous honor societies recognize Mercer students for scholastic achievement and academic excellence. In fact, many majors and disciplines have their own honor society and provide a great opportunity for students to connect and network.

## RELIGIOUS LIFE

In addition to a rigorous academic experience, students at Mercer will discover a community of respect that offers the opportunity to foster spiritual growth through a diverse group of campus ministries. Students from all religions can find a place to worship while also exploring other faith traditions.

## SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Mercer Bears share a desire to meet needs and serve others. That's why student groups like MerServe and MU Miracle offer opportunities throughout the year for students to get involved in philanthropy and service to the community.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Representing student interests in all areas of campus life, the Student Government Association (SGA) serves the campus community by working with the administration and local community to enhance the student experience. If you want to participate in SGA, you can run for Senate to represent your classmates as soon as you get to campus.





# OUR HOMETOWN

Get ready to explore Macon and start calling it your hometown, too.





# TOP 12 THINGS TO DO IN *Macon*

1. Spend some time on the water and float the **Ocmulgee River** or soak up some sun at **Lake Tobesofkee**.
2. Learn about our local culture and explore the **Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park**, especially during the annual Ocmulgee Indigenous Celebration.
3. Cheer on the **Macon Bacon** summer collegiate baseball team, and don't miss the chance to meet the team mascot, Kevin.
4. Pick up local produce, crafts, and artisan goods at the **Mulberry Street Market** every Wednesday.
5. Get to know downtown Macon at a **First Friday** event. Browse local boutiques and stores during later business hours, see a live show at a local theatre, and more.
6. Climb to new heights at **Macon Rocks Climbing + Fitness**.
7. Tour the **Tubman Museum** and learn about African American art, history, and culture.
8. Expand your horizons and attend the **Macon Film Festival** to view a curated selection of independent films and hear from industry professionals.
9. Get in the holiday spirit and experience 500,000+ lights moving in time to music arranged and performed by **Macon Pops** at the **Macon Christmas Extravaganza**.
10. Attend **Bragg Jam**, the annual summer music festival that boasts 80+ bands on 20+ stages over two days.
11. Go to the fair, try something new from the food trucks, watch the fireworks, and see the cherry blossom trees bloom at the annual **International Cherry Blossom Festival**.
12. Savor Macon's delicious local cuisine during **Macon Burger Week**.



## EAT YOUR WAY THROUGH MACON

- Bearfoot Tavern
- Ingleside Village Pizza
- Kudzu Seafood Company
- Little India
- Macon Bagels
- Ocmulgee Brewpub
- Oh Honey Baking Co.
- Oliver's Corner Bistro
- Piedmont Brewery and Kitchen
- Rookery
- Yollah
- Z Beans Coffee



