

Western Oregon University - National Student Exchange Incoming Students FAQ's



Pre-Arrival

When can I register for classes?

At the same time as WOU students. So get your admission paperwork turned in as soon as possible.

Do I have to participate in New Student Orientation? No, it is your choice on whether you attend. However, it would be a great opportunity to get acquainted with WOU! NSW 2009 is Sept. 20 to 27. After Labor Day a schedule for NSW is posted at: <http://www.wou.edu/student/sla/newstudents.php> For students arriving Winter or Spring terms, there is an orientation scheduled during the first week of classes – it is usually part of one afternoon. If you are interested in more information, please contact the WOU NSE Coordinator.

Can I send extra stuff in boxes to WOU before I arrive?

The best place to get answers about living on campus (move-in, computers, what to bring) is online: www.wou.edu/student/residences/housingbasics.php or call 503.838.8311

How do I get to WOU from Portland?

HUT (503.364.4444, or online www.hutshuttle.com) is a van service that has regular shuttles between Portland and Salem, CARTS (1.800.422.7723, or online <http://www.ohas-oregon.org/trans.html>) is a way to get to Monmouth from Salem without paying for a taxi, or go online <http://www.wou.edu/student/wuc/ads.php> and sign up for a share ride.

Should I bring my lap-top?

Sure, if you already have a computer you can bring it. Keep in mind the university has over 10 computer labs for student use. Several of the labs have laptops available for students to check out.

Do I have to provide Health and Immunization history to WOU?

Yes, this information is required for NSE students. Go online to <http://www.wou.edu/student/health.medservices.immunizations.php> for more information on these required forms and access these forms with instructions.

Housing <http://www.wou.edu/student/residences/index.php>

Are the apartment's co-ed?

Co-ed rooms or apartments on campus are very limited (for upper-class students on a trial basis only). However, all the residence hall buildings themselves are co-ed.

If I arrive in Monmouth the day before the official housing move-in date, can I move into the dorms early?

Not normally but you can call and ask for permission. Call 503-838-8311 to ask about this.

How can I find out my future roommates?

You can go online and look on your WOU portal account and it should provide you with their name(s) and contact number(s).

How do I find out what dorm I am in?

You can log in to your WOU portal account and find your room number and hall information as well as who your Resident Assistant will be.

Do I have the option to stay over breaks and holidays? Would I pay extra?

It depends on where you live on campus. If you live in any other hall other than Arbor Park you will have to pay extra to stay over most breaks. However if you live in Arbor you will not have to pay extra for any breaks.

Where does my mail get delivered too?

Your mail will be delivered to your Residential Service Center (RSC) Box # which is also posted with your housing information on WOU portal. U.S. Postal Service mailing address for the Residence Halls would include an RSC Box #: Name, RSC Box#, Western Oregon University, 347 N. Monmouth Ave., OR 97361.

Campus Life**What are the cafeterias and meal plans like?**

Valsetz is the only cafeteria on campus but we also have a few other places to grab a quick bite. We have Caffe Allegro for coffee lovers and breakfast and snack foods. We also have the Wolf Express, the Wolf Deli and Grill located in the Werner University Center. All of these places have a great selection of food to choose from everyday. You can pick different types of meal plans for Valsetz Dining Hall depending on how much you spend/eat.

Do I need a school ID card?

Yes, this is very handy to have when you need to show your ID for picking up a pay check or for adding or dropping a class with the Registrar, as well as checking out material from the Library. Especially essential if you have a meal plan since your ID will double as a meal card.

Is there a Health Center available to students on campus?

Yes, the Student Health & Counseling Center is conveniently located across Church St. from the Werner University Center. It is staffed with licensed medical staff, professional counselors and the health staff. Medications are not available on-site; you will need to go to a local pharmacy to fill your prescriptions.

Is there an ATM on campus?

Yes, there are two ATMs located in the Werner University Center's first floor. One is a credit union and the other is U.S. Bank.

Where is the REC center?

Western is in the process of building a new Health & Wellness Center for WOU students. Until then if you live on campus you can use the gym located in RSC on the north side of Valsetz (where your mail will be delivered). The weight room is located under the track and football stadium. The Wolverton Pool is on the south side of the OPE Building—watch out for construction, the pool is open.

Is there a bus stop next to campus?

There is a CARTS stop on campus. CARTS is a local bus transportation to Dallas, Salem and Independence. All routes run Monday through Friday except on Holidays. WOLF Ride is also available; free to WOU students who need to get places in Monmouth and Independence between 5pm-10pm Monday thru Sunday. Call 503-428-7238 to request a ride. Complete program information is available at www.wou.edu/student/wolfride

Are there student clubs and organizations that I can get involved with on campus?

Yes. Our campus has over 60 different organizations that vary from educational to social. You can find the complete list at: <http://www.wou.edu/student/club/>
If you don't see something you are interested in it's easy to start your own club as well!

How do I get my text books?

You may preorder your textbooks from the WOU bookstore at: <http://bookstore.wou.edu/home.aspx> you then simply pick them up during the first week of classes.

During the first two weeks of the term the Book Exchange will also be open. This is a student government operated book exchange where students buy and sell their used textbooks. It is in Werner University Center, Room 108.

How do I get my student ID card?

Go to the information desk in the Werner University Center and tell them that you have not yet gotten your ID card and need to get one. Your first ID is free of charge, after that each replacement card \$15. Remember to be ready to have your picture taken.

Is there an Add/Drop period for classes at the start of the term?

Yes there is a 15 day period to add or drop a class free of charge, after that there are different charges and terms for adding and dropping after certain time periods. More information can be found on our webpage: <http://www.wou.edu/provost/calendar.php>

Can I get a job on campus?

Yes, there are many opportunities for both Work study and Non Work study jobs on campus. Service Learning and Career Development have an online job posting: www.wou.edu/student/career/wolflink.php

Do I need a parking permit to park on campus?

Yes, if you bring a car. More information is available at: <http://www.wou.edu/admin/safety/#parking>

Can I correspond with any other exchange students before I arrive?

There is a WOU National Student Exchange Facebook group: It's called National Student Exchange at WOU. Western is fairly new to NSE, as such, so is the Facebook group. The Facebook group is another way to contact the WOU NSE Coordinator!

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=17228619081>

Monmouth

Are things in Oregon more expensive?

I suppose it may depend on what and where you purchase. However, one thing to keep in mind is that Oregon does not have a sales tax!

Where can I get groceries?

There are a couple different places to purchase food items. In Monmouth there is Monmouth Market & Deli and a Bi-Mart where you could purchase non-perishables. Independence has several grocery stores; the two largest are Ware-Mart and Roth's. There is also a Safeway and a Wal-Mart in Dallas (about 10 miles from campus). Plan-It Wolf, the student handbook/planner has a complete list of local businesses.

Is a bike a reasonable form of transportation?

Yes, many of our students have bikes; however you need to be prepared for any type of weather. Bring a good lock with your bike.

What national banks are there in Monmouth?

There is a U.S. Bank located within walking distance of campus, as well as MAPs Credit Union and West Coast Bank. There are several other banks in Monmouth and Independence as well, see Plan-It Wolf for a complete list.

How do I get from Monmouth to anywhere?

If you do not have a car at WOU, CARTS is a public bus that runs through Monmouth, Dallas, and Independence, Monday through Friday. You can access a copy of the bus schedule online at <http://www.ohas-oregon.org/transcarts.html>, or pick of a copy of the schedule in the Werner University Center near the Information Desk. WOU also offers a safe ride program, WOLF Ride. It operates Monday through Sunday 5pm-10pm in the Monmouth-Independence area. For more information on this program please visit <http://www.wou.edu/student/wolfride> If you are up for the walk on a nice day it is not uncommon to see people walking around Monmouth or Independence. It is also not uncommon for people to be seen carpooling with friends.

Advising and Registration

How long do I have to change my class schedule?

See the 2009-2010 Academic calendar at: www.wou.edu/provost/registrar/calendar.php

How do I access the final exam schedule?

Professors generally have the final date and time on the syllabus but the overall general schedule can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.wou.edu/provost/registrar/finals.php>

Where is the Advising Office located on campus?

The Advising Office is located across the street from the Natural Sciences building, in Room 210 of the APSC (Academic Programs & Support Center) Building next to the Administration building.

How would I get a copy of my transcripts?

Unofficial transcripts may be accessed via your student account online. Log-in to your Wolf Web account. Official transcripts may be requested through the Registrar's office. More information can be located at: http://www.wou.edu/provost/registrar/forms/transcript_instruct.php

Is there a list of available classes online that I can access?

Yes, on the Western Oregon University web page you can go to Current Students and then click on Class schedules. Choose the academic department and term you are interested in and click on the Display List of Courses field.

Tuition and Fees

Can I pay my tuition and fees online?

Yes, you can go to this link (https://banweb.ous.edu/wouprd/owa/twbkwbis.P_WWWLogin) log in and navigate to tuition and fees, and you will be able to pay through credit or debit payment. The link is the log-in to your Wolf Web account.

If I am late on my payment what will be the consequence?

Late fee's start at 5:00pm on Friday of the first week of classes. For more information please visit: <http://www.wou.edu/provost/registrar/calendar.php>.

Can I view my bill online to see what I am being charged for?

Yes, there should be specific details on what each fee was, and if there is anything unclear you can call or visit the cashiers office to ask them why something is on there or what it is for. This information can be viewed by using your Wolf Web account.

Do I have to pay for Health Insurance through the university?

Yes. WOU does not allow students to opt-out of this coverage. NSE Students must also pay this fee.

Orientation

Will there be a tour of Western's Campus that I can attend?

Yes there are many different campus tours offered. If you are not able to go to any during New Student Week (orientation in Sept.), there are daily tours you can participate in at the Admissions Office in the ASPC building (10am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm).

WOU Facts

Class sizes: Average student-to-faculty ratio of 18:1. All classes are taught by professors.

Student Body Diversity: Approx. 2% each: American Indian, Asian, African American; 7.5% Hispanic; 6% International. Male/Female ratio is 39:61. Approximately 83% of students are Oregon residents.

Traditional WOU events: A few examples:

- Signing of the walk during New Student Week, write your name in wet cement!
- Halloween Dance in October, ASWOU SAB sponsored program.
- Holiday Tree Lighting on December 2, 2009-lighting ceremony of 123-foot Giant Sequoia
- African-American Awareness Celebration-MSU sponsored program in February to honor contributions of African Americans.
- Mr. WOU in May-RHA sponsored program, all proceeds donated to charity.
- Hawaiian Club Luau-Hawaii Club sponsored program in May.

School Colors: Crimson Red and White, with accent colors of silver and black.

University History

The founders, members of the Disciples of Christ Church, donated land and money to begin the town and school. Monmouth University, chartered on Jan. 18, 1856, opened with 35 to 40 students in a small wooden building. From these modest beginnings, Western Oregon University has expanded from a private institution to a state-supported liberal arts university with 34 buildings and more than 5,200 students. It is the oldest public institution on the west coast. By 1981, the university had broadened its

academic mission to include a full range of humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and creative arts courses.

Campus history is all around you. Look for markers around campus that point to events, people and classes from the past. Look at Campbell Hall, the oldest building in the Oregon University System, and the library to see the paintings of the father and son presidents whom Campbell Hall was named.

The school mascot is a wolf who goes by Wolfie. You can see Wolfie at sporting events and on campus wearing Western's colors; black, red, and white. We have no story to explain why in November 1928 the football team became the Wolves; only an article in a 1934 school paper identifying former football coach Larry Wolfe as the man whose name is behind the mascot.

How To Dress

It is best to be prepared for all types of weather here. In the winter you can see most people bundled up with jeans, tennis shoes, long sleeve shirts, heavy jackets, beanies, and scarves. Though it is common to see students in shorts and flip flops on a rainy day. It is also wise to carry an umbrella because it is not uncommon for it to start raining on and off. In the fall, spring or summer short sleeve shirts, light jackets, shorts, capris, flip flops or sandals, and tank tops are all suitable to wear.

Things to see and do in Oregon

Western is 20 miles from the state capital, Salem, a little more than an hour from Portland and Eugene. WOU is a short drive to the Oregon Coast, the Cascade Mountain range, and many other scenic areas of Oregon.

The following links are not affiliated with Western Oregon University.

The university should not be held responsible for the accuracy of the content of the following Web sites. Individuals participating in any outdoor activity need to be fully aware of the inherent risks which may be associated with that activity. Care must also be taken to plan for sudden changes in weather and conditions. Extra clothing and food is always recommended.

Statewide resources

[Oregon Department of Transportation Web cams & Road conditions](#)

[Virtual Guidebook to Oregon](#)

[National Forests of Oregon and Washington](#): links

[Willamette National Forest trip planning map](#)

[Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recreation report](#)

[Trails.com](#): Online directories for many different activities within Oregon

Special interest areas in Oregon

[Newberry National Volcanic monument](#)

[Crater Lake](#)

[Virtual Guidebook to Eastern Oregon: Steen's Mountain](#)

[John Day Fossil beds](#)

[Oregon Caves National Monument](#)

The Beach

[Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area](#)

[Oregon Coast Visitor Association](#)

[Jess M. Honeyman Memorial State Park](#)

[Oregon surfing spots](#)

Bicycling: mountain

[Black Rock Free Ride association](#): Free ride trails in Falls City near campus

[MerryCranksters: Local trails](#)

[Mountain Bike review: Oregon trails](#)

[Dirt World: Oregon ATB trails](#)

Bicycling: road

[Trails.com Road biking guide](#)

[Road Biking guide](#)

[The Salem Bicycle Club](#)

Canoe, Kayaking and Boating

[Kayak guide](#), [Canoe Guide](#)

[Oregon Kayak and Canoe club](#)

[Sites of interest to Sea Kayakers](#)

[Paddling.net](#): Oregon points of interest

Fishing

[Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - fish division overview](#)

[Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - recreation report](#)

Hiking

[Oregon Trails: Hiking the Pacific Northwest](#)

[CoolTrails.com: a Northwest Hiking resource](#)

[Local Hikes: Portland & Salem area](#)

[OregonHiking.com](#)

Rock climbing

[RockClimbing.com](#) & [Rock Climbing sites](#): Oregon online climbing guides

[Falls City](#): Waterfall bouldering near Campus

[Smith Rock](#): World famous climbing in Central Oregon

Skiing

[Ski Central: Oregon](#)

[Hoodoo Ski area: closest to WOU](#)

[Mt Hood Ski Bowl](#) and [Timberline Lodge](#) ski areas: in Cascade range outside of Portland

[Mt Bachelor](#): 22miles SW of Bend

[Oregon Nordic Club: Willamette chapter](#)

[Oregon Cross Country Ski guide](#)

[Oregon Cross-Country Ski Areas](#)

Wind surfing

[Oregon.com wind surfing locations](#)

[The Gorge - top tier wind surfing](#): links

August 2009

www.wou.edu/student/nse

