Welcome to Rice From Student Success Initiatives

New students 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. As a new student, you are most likely very excited and possibly a bit nervous about starting your first year at Rice. From the first 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 and in the greater Houston area. 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 College over the summer months with more details about O-Week and life in the College. This will include 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 staff.

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.

Utilize “Matriculating Class of 2015” page on Owl Space. It includes materials for the Common Reading, academic planning resources, O-Week information, and more!

After College assignments are mailed in mid-July, connect with your roommate and potential suitemates to determine what to bring to campus such as obtaining a vaccination for meningitis, and information about your new roommate or suitemate and O-Week staff.

Plan for Move-in which will be on the morning of August 16th 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.

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. Additionally, 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 students achieve success as they identify it.

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.

Learn more at success.rice.edu/univ110

UNIV 110 Sections for Fall 2015

Mondays
2:30—5:00 pm

Tuesdays/Thursdays
9:25—10:40 am
10:50 am—12:05 pm
2:30—3:45 pm

Be sure to add UNIV 110 to your Course Planner during O-Week!
Each year, a committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff identifies a text for all incoming students, O-Week staff, and the broader Rice campus that is intended to promote discourse and a sense of community. During O-Week, new students will discuss the Common Reading with faculty members and current students in a way that mimics the classroom experience at Rice. There will also be programming held during the fall semester to allow students to explore the book more deeply. You will receive more information about this year’s selection over early in the summer. This year’s program will include key readings and supplemental materials from *Whistling Vivaldi—How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do* by Claude M. Steele.

### First Generation Student Support

Rice Firsts is a peer based mentoring program for incoming first generation students. By pairing them with a peer mentor who is also among the first in their family to attend college, Rice Firsts aims to provide a personalized resource to the first year students in the form of a mentor 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.

SSI also offers training to faculty, staff, and students about how to best support first generation college students in their transition to Rice. This session provides participants with resources critical to success for first generation students and dispels myths that may exist about these students. We aim to help families of first generation students as well as we know that you are a vital part of your student’s education!

### Common Reading Program

Each year, a committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff identifies a text for all incoming students, O-Week staff, and the broader Rice campus that is intended to promote discourse and a sense of community. During O-Week, new students will discuss the Common Reading with faculty members and current students in a way that mimics the classroom experience at Rice. There will also be programming held during the fall semester to allow students to explore the book more deeply. You will receive more information about this year’s selection over early in the summer. This year’s program will include key readings and supplemental materials from *Whistling Vivaldi—How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do* by Claude M. Steele.

### New Families Orientation

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 16th, while new students are moving into their College and getting to know their O-Week groups, families are invited to a special orientation program geared toward acclimating you to your student’s new home, resources for support, and connect with campus leadership.

After your student has begun to get settled, the Colleges will host a welcome brunch and provide you with a chance to say goodbye to your new student. There will be a brief introduction to your student’s residential college and its leadership team followed by an official Welcome to Rice by President David Leebron, Dean John Hutchinson, and more. Next, you will have the opportunity to get to know some of the academic departments and student services available to your student. The day’s events should conclude around 6 pm if it helps you plan travel accordingly.

### Outdoor Adventure Trip with Rice Outdoor Programs and Education (ROPE)

Join SSI and the Rice Outdoor Programs and Education (ROPE) for a two-day beach camping trip with other first year students near Mustang Island, Texas on August 29th-30th. There will be opportunities to surf, paddle board, kayak, and more. The trip includes transportation, food, and rental equipment at no cost to first year students.

### Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1st</td>
<td>Deadline for many forms including the Health Data Form, College Information Form, Roommate Information Forms, and Guardian Information Form.</td>
<td><a href="http://success.rice.edu/checklist">success.rice.edu/checklist</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7th</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15th</td>
<td>Colleges will mail O-Week books, rooming assignments, and O-Week group information. You must submit your Health Data Form to receive this information.</td>
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<td>August 1st</td>
<td>Tuition and fees payment are due via the Bill Payment Suite of your Esther account.</td>
<td><a href="http://esther.rice.edu">esther.rice.edu</a></td>
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<td>August 16-22</td>
<td>Orientation Week 2015</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>August 24th</td>
<td>First Day of Fall Classes</td>
<td>New students will register for courses during O-Week and can adjust their schedules even after classes have begun.</td>
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<td>October 12th-13th</td>
<td>Fall Midterm Recess</td>
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<td>November 26th-27th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>December 4th</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9th-16th</td>
<td>Finals Period</td>
<td>Students’ individual finals schedules will vary somewhat within this period based on their particular course schedule.</td>
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<td>January 11th</td>
<td>First Day of Spring 2016 Classes</td>
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