



One of Central's greatest assets is the welcoming community embodied by our faculty, staff, and continuing students. It is that Wildcat community that makes Central the special, welcoming place that it is.

That's why we are so disappointed by having to let you know that, following careful consideration, **we are suspending our overnight orientation (summer) LINKS programs**. We recognized that the last few months have been tough on everyone and we understand it's been challenging to navigate through the unprecedented circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

But when the first signs of the pandemic began to arise, we, like many, immediately began to assess the implications it might have on how we best serve you and your support networks. While we had hoped that we would be able to continue to transition students using our existing, proven model we have reached the conclusion that we must adapt—and we are ready for this challenge. We will support you. We will provide you with tools to continue moving toward the hopes and dreams that are the culmination of your college experience.

Over the past decade, CWU's Orientation and Transition Programs have successfully provided resources support and fostered a sense of belonging for both incoming students and their support networks. For many of our students going to college is a rite of passage impacting everyone associated with this milestone. Typically, orientation is a community-wide effort that helps prepare participants for the challenges that accompany this momentous transition from adolescence to adulthood.

With current circumstances in mind, we have assessed the content and are preparing a new model that will provide you and your support networks with the right tools, resources, information, and support at the right time. Our greatest challenge will be replicating the sense of belonging that we are able to foster during our in-person orientation sessions.

In late June, we will begin to provide students with advising and registration support. We will be able to help the majority of incoming student register by the end of July, and we will continue with this program as new students are admitted. In addition, we intend to create small communities of 25-35 students with a designated orientation leader, academic advisor and other faculty/staff based on commonalities such as your intended major or your residence hall.

There is no action required by you and no fees have been assessed at this time. We ask that you continue to watch your email for updates in the coming weeks.

We will continue to assess the impacts of COVID-19 and if circumstances change, we will work to create additional opportunities for you to visit campus and connect with other students and support network members.

In September, our Welcome Week will provide opportunities to further experience Central's Welcoming community, to initiate lifelong friendships and to fully engage your voyage as a Wildcat.

While this is a big shift there is no need to worry. Rest assured that we will support all incoming students in this transition.

Welcome to CWU. We will get through this together (#CWUtogether)!

Sincerely,

John Mounsey
Director - Orientation & Transition Programs
Central Washington University