



MEMORANDUM

To: All Incoming Students
From: Randi Teplitz, Assistant Dean of Students
Date: July 17, 2024
Re: Orientation 2024

Welcome to Widener Law Commonwealth!

We are looking forward to your arrival on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 and are delighted that you are embarking on your path to becoming an attorney with us. This memorandum gives you information about important dates and times. It also has details about buying textbooks and preparing for classes. Please read this memo in conjunction with the comprehensive orientation schedule.

Student IDs – Please upload your photo prior to your arrival on campus. If you are unable to do so, you must visit the Audio/Visual office on the 2nd floor of the Library Building between 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. on August 12th OR 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. on August 13th. You must have an ID in order to access our buildings.

Check-In – Check-in is at 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. on August 13th. Please come to the Main Lobby (the Gallery) of the Administration Building to pick up your Orientation packet. Campus tours led by our Student Ambassadors will be available during this time.

Orientation – Orientation begins at 3:00 p.m. on August 13th. It will be held in our large moot courtroom in the Administration Building, also known as Room A180. You must attend all Orientation sessions. Attendance will be taken during both the in-person and Zoom sessions. You must contact me in advance if you cannot attend an Orientation session so that alternate arrangements can be made.

- **Part 1:** Tuesday, August 13th: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (IN-PERSON)
- Wednesday, August 14th: 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. (IN-PERSON)
- Thursday, August 15th: 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (IN-PERSON)
- Friday, August 16th: 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (ZOOM)

Please review this Orientation schedule in conjunction with the Introduction to Legal Process class schedule which is provided below.

- Part 2: Wednesday, September 11th: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (IN-PERSON*)
This is a mandatory session that will discuss your character and fitness disclosure obligations to the law school and the bar examiners.

**ED students are permitted to attend via Zoom if their commute time prohibits in-person attendance. Please email Dean Teplitz (rbteplitz@widener.edu) for the Zoom link.*

- Part 3: Wednesday, September 25th: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (IN-PERSON*)
This is a mandatory Career Development orientation session. You will learn about the law school's Career Development Office, accessing the CORE database, externships, and the clinical experiential curricular requirement.

**ED students are permitted to attend via Zoom if their commute time prohibits in-person attendance. Please email Dean Antos (nrantos@widener.edu) for the Zoom link.*

Welcome to the Profession Induction Ceremony – The Welcome to the Profession Ceremony will be held on Thursday, August 15th at 4:30 p.m. in Room A180. A reception will follow. Professional attire is required.

Introduction to Legal Process – You must attend all Introduction to Legal Process classes. Successful completion of Introduction to Legal Process is a graduation requirement. Due to the highly interactive nature of this course, **in-person attendance is required.**

Introduction to Legal Process will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday, August 13th, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 14th, 3:00 -5:00 p.m. **AND** 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 15th, 2:00-4:00 p.m. **AND** 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 17th, 9:30-11:45 a.m. – Exam

Advisor-Advisee Meeting – You will be assigned an academic advisor who can serve as a resource for you throughout your program. Your advisor will be in touch with you during the first two weeks of classes to schedule a meeting.

School Store – Do you need Widener Commonwealth merchandise? At Widener Commonwealth, we LOVE to show our school spirit! An [online school store](#) is open for you to place orders. Orders can be shipped directly to you or delivered to campus in the fall.

Textbooks – Your professors expect you to be prepared and ready on the first day of class; there is no first week grace period in law school. As such, I recommend that you order all of your textbooks two weeks or more before classes begin. Here's what you need to do:

- You can find your course schedule on MyWidener using the link on the bottom of the law school's homepage: <http://commonwealthlaw.widener.edu>.
- When you have your schedule, you can find your textbooks and first assignments posted at: <http://commonwealthlaw.widener.edu/current-students/academics/>. Please click on the "Fall 2024 Textbooks and First Assignments" document.
- If you want to buy your textbooks from the university's bookstore, use this link: <https://www.bkstr.com/widenerestore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials>. Use "LAWH" as your department. We do not have a physical bookstore on the Harrisburg campus. The bookstore on the Chester campus fulfills our orders and ships the books to you at your home or school address in the greater Harrisburg area.

You do not need to buy from the university's bookstore and may buy or rent your textbooks from other retailers. We encourage you to shop around and find the best deals and those that are ready to ship the quickest. Be sure to buy the correct editions of your textbooks.

- Complete the first assignment for each of your courses as set out in the "Fall 2024 Textbooks and First Assignments" document mentioned above.
- If you are dependent on using your financial aid to purchase your textbooks, please contact cwfinaid@widener.edu to determine whether you are eligible for a book voucher (which is essentially an advance on your financial aid).

Accommodations—If you are a student in need of accommodations, please contact our [Student Accessibility Services Office](#) as soon as possible. Approved accommodations are implemented by the Registrar and the Office of Student Affairs. In order to protect your anonymity, you should **not** discuss your accommodations with your professors. Accommodations are implemented differently in law school. Once I receive your approved

accommodations, I will send you an FAQs document that will help explain the process. However, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Tobacco-Free Campus – We are a tobacco-free campus, which also includes your car if it is parked on university property. You may not smoke, chew, or vape.

Speed Limit – The speed limit in our parking lot is 15 mph. In order to protect the safety of our community, you are expected to adhere to this speed limit at all times.

I look forward to meeting you. If you have any questions or need additional information, please email me at rbteplitz@widener.edu. Please note, however, that I will be out of town from August 8-August 12. During this time, Orientation questions should be directed to Matthew Kerns, Dean of Admissions, mvkerns@widener.edu.