

# Frequently Asked Questions for New Students

## **Student Success & Services**

**Q: What accommodations do you have for queer/transgender students?**

A: We have a Pride Center and Safe Space Allies program in our Office of Inclusion and Community. We offer both one-on-one and group sessions through our Counseling Center, we also have a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies major and minor program of study.

**Q: When is the survey for classes open?**

A: The Academic survey is live on the new student checklist. It can be accessed through [my.redlands.edu](http://my.redlands.edu) using your Redlands credentials.

**Q: Can the academic placement exams be taken online?**

A: Yes - the placement exams are all online on the New Student Checklist. There is a verbal foreign language option, but it is not required.

**Q: I do not graduate till mid-June, so I will not have a transcript to send to registrar till early to mid-July.**

A: This is just fine. We are aware many students have mid/late June end of the school year. Send it as soon as you can post-graduation.

**Q: If you are not interested in STEM, do you still need to take the placement test? Are there also placement exams for prospective non-STEM majors?**

A: We recommend that all students plan to take placement exams. Placement exams are all online. If you take the Math placement exam, it will help guide the completion of general education requirements, though you can take MATH placement at any time while you are a student at Redlands.

All incoming students must take the Writing Foundation Pathways survey to determine their writing placement. This exam will give students the option to meet with a faculty member.

In addition, we recommend also taking the World Language placement via the Academic Interest Survey. Links to these exams are on the New Student Checklist.

**Q: Is there a parent specific portal?**

A: The portal we have is for students and can be found here: [my.redlands.edu](http://my.redlands.edu)

**Q: If a student has an IEP or needs accommodation, what should they do?**

A: Any student that needs an Academic accommodation should contact our Academic Success and Disability Services. More info can be found on the office of [Academic Success and Accessibility website](#).

**Q: Who do we talk to about first-generation programs or scholarships?**

A: There are many resources for first generation students including a summer bridge program,

mentoring program, and a student organization: First Gen Family. Over 45% of students identify as first generation at Redlands. I deeply encourage students to do the summer bridge program if available! It is amazing to build community and learn more about our programs.

## **Registration**

**Q: How do the class placements work if students have not yet sent in transcripts for any college credits they already have?**

A: Registration will happen in July so that leaves plenty of time to have all transcripts sent to [registrar@redlands.edu](mailto:registrar@redlands.edu).

**Q: When and how are we able to select the time of our desired classes (morning/afternoon classes)?**

A: Your schedule will be built to be balanced. You can work with your First Year Seminar faculty on changes to your schedule.

**Q: So, after we send the survey and potentially take a placement exam, will we be able to browse classes on the app?**

A: You will be able to browse First Year Seminars (FYS) on the FYS App and will choose 10 seminars and will be placed in one of those.

**Q: When do we get our class schedule?**

A: Class schedule will be sent to students in July.

**Q: I am entering already knowing that I am a Liberal Studies major with a second major that will require a set amount of classes that are determined to graduate on time. Will I be able to request an advisor who will know how to properly advise me as I am registering for my 1st semester classes?**

A: Your Academic Survey will ask about your academic interests/major plan. We will then pre-assign you for your courses first semester. You will also meet with your advisor over Zoom/phone during the summer.

**Q: Are student athletes given priority with selecting classes?**

A: All incoming students are given the same priority.

**Q: Please share why placement exams are required when I have already taken AP exams or dual enrollment classes to show that I have already taken some courses?**

A: When your transcripts arrive, that will be factored into your final registration. You will work with your FYS advisor to adjust your fall schedule as needed.

**Q: Will I get Redland college credit for a 3, 4, or 5 on my AP tests?**

A: Each department sets their credit policy. The minimum score for AP exams is a 3. More information by exam can be found via the [AP scoresheet document](#).

## **Orientation & Move-In**

**Q: I have heard that first-year students will have the option to be on campus early for a whole week to meet and do things with other first-year students, is this correct?**

A: If you participate in our First Year Journey's you will have access to be on campus before the start of New Student Orientation. This [First Year Journey program](#) is highly recommended.

**Q: Are students assigned specific move in times or just any time on that day?**

A: Later in the summer, Residence Life and Housing will send out a communication to all incoming students regarding selecting a move-in window for August 29, 2024.

**Q: Will the orientation schedule be provided to families during the summer?**

A: Yes - it will be listed on the [New Student Experience webpage](#).

**Q: What day and time is orientation?**

A: Move-in day and Orientation begins on Thursday, August 29, 2024.

**Q: For students living off campus. Will they receive orientation date and time via email?**

A: Orientation begins on Thursday August 29 for all students. Move-in for on-campus students is that morning, but commuting students will also start Orientation at the same time.

**Q: How long do parents stay during orientation?**

A: Parents usually stay through the first day including dinner on the quad.

## **Housing & Residential Life**

**Q: Is housing the same for student athletes? Do they move in earlier?**

A: Housing is the same for all students, although some student athletes must arrive early. If they are required to arrive early, housing will be available. Residence Life and Housing will work with athletics on dates and rosters for early arrivals.

**Q: What pets are allowed in the dorms?**

A: No pets (including fish and reptiles in suitable enclosures) are allowed in any of the residential communities on campus. The only exceptions are service animals and emotional support animals approved through the Office of Student Success Office.

**Q: Are you able to have a car on campus during your first year?**

A: Yes, first year students can have a car on campus.

**Q: What if you already have a roommate in mind?**

A: You can include their name when prompted to do so on the housing intention form--they must also include your name too.

**Q: How can we get access to the housing portal?**

A: Once you deposit, you will get credentials to log into my.redlands.edu and then you will see self-service. Housing Intention forms and other items are in the New Student Checklist in self-service.

**Q: Is it difficult to get a triple or quad room?**

A: If you are interested in living in a quad room, an application will be available on your MyRedlands

Housing portal and decisions regarding quad rooms are made in collaboration with Student Financial Services (SFS). Triple rooms are more widely available across campus.

**Q: Can any changes be made to the housing portal form? For example, if I selected a double room, but want a triple, can that be changed?**

A: If you would like to make any changes to your Housing Intention form, please email [RLH@redlands.edu](mailto:RLH@redlands.edu) to have the form reset.

**Q: Do I have to pick my own roommate?**

A: No, we will assign you a roommate based on questions you answer in your housing intention form. If you know of someone or meet someone you want to room with, indicate that on the form.

**Q: What are other ways to connect with a potential roommate?**

A: Many students as a part of their Personal Profile will include social media accounts or contact information which many students utilize to connect with each other and search for potential roommates.

**Q: Are there female only showers and bathrooms?**

A: Yes, within our first-year communities there are both single-gender (i.e., female only) bathrooms and gender-neutral bathrooms.

**Q: When a semester ends do you have to fully move out and get a new room, or do you keep your room the whole year?**

A: At the end of the fall semester, you will be able to leave your belongings in your room over the winter break and will keep the same room for the spring semester.

**Q: Can you please speak about living in residence halls all 4 years?**

A: Students enjoy living on campus and creating community. It also gives students a convenient proximity to amenities like food, classes, athletic practices, labs, and on campus resources.

**Q: Is storage space offered over the summer?**

A: The university does not provide storage options for student's belongings over the summer. However, there are local storage facilities in the surrounding community that students take advantage of.

## **Study Abroad**

**Q: Did you study German before you studied abroad in Salzburg? How important was knowing German to your abroad experience?**

A: It is not required to take in advance. Salzburg is also structured in a way that it is not necessary, given that it is our biggest study abroad program at Redlands. German is taken while you are there to give you a foundation.

**Q: If you plan on a semester or year abroad, should you take extra classes before, to offset that time away?**

A: You can meet with Study Away office and your advisor to talk through how to plan for Study Away. For most students you don't need to overload - it is worked into your four-year plan.

## **Next Steps & New Student Checklist**

**Q: After doing the academic survey, how do we receive placement exams and when? Is it through an email link? If so, how long do we have after receiving the link to take the exam?**

A: Once deposited, you will get access to the new student checklist that includes all academic surveys and questionnaires. Watch this [helpful video](#) on this process.

**Q: What part of the portal has the match questionnaire for Housing?**

A: The "matching" questions are available under your Personal Profile on your MyRedlands Housing portal.

**Q: Where can I find my New Student Checklist?**

A: You can view your checklist in your Self-Service Portal. A video on how to access your New Student Checklist can be found in your Admissions Status page, where you logged in to check your admission decision.

**Q: Once I upload my student id, can I change it?**

A: Generally, it cannot be changed regularly. If there is a valid reason, of course we will support a change.

## **Athletics**

**Q: How early do Student-Athletes move in and do they have a separate orientation in addition to the larger main one?**

A: Residence Life and Housing will work with Athletics on dates and rosters for early student athlete move-in. Early arrival dates depend on the start dates for each sport. Additionally, student athletes will attend orientation with all students, but athletics will coordinate with the orientation team if any orientation sessions conflict with athletic commitments.

**Q: Swimming does not begin until September, is that correct?**

A: Correct. You don't have to arrive early for the swim team.

**Q: Does the university help with any required NCAA registrations or set ups?**

A: Yes, our athletics department will work with students on all of this.

**Q: Are the coaches running the Instagram pages?**

A: Yes, they do run the Instagram pages of their respective sport. Often, there is enthusiastic participation by the athletes on the team regarding video making for social media.

**Q: Do first-year athletes primarily live in Merriam Hall?**

A: First-year athletes live across all our first-year residence halls. There is no one building that primarily houses athletes.

## **Academics**

**Q: My son will be in the Johnston Program, what aspect of film did you study? My son is interested in being a historical film consultant.**

A: I studied everything from the basics of media analysis and analytical skills to the creation of films, sound, editing, cinematography, history, genre study, script writing, and visual storytelling however there were other courses film-wise that were offered as well. As a Johnston student, you can choose classes that fit best with what you want to study.

**Q: Who can we contact to update the major if it says undeclared?**

A: When you complete the Academic questionnaire you will include your academic interests. You do not declare your major until you arrive on campus/as soon as spring semester.

**Q: Is there a timeline/end date to apply for the Johnston program? And is there a best way for my daughter to ask any questions about that presuming it is still open?**

A: You can still apply to Johnston. We encourage you talk with the director to learn more about the timeline and the program. You can get information by visiting the [Johnston website](#).

**Q: How many classes do I take as a first year?**

A: Students typically take 4 classes each semester.

**Q: Can a student take more than 4 classes?**

A: You can take up to 19 credits per semester.

**Q: Can you provide information on May term, mostly what is the cost and when do students sign up for it?**

A: Students get two tuition free, on campus May Terms. Housing and Meal plan are additional. Travel May Terms do not count toward this number and travel May Terms carry additional fees.

**Q: Is there anything available the summer prior to year 1?**

A: [Summer Bridge](#) is a program for incoming first-generation college students that happens during the summer before the first year starts. Summer Bridge is an invitation program.

**Q: Is there a course catalog I can reference?**

A: Visit the [university catalog](#) on the website.

## **First Year Seminar (FYS)**

**Q: If you are in the Johnston program, can you also take a First Year Seminar?**

A: Yes, Johnston students take a Johnston first year seminar.

**Q: What's a First Year Seminar?**

A: First Year Seminar (FYS) is a course that all first-year students take. The faculty member for your FYS is your academic advisor until you officially declare a major. Courses vary in terms of theme but do not require that the class be tied to your future major.

**Q: I did the FYS seminar survey but did not put them in any particular order. Was I supposed to?**

A: No, we do not ask you to rank your choices.

**Q: Can you take a FYS course in addition to the Johnston course?**

A: Johnston will be your FYS - you will not have another FYS as an option.

Q: How long is FYS?

A: It is a first semester course.

## **First Year Journeys (FYJ)**

**Q: I have heard that first year students will have the option to be on campus early for a whole week to meet and do things with other new students, is this correct?**

A. We have a program called First Year Journey's--perhaps, this is what you are thinking of. Highly Recommend! More info is on the [FYJ website](#).

**Q: If students are doing the First Year Journey, do they need to move in early?**

A: Yes, you will move in before your FYJ - either August 22nd or August 24th, depending on your FYJ track.

**Q: Can we get more information about First Year Journey's?**

A: First Year Journey (FYJ) is a great opportunity to build community and take an adventure before starting college, it can be a few days to a week depending on the program. There will be several webinars to learn more. You can also get more info as well as webinar dates via the [FYJ website](#). The earlier you register, the quicker you will receive your trip assignment! No fees are due at the time of registration. Frequently asked questions for FYJ questions can be found on the [FYJ website](#).

## **Student Financial Services**

**Q: What is the required GPA to maintain merit scholarships?**

A: Merit scholarships require a B average to maintain.

**Q: What's included in a financial aid letter?**

A: A financial aid letter includes federal, state, and institutional aid. If you have specific questions about your situation, you can email us at [admissions@redlands.edu](mailto:admissions@redlands.edu).

**Q: I was recently given a scholarship from an outside organization, who can I contact to figure out the total amount of money I have to pay?**

A: You contact [sfs@redlands.edu](mailto:sfs@redlands.edu).

**Q: What are the steps to apply for the Redlands loan that was mentioned in our financial aid letter?**

A: The Student Financial Services Office can assist you with information about the loan process. You can email them at [sfs@redlands.edu](mailto:sfs@redlands.edu).

**Q: Is the financial offer include housing and food?**

A: The on campus direct cost includes housing and food.

**Q: Is there a difference between the student merit dollars and grant?**

A: Merit Scholarships are awarded at the time of admission and based on your application to Redlands. Those monies are renewable for four years (as a FY student) or for your years at Redlands (as a TR student). Grants are need-based aid and dependent on your FAFSA data. We look to keep those grants consistent each year, and you are required to submit the FAFSA each year.

## **Admissions**

**Q: Can I submit artwork to receive more scholarship, but I was wondering where I could do that if that is still possible?**

A: Unfortunately, our talent scholarship process has concluded; we are not able to review newly submitted creative work for these awards.

## **Other**

**Q: Please share what is required to be in the Proudian honors program? What are the pros and cons?**

A: Visit the [Proudian website](#) for more information.

**Q: How does Greek life work?**

A: Greek life at the University of Redlands is similar to what you see elsewhere. What is unique about our organizations is that they are all local; none are affiliated with a national organization. We do allow first students to join organizations and we also have Greek houses for social events/meetings, and some have rooms available for members who want to live in the house.

**Q: Can a first-year student rush a sorority or fraternity?**

A: First Year students can rush during the second semester of their first year on campus.

**Q: How does work study play out? Do you choose your job or are you assigned?**

A: You apply for a job on campus and then go through a hiring process.

**Q: How safe is the city of Redlands, and the campus itself? What does UofR do to keep the students safe?**

A: It is a very safe city and campus. Our Public Safety consists of former police officers, and they patrol the campus 24/7.

**Q: Are the students who apply guaranteed a job?**

A: Students eligible for work study in their aid package should be able to find an on-campus job.



There is a wide range of opportunities available throughout campus to include departments, programs, and campus offices.