May 2021
WCU Vaccine Clinic Expands Hours

Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic.

The American College Health Association urges college students to schedule their COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible and not to delay initiation until they reach their summer destination.
The regional COVID-19 vaccine clinic will now operate with extended hours, including evenings and weekends. Your student has the option to schedule an appointment to receive the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, which requires two doses with the second dose taking place 21 days after the first dose, or the Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine, which requires one shot. To schedule an appointment visit, vaccine.wcu.edu or call 828.227.8222 to schedule an appointment.

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**Residence Hall Move-Out Procedures**

Residence hall check-outs will take place between April 30th and May 14th. Here is what you need to know:

- Students will sign up for a check-out time if checking out with an RA. **Two guests** will be allowed to assist with moving out, but only during the day they are signed up to move out.
- Students will have the option to sign-up on any RA door.
- Students have a second option of completing an express check-out if they do not wish to have an in-person check-out. **NOTE:** If utilizing an express check-out option, this will waive the student’s right to appeal charges for damages.
- We ask that students check out of the residence halls within 24 hours of their last exam.
The residence halls will close at 5 pm on **Friday, May 14th**. If a student requests an extension (graduation or another reason), they need to do so by emailing the person in charge of their building by 5 pm on May 12th. Simply emailing a request is not a guarantee. They must receive a confirmation that the request is approved.

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**Spring 2021 Commencement**

- **May 14, at 6:00 p.m.** – The Graduate School
- **May 15, at 10:00 a.m.**
  College of Education and Allied Professions and the David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts
- **May 15, at 4:00 p.m.**
  College of Arts and Sciences
- **May 16, at 10:00 a.m.**
  College of Business and College of Engineering and Technology
- **May 16, at 4:00 p.m.**
  College of Health and Human Sciences
Spring Rental Textbook Return & Summer Pickup

COVID-19 operations require additional time for processing. **ALL SPRING SEMESTER RENTAL TEXTBOOKS MUST BE RETURNED BY 5 PM FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021 TO AVOID PAYING A PENALTY.**

As a reminder, the Spring 2021 semester concludes May 14, 2021. Rental textbooks should be returned as soon as they are no longer needed for instruction or finals. The Bookstore will provide a socially distanced return method for a quick and easy return.

**Summer 2021 rental textbooks will be available for pickup when Spring 2021 books are returned.**

If your student is unable to return their textbooks in person, they may be mailed to the bookstore. Please visit the Bookstore website ([books.wcu.edu](http://books.wcu.edu)) for additional details. If your student is enrolled in summer classes and cannot pick up their Summer 2021 rental textbooks in person, they may request shipping using this link:
Health and Wellness Services Available Over the Summer

Students enrolled in summer courses or the upcoming fall semester are eligible for care.

**CAPS**
Students can engage in therapy if they are signed up for classes in the fall and *physically located in North Carolina*.

Call CAPS @ 828.227.7469 for an appointment.

**Health Services**
Face-to-face visits and telehealth visits are available by appointment. COVID testing will continue to be offered throughout the summer.

Call Health Services @ 828.227.7640 for an appointment.

Pride of the Mountains Marching Band

**New Director Announced**

Jack Eaddy, Jr. comes to WCU after serving as the assistant director of bands at McNeese State University and the University of South Carolina. Prior to that, he was a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Georgia and the University of North Texas and the director of bands at Oak Ridge High School and Westridge Middle School, both in Orlando, Florida.
New Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

The Western Carolina University Board of Trustees appointed David A. Kinner as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences as part of its special-called meeting on April 27. Kinner, who served as the interim dean, began his new position effective May 1.
Opportunities for Your Student

NEXT AVL

Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors have the opportunity to connect with a mentor to help them explore the world of work. In this 9-month program (aligns with the academic year) your student will work on their resume and interview skills, shadow professionals, grow their network and learn more about professional possibilities after graduation.

Students may attend virtual information sessions at 7 pm on May 11, 12, and 13. To learn more about the program, register for a session, or apply, go to NextAVL.org. Applications are due May 15, the program starts in the Fall.
Is your student ready to challenge themselves and connect with other new students while exploring the wild places near campus? First Ascent, Wilderness Orientation program is for them!

This year for 2021, we are excited to bring back the popular First Ascent, Wilderness Orientation! We will be offering a program that includes a base camp model, which will allow students to base out of their WCU residence halls for the week of outdoor activities and programming. Students will get a chance to experience their new backyard of Cullowhee and surrounding mountains by getting to rock climb, canoe, stand up paddleboard, raft, and more. Students will build community and get a chance to connect with like-minded students.

For more information, visit firstascent.wcu.edu or contact Jeremiah Haas at jhaas@wcu.edu.
Is your student looking for an experience that prepares them for life after graduation? University Advancement is excited to invite students to apply for the P.A.W.S. Mentor Program! This opportunity allows the talented WCU alumni base to connect with current students through guided mentorship and goal-based activities. Receive professional and personal development, build relationships, and participate in a networking event to conclude the mentorship term! Students are encouraged to submit applications for our upcoming Fall group by **July 12, 2021**! The fall session will start on August 16, 2021. Apply at [https://www.wcu.edu/engage/alumni/get-involved/paws.aspx](https://www.wcu.edu/engage/alumni/get-involved/paws.aspx). For questions contact Toni Nelson at [nelsona@wcu.edu](mailto:nelsona@wcu.edu).

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Catamount Athletics

Softball Clinches Spot in Championship
WCU softball punched its ticket to the 2021 SoCon Championship with a 5-1 win over Furman Sunday at the Catamount Softball Complex on Senior Day. Before the game, Danielle Chapman, Kailey McNeil, and Addie Pate were honored.

Kerwin Bell, New Head Football Coach
Bell comes to Cullowhee after having served as the offensive coordinator at the University of South Florida under head coach Charlie Strong in 2019. He most recently walked off the field as a head coach following the 2018 NCAA Division II national championship, leading the Valdosta State Blazers where he coached for three seasons, twice making playoff appearances.

New Men's Basketball Coach, Justin Gray
Catch Up on Your Favorite Sports Team

Baseball  
Basketball Women's  
Cross Country Women's  
Golf Men's  
Soccer  
Tennis  
Track & Field Women's

Basketball Men's  
Cross Country Men's  
Football  
Golf Women's  
Softball  
Track & Field Men's  
Volleyball
Important Dates

May 8 - 14 - Final Exams

May 14 - 16 - Commencement Ceremonies

May 10 - 15 - Residence Hall Move-out

May 21 - Rental Textbooks Due