

Great Start First Six Weeks: Student Milestones and Experiences

We encourage all members of the campus community to attend as many events as possible to interact and build connections with our students. Unless stated otherwise, events are open to all students.

Additional student experiences will be added as details are completed. Adjustments may be made to the schedule with or without notice. For corrections, additions, and more information, please contact studentaffairs@millikin.edu.

Prior to Start of Classes

- ☐ **Milestone 1:** New students complete a needs assessment survey so we can better understand their needs and promote their success. The survey is sent via email to each new student.
- ☐ **Milestone 2:** New students complete "[10 Habits of Mind for College Success](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (15-20 mins.)
- ☐ **Milestone 3:** New students complete "[The Difference Between High School and College](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (20-25 mins.)
- ☐ **Milestone 4:** New students complete "[Classroom Expectations and Behaviors](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (10-15 mins.)

Week One (Great Start New Student Welcome Week): Get Adjusted – Settle In August 17-23, 2025

- ☐ New students are required to attend the [Great Start New Student Welcome Week activities](#). For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **Milestone 5:** New students complete "[How to Work in Groups: Creating a Productive & Positive Learning Experience](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (15-25 mins.)
- ☐ **Milestone 6:** New students complete "[Learning Strategies Every Student Should Know](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (20-25 mins.)
- ☐ **Milestone 7:** New students complete "[How to Achieve Well-Being, Balance, and Success](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (20-25 mins.)
- ☐ **August 20:** Taste of Greek sponsored by Inter-Fraternity Council. All Greek cookout to welcome new students and introduce them to Greek life at Millikin. 6:00pm-9:00pm. Miller Quad. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **August 22:** Silent Disco sponsored by University Center Board (UCB). 7:00pm-9:00pm on the Miller Quad.
- ☐ **August 23:** Attend the Great Start Student Involvement and Engagement Fair. 10:00am-12:30pm in the UC. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.

- **August 23:** Guitar Placement Audition for all new and returning guitar players. PMC: Room TBD. For more information, contact Dr. Tonelli at mttonelli@millikin.edu.
- **August 23:** Attend the Belong Conversation with Chris Molina. 8:00pm-9:30pm in Kirkland Fine Arts Center. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.

Week Two (First week of the semester): Start Exploring

August 24-30, 2025

- Attend “Fun Fridays’ ComMUunity” activity planned by Student Affairs from 2:00pm-4:00pm on the Miller Quad. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- **Milestone 8:** New students complete “[Academic Integrity Do’s and Don’ts](#)” online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (15-20 mins.)
- **Milestone 9:** New students complete “[Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism](#)” online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (15-20 mins.)
- **Milestone 10:** New students complete “[Setting and Accomplishing Goals](#)” online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (15-20 mins.)
- **August 24:** Symphonic Wind Ensemble Placement Audition. Times vary per instrument. KFAC 136. For more information, contact Dr. Neal Smith at nsmith@millikin.edu.
- **August 24:** Attend the Interfaith Service. 9:00am-12:00pm in Pilling Chapel. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- **August 24:** Attend the Vendors’ Market. 10:00am-1:00pm inside and outside the UC. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- **August 24:** Choirs Placement Audition open to freshmen and first-time treble voices. 2:00pm-4:00pm. KFAC 11. For more information, contact Dr. Hawkinson at bhawkinson@millikin.edu.
- **August 24:** Percussion Placement Audition open to percussionists. Percussion House. Sign up for audition at the PMC lobby desk. For more information, contact Dr. Neal Smith at nsmith@millikin.edu.
- **August 24:** Orchestra Placement Audition open to all new and returning string players. 4:00pm-5:00pm. KFAC 136. For more information, contact Dr. Neal Smith at nsmith@millikin.edu.
- **August 24:** Attend University Fall Opening Convocation in Kirkland Fine Arts Center. 7:00 p.m.
- **August 26:** Attend University SMART Goals Presentation planned by the Student Success Center, 4:00pm-5:00pm in the UC. For more information, contact StudentSuccessCenter@Millikin.edu.
- **August 26:** Vocal Jazz Placement Audition open to all students. 6:00pm-10:00pm. PMC 110. For more information, contact Professor Manfredo at amanfredo@millikin.edu.
- **August 26:** Jazz Band and Combos Placement Audition. 6:00pm-10:00pm. KFAC 136. Sign up for audition at the PMC lobby desk. For more information, contact Dr. Neal Smith at nsmith@millikin.edu.

- ❑ **August 27:** Attend a “How to Use Handshake” Presentation by the SSC, 4:00pm-5:00pm in the UC. For more information, contact StudentSuccessCenter@Millikin.edu.
- ❑ **August 28:** Brew & Belong Coffee Hour for Transfer and Commuter Students. 2:00pm-4:00pm in UC 180 Think Tank. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ❑ **August 28:** Jazz Band and Combos Placement Audition. 6:00pm-10:00pm. KFAC 136. Sign up for audition at the PMC lobby desk. For more information, contact Dr. Neal Smith at nsmith@millikin.edu.
- ❑ **August 29:** National College Colors Day. Wear Millikin gear! Participate in some of the advertised activities. Check Instagram and email for more information.
- ❑ **August 29:** Men’s and Women’s Cross Country (Wright Classic). Visit millikin.edu/Athletics for schedules.
- ❑ **August 29:** Men’s Soccer vs. Washington University. 4:00pm. Visit millikin.edu/Athletics for schedules.
- ❑ **August 29:** Opera Placement Audition open to all students. 6:00pm-9:30pm. PMC Kaeuper Hall. For more information, contact Dr. Hawkinson at bhawkinson@millikin.edu.
- ❑ Attend a residence life community experience in your residence hall (residential students). See your Resident Assistant.

Week Three: Build Confidence and Competence

August 31-September 6, 2025

- ❑ [Get involved, stay engaged](#) by joining a registered club or organization. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ❑ **Milestone 11:** New students complete the Mid-Point Needs Assessment Survey for New Students. The survey will be sent to each student’s email.
- ❑ **Milestone 12:** New students complete “[Overcoming Procrastination: Causes and Cures](#)” online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (25-30 mins.)
- ❑ **Milestone 13:** New students complete “[Improving Student-Faculty Relationships](#)” online academic success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (20-25 mins.)
- ❑ **September 1:** Attend the annual [Labor Day Pops event](#) at the Devin in Decatur. The Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra is led by the School of Music’s Dr. Neal Smith. 7:00pm-9:00pm. **Food trucks will be available.** Limited tickets will be purchased by Student Affairs (courtesy of Student Activity Fee), but students may also [purchase](#) their own tickets. Students must arrange their own transportation. Transportation may be provided by the new low-cost [Decatur Moves micro-transit](#), an uber-like service. For more information, contact studentaffairs@millikin.edu.
- ❑ **September 2:** Attend University SMART Goals Presentation planned by the Student Success Center, 4:00pm-5:00pm in the UC. For more information, contact StudentSuccessCenter@Millikin.edu.
- ❑ **September 2:** Vision Board Night planned by the Wellness Peer Advocates. 6:00pm-8:00pm. UC 142-144.

- ☐ **September 3:** All Student Meeting for international students (required) planned by Center for International Education. 4:00pm. CIE. For more information, contact Briana Quintenz at bquintenz@millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 3:** Women's Tennis vs. Illinois College. 4:00pm. Visit millikin.edu/Athletics for schedules.
- ☐ **September 3:** First Year Students' Grill 'n Chill with the President. President's House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 4:** First Year Students' Grill 'n Chill with the President. President's House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 4:** Brew & Belong Coffee Hour for Transfer and Commuter Students. 2:00pm-4:00pm in UC 180 Think Tank. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 5:** Attend "Fun Fridays' ComMUunity" activity planned by Student Affairs from 2:00pm-4:00pm on the Miller Quad.
- ☐ **September 5:** Bingo Night. UC Banquet Rooms, Third Floor. 7:00pm-9:00pm.
- ☐ Attend a residence life community experience in your residence hall (residential students). See your Resident Assistant.
- ☐ Attend a mid-point shared university community gathering/experience that brings students, faculty, and staff together. Details will be shared closer to the activity.

Week Four: Get Connected and Engaged September 7-13, 2025

- ☐ **Milestone 14:** New students complete "[Handling Failure In and Out of the Classroom](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (10-15 mins.)
- ☐ **Milestone 15:** New students complete "[Financial Literacy: Smart Money Skills for College and Beyond](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (20-25 mins.)
- ☐ **Milestone 16:** New students complete "[How to Develop Your Cross Cultural Skills](#)" online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (10-15 mins.)
- ☐ **September 8:** First Year Students' Grill 'n Chill with the President. President's House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 9:** Attend University SMART Goals Presentation planned by the Student Success Center, 4:00pm-5:00pm in the UC. For more information, contact StudentSuccessCenter@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 9:** First Year Students' Grill 'n Chill with the President. President's House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 10:** Sunset Yoga & Hammocks planned by the Wellness Peer Advocates. 7:00pm-9:00pm. Miller Quad.

- ☐ **September 10:** Dress to Impress activity planned by Student Success Center, 11:00am-2:00pm, UC. For more information, contact StudentSuccessCenter@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 11:** Brew & Belong Coffee Hour for Transfer and Commuter Students. 2:00pm-4:00pm in UC 180 Think Tank. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 11:** Getting to Know the Center for International Education, Part I. Time: TBD. CIE. For more information, contact Briana Quintenz at bquintenz@millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 12:** Shopping and Dinner Trip to Champaign, IL sponsored by International Student Organization. Time: TBD. For more information, contact Briana Quintenz at bquintenz@millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 16:** Meet Your International Friendship Family. 4:30pm-6:00pm. CIE. For more information, contact Briana Quintenz at bquintenz@millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 12:** Attend “Fun Fridays’ ComMUunity” activity planned by Student Affairs from 2:00pm-4:00pm on the Miller Quad. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ Attend a residence life community experience in your residence hall (residential students). See your Resident Assistant.

Week Five: Get Ready to Soar

September 14-20, 2025

Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15 - October 15

- ☐ **Milestone 17:** New students complete “[Exam Preparation Tips and Strategies](#)” online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (15-20 mins.)
- ☐ **Milestone 18:** New students complete “[How Your Personality May Impact Your Academic Success](#)” online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (15-20 mins.)
- ☐ **September 15:** First Year Students’ Grill 'n Chill with the President. President’s House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 16:** Attend University SMART Goals Presentation planned by the Student Success Center, 4:00pm-5:00pm in the UC. For more information, contact StudentSuccessCenter@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 16:** First Year Students’ Grill 'n Chill with the President. President’s House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 17:** Sleep Well Station planned by the Wellness Peer Advocates. 11:30am-1:00pm. UC Tables.
- ☐ **September 18:** Study Abroad Fair sponsored by Center for International Education. 10:00am-2:00pm. UC – OCLP area. All students are welcome and invited to attend, especially first-generation, EDGE, and Pell Grant recipient students. For more information, contact Briana Quintenz at bquintenz@millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 19:** Study Abroad Fair sponsored by Center for International Education. 10:00am-2:00pm. UC – OCLP area. All students are welcome and invited to attend, especially first-generation, EDGE, and Pell Grant recipient students. For more information, contact Briana Quintenz at bquintenz@millikin.edu.

- ☐ **September 18:** Brew & Belong Coffee Hour for Transfer and Commuter Students. 2:00pm-4:00pm in UC 180 Think Tank. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 19:** Attend “Fun Fridays’ ComMUity” activity planned by Student Affairs from 2:00pm-4:00 pm on the Miller Quad. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 20:** First home football game with smores, drinks, and food on the quad sponsored by the Inter-Fraternity Council. 4:30pm-6:00pm. CTD Patio.
- ☐ **September 20:** KFAC’s first show of the season: [Cirque du Canines](#). **Free** for students. Secure tickets at Kirkland ticket office. 2:00pm-4:00pm. Supported, in part, by Student Activity Fee.
- ☐ **September 20:** Men’s Football vs. North Park University. 6:00pm. Visit millikin.edu/Athletics for schedules.
- ☐ Attend a residence life community experience in your residence hall (residential students). See your Resident Assistant.
- ☐ Date to be determined. Hispanic Heritage Month Community and Belonging Lunch sponsored by Student Affairs.

Week Six: Blue Up and Go for It – You Got This!

September 21-27, 2025

- ☐ Hispanic Heritage Month T.W. Samuels Lecture, Samantha Ramirez-Herrera. Details coming soon.
- ☐ **Milestone 19:** New students complete “[Navigating the Financial Aid Process](#)” online success tutorial using Millikin log-in and password. (20-25mins.)
- ☐ **Milestone 20:** New students complete the Survey of New Students’ Perceptions of Learning, Experiences, and Engagement. The survey will be sent to new students’ email.
- ☐ **September 22:** First Year Students’ Grill ‘n Chill with the President. President’s House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 23:** Attend University SMART Goals Presentation by the Student Success Center, 4:00pm-5:00pm in the UC. For more information, contact StudentSuccessCenter@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 23:** First Year Students’ Grill ‘n Chill with the President. President’s House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 24:** First Year Students’ Grill ‘n Chill with the President. President’s House. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Transportation provided.
- ☐ **September 24:** Attend a Career Fair Preparation Workshop planned by the Student Success Center, 4:00pm-5:00pm in the UC. For more information, contact StudentSuccessCenter@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 25:** Brew & Belong Coffee Hour for Transfer and Commuter Students. 2:00pm-4:00pm in UC 180 Think Tank. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 25:** Big Blue Bash planned by the Wellness Peer Advocates. 6:00pm-8:00pm. UC Banquet Room.

- ☐ **September 26:** Wellness Peer Advocates and University Center Board collaborative activity. 12:00pm-4:00pm. UC 106.
- ☐ **September 26:** Attend “Fun Fridays’ Com**MU**unity” activity planned by Student Affairs from 2:00pm-4:00pm on the Miller Quad. For more information, contact CampusLife@Millikin.edu.
- ☐ **September 27:** Women’s Volleyball vs. Franklin College. 3:00pm. Visit millikin.edu/Athletics for schedules.
- ☐ Attend a residence life community experience in your residence hall (residential students). See your Resident Assistant.