



New Spider Orientation Programs

Thrive, International Orientation, Endeavor, ATA and New Spider Orientation

Fall 2024 Orientation Advisor Position Description

The Orientation Advisor position is a critical student leadership position that represents the University of Richmond to its incoming first-year and transfer students and their families. The University strives to assemble a dynamic team of students who are passionate about the University, can serve as a role model to their peers, and who have a genuine desire to work towards building an inclusive community.

Orientation Advisors (OA's) serve both a Transition Program (International Orientation, Thrive, Endeavor, or ATA) as well as New Spider Orientation.

Important Note: Students may not serve as both an OA and a member of Spiderboard exec due to scheduling conflicts throughout training and orientation processes.

Transition Program Descriptions

International Orientation

International Orientation assists new international students in making the transition to the University of Richmond and the United States through information sessions, social events, off-campus excursions, and shopping trips. Both 4-year undergraduates and 1-2 semester exchange students participate in the program. Students learn about maintaining their visa status in the U.S., using the University's health insurance plan, and adjusting to academic and social life. Students will also learn about events, programs, and resources to support their identities, health and well-being, academic progress, and integration into campus and community life.

NOTE: Students selected as International Orientation Advisors (IOAs) will lead their small group of 10-12 students in icebreakers, community building activities, and trips to local shopping and sightseeing areas. Although IE staff will provide activity suggestions and trip itineraries during training, IOAs are expected to plan and implement these activities independently. IOAs are also expected to provide individual advising to their orientees about practical needs, such as recommendations for banking and mobile phone services or assistance with delayed/lost luggage, and individual support or referrals to resources for adjustment issues such as homesickness or culture shock. Qualified candidates must have the ability to take initiative, facilitate group activities with minimal supervision, and be comfortable with long periods of both structured and un-structured time during the program. Qualified candidates also need to be flexible and willing to respond to unpredictable situations regarding international student needs.

Thrive

Thrive Orientation is the transition program track of the Thrive Multicultural Experience for incoming multicultural First-Year students to help them build a community and familiarize themselves with the University of Richmond through a multicultural lens before New Spider

Orientation (NSO). This track connects those students to resources and opportunities that they can use to support their wellness, growth, and experience at UR. Participants will also be introduced to faculty and staff that specifically support the multicultural student experience, so they are aware of the network of support available to them around campus.

Endeavor

During Endeavor, students interact with faculty, staff, administrators, and our orientation advisors (OA's) who will offer advice and help on a variety of topics through both the pre- semester experience and the academic year. Endeavor allows for students to make bonds and form friendships with a smaller group of new students, before the rest of the first-year class moves in later that week.

Appalachian Trail Adventure

The Appalachian Trail Adventure (ATA) provides students the opportunity to form relationships throughout their exploration of Shenandoah National Park. Students in ATA will participate in outdoor experiences including hiking, camping, and wilderness exploration activities.

NOTE: Applicants selected to serve as an ATA OA will need to be registered University Drivers, Wilderness First Aid certified (completed prior to the beginning of the transition program), and be comfortable with/willing to help lead hikes, assist with cooking and preparing meals for participating first-year students, and leading/facilitating activities and initiatives that further the mission of the pre-orientation program.

General Expectations and Responsibilities:

- Fully participate in all training, orientation sessions, and dates of service listed below
- Serve as a mentor and role model to incoming students
- Work as a team with other OAs, Orientation Leaders (OLs) and professional staff
- Participate and assist with the organization, preparation and implementation of a Transition Program (Endeavor, International Orientation, or Thrive) and New Spider Orientation
- Facilitate, with another OA, small group discussions and activities
- Provide customer service to families and guests by answering questions, providing direction, etc.
- Abide by and reinforce the Student Code of Conduct, University policies and state law
- Demonstrate reliability, responsibility, helpfulness and flexibility
- Work and communicate effectively with a diverse group of people
- Respect the humanity of others and practice a willingness to learn about other people's lived experiences
- Exhibit a desire to learn about and represent the University of Richmond

Qualifications:

- Be a full-time student during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic year (or have approval of the Dean of Richmond or Westhampton College to be part-time).
- Have and maintain good academic standing
- Have abided by the Student Code of Conduct and abide by University policies and state laws
- Have and maintain good conduct with no outstanding conduct sanctions
- Have a 2.5 cumulative GPA

Remuneration:

- Satisfy a WELL 200 requirement towards your degree requirements (for new OAs)
- \$12 an hour + 50 cent raise for each year of service
- Receive housing (in your 2024-25 on-campus housing assignment) throughout the duration of August training and orientation at no cost
- Receive all meals throughout the duration of August training and orientation at no cost
- Receive University gear including t-shirts, water bottles, and other items
- Gain invaluable leadership opportunities and professional development experience that looks great on a resume to potential employers
- Network with University staff and fellow student leaders, as well as gain knowledge of campus resources and services

Time Commitment:

- Successfully complete the WELL 200 Orientation Advisor class (weekly, the six weeks after spring break 2024) (for new OAs)
- Return to campus for orientation advisor training, as your primary responsibility, on Sunday, August 11 by 4 p.m.
- Fully participate, as your primary responsibility, in your assigned Transition Program and New Spider Orientation programs (Sunday, August 18– Saturday, August 24, 2024)

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the University's response, the position description and remuneration are subject to change based on mode of delivery, changes to the academic calendar, or availability of resources. Changes will be communicated as soon as they are available.