



## **New Spider Orientation Programs**

*Endeavor, International Orientation, Outdoor Adventure Richmond (OAR), Thrive and New Spider Orientation*

### **Fall 2025 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 (Endeavor, International Orientation, Outdoor Adventure Richmond, or Thrive) as well as New Spider Orientation.

*Important Note: Students may not serve as both an OA and a member of Spiderboard exec OR Resident Assistant (RA) due to scheduling conflicts throughout training and orientation processes.*

### **Transition Program Descriptions**

#### ***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.

#### ***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.*

## ***Outdoor Adventure Richmond***

Through Outdoor Adventure and Richmond (OAR) Program, students will have the opportunity to learn about our River City's culture through exploring a wide range of outdoor recreational activities. Students will hone their observation skills while hiking the trails of the James River Park System, enhance their perseverance while white water rafting on our Class III & VI rapids, gain teambuilding skills as they traverse the Challenge Course, grow their communication skills while orienteering, and develop problem-solving skills as they navigate the first few days on campus: all the while meeting and making new friends.

*NOTE: Applicants selected to serve as an OAR OA will need to be registered University Drivers, and must be comfortable leading/facilitating activities and initiatives that further the mission of the pre-orientation program.*

## ***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.

### **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, Outdoor Adventure Richmond, 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 2024-25 and 2025-26 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

**Renumeration:**

- Satisfy a WELL 101 requirement towards your degree requirements (for new OAs)
- \$12 an hour + 50 cent raise for each year of service
- Receive housing (in your 2025-26 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
- 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
- *Note: Renumeration is subject to students' performance on the team and is not guaranteed to hired students who are unable to participate in the role's programming (including, but not limited to, illness and family emergencies). For questions regarding renumeration, please contact Sage Ober, Director of Living-Learning and New Student Programs, at [sober@richmond.edu](mailto:sober@richmond.edu), or Jason Honesto, Assistant Director of New Student Programs, at [jason.honesto@richmond.edu](mailto:jason.honesto@richmond.edu)*

**Time Commitment:**

- Successfully complete the WELL 101 Orientation Advisor class (weekly, the six weeks after spring break 2025) (for new OAs)
- Return to campus for orientation advisor training, as your primary responsibility, on Sunday, August 10
- Fully participate, as your primary responsibility, in your assigned Transition Program and New Spider Orientation programs (Sunday, August 17– Saturday, August 23, 2025)

*Please note that this position description and communicated remuneration are subject to change based on mode of delivery, changes to the academic calendar, and/or availability of resources. Changes will be communicated as soon as they are available.*