SUMMER BRIDGE INFO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Welcome to Rider University and the Rider Achievement Program! We are proud to have you on board as we prepare you for success in life and in education. For all students and parents, please read the following articles very carefully as the information will help prepare you to start your college education. Among the articles that follow, please pay close attention to Orientation Information and the Housing Guide. Also, the Summer Bridge Calendars will help you understand what you can expect during the 9-day Summer Bridge Program. Remember to use the attached checklist to track all your needs throughout the summer. See you in August!

SUMMER BRIDGE PROGRAM

If RAP is the ship you sail to success at Rider University, the Summer Bridge Program is your ticket to ride. The nine-day bridge equips you with the resources, strategies, and social connections you will need throughout your college experience. This is mandatory for all residential and commuter students and it runs from Thursday, August 27 through Friday, September 4. In the past, students have raved about (Continued on Page 2)
The calendar above provides a snapshot of the length and time frame of Summer Bridge. Pay attention closely to the dates of the nine-day period as we ask that all students remain on campus throughout the nine days. For more specific details of what will be happening day to day, please see the Summer Bridge Calendar attached in this envelope.

**Summer Bridge Calendar—What to Expect**

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the experience as a way to make them feel at home at Rider. One freshman student said she felt like a sophomore by the middle of her first semester, thanks to Summer Bridge.

The calendar above provides a snapshot of the length and time frame of Summer

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**RAP Class of 2018 on the last day of Summer Bridge**
But First...Freshman Orientation

The two-day Freshman Orientation in July is a vital introduction to your Rider experience and it is the last time you have the chance to interact face-to-face with Alex Sanders, the RAP Coordinator, before move-in for Summer Bridge.

During the first evening, you get to sit down and have dinner with Alex and some of the other RAP students. Also, Alex will present information related to your freshman year and answer any questions you may have.

Have you taken the time to confirm your orientation dates in July? Check your orientation letter and register at www.rider.edu/orientation. If you have questions, please call 609-896-5373.

Housing Guide Housing selection begins in June!

Note that students who plan to commute during the school year are still required to live on campus during the Summer Bridge program.

If you are a commuter, you will be assigned directly by RAP staff to a residence hall for the Summer Bridge program, and you do not need to register online for university housing. If you are a campus resident, you should have already received information about online housing selection. Residents, you are strongly encouraged to sign up for a residence hall soon for best availability and selection. RAP emphasizes registering for housing in Conover or Poyda as they are freshman-focused residences. Here are some of the benefits of registering for Conover or Poyda:

You only have to move in once! (In contrast, if you choose Switlik or Lincoln Halls for the fall, you may have to move your belongings again after the Summer Bridge program as there are currently students residing in those rooms for the summer semester.)

Your residence hall staff will provide programs and activities targeted specifically to the needs and interests of freshmen.

You will have a built-in support system with freshmen going through the same transitions, social experiences, and academic challenges as you. You may find it easiest to connect with new friends, create study groups, share rides, or find people to dine or attend social events with when living among your fellow freshmen.

(You may also register for housing in Kroner, Gee, Wright, and Olsen without having to move twice, but please know these residences are not specific to freshman programs and activities)

If you have questions about housing, please contact the Residence Life office at 609-896-5102 or 609-809-5057. For RAP-related questions, I can be reached at asanders@rider.edu or 609-896-5000 ext. 5238
The Student Success Center offers Rider University students free programs and services designed intentionally to maximize student involvement in their own learning and development. Our staff of administrators and trained professional and peer tutors, graduate assistants, peer assistants, and student success coaches work collaboratively with students as they discover options for creating academic and personal success. The Student Success Center will be the hub for all the tutoring supports RAP students use to gain an edge in college-level coursework. Among these supports include weekly Supplemental Instruction, a session at the Writing Lab at least once per month, and optional individual and group tutoring. Your RAP Freshman Seminar Leaders will also meet with you for success coaching at the Student Success Center, located in the Bart Luedeke Center (BLC) 237. Please take a moment to become familiar with our administrative staff!

Kendall Andersen Friedman
Director

Jenny L. Scudder
Assistant Director

Alex Sanders
RAP Coordinator
Questions? Call or e-mail!
(609) 896-5238
asanders@rider.edu

Cheryl Walter
Admin. Specialist
Summer Bridge Events

RAP hosts many events and activities during Summer Bridge to help students get to know each other and Rider better. Here are just a few!

- Bowling and Laser Tag
- Game Night in the Res Hall Common Room
- Awareness Fair—Learn about Clubs on Campus
- RAP Unplugged—Hot Chocolate and Relaxation
- Move-in Day
I am currently a rising junior at Rider and RAP helped me to be who I am today. RAP showed me ways to manage time, stay organized, create realistic goals and also achieve them. RAP’s mandatory SI and Writing Lab helped me get through the freshman year without much pressure. I still continue to use these resources since it has made me successful.

I have made really good friends with both my RAP peers and staff. The RAP Coordinator and advisors provided me a lot of input that helped me choose my major. No matter where I am I will always have a connection to the Rider Achievement Program. I also like to help incoming freshmen the same way I got the much needed help and assistance. I encourage all new RAP students to use all the facilities and resources that RAP provides.

- Varun Athreya, Class of 2017

Hi up-and-coming RAP Students,

I am meeting and working with you! My name is Ashley Leeds, and I am not only a peer assistant, who is a fellow student who will help you navigate your way around Rider, but I am also a RAP scholar. The Rider Achievement Program is beneficial, note taking, and reading comprehension that will aid you in the real world. You will also meet many wonderful people who will serve as potential friends for life.

My experience in RAP has been nothing but wonderful so far! I have met with success coaches and advisors to discuss my interests with various people in an effort to declare my major. I have recently decided on elementary education and psychology. By utilizing RAP’s supportive tools, you too will be able to successfully make your mark at Rider. Additionally, I am still close friends with many of the people that I met on the first day of Summer Bridge. RAP has given me academic and social advantages that other students only wish to have. My advice to you is to cherish moving in early and getting a lay of the land. Furthermore, put yourself out there and try to meet new people because you never know what will come out of it! I hope that you all enjoy your summers. Best of luck! I wish you all nothing but success.

- Ashley Leeds, Class of 2018
☐ Select Housing

(Refer to http://www.rider.edu/student-life/housing-and-dining/how-apply)

☐ Confirm Freshman Orientation date

(Refer to orientation letter)

☐ Read Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson!

(you will receive your copy at Freshman Orientation)

☐ Talk to your Roommate

☐ Pay Tuition Bill

(you will receive your bill in mid-July– Payments due in early August)

☐ Shop for residence hall essentials

(See checklist at www.rider.edu/student-life/housing-and-dining/make-your-room-home)

☐ Start Packing for Summer Bridge!

☐ Bring your Freshman Shared Read—Just Mercy

by Bryan Stevenson— to Summer Bridge!