



First Things First

Supporting you before day one.

If you missed past mailings, check out the archive here!

July 21, 2026

Welcome to **First Things First**, your (mostly) biweekly newsletter that guides you smoothly through summer, and gets you prepared for life at Bates.

Today's Updates:

- **Reminder: round two of course preference ranking is open until this Friday 7/24 at 4:00pm ET on [Garnet Gateway](#):** It's **not** first-come, first-served.
 - In this round you'll rank six to twelve non-First-Year Seminar classes.
 - You'll be registered for two more classes as a result of round two, and will find out the results on Monday 8/17 at noon ET.
 - **Reminder: Connect with your Summer Registration Consultant** to get advice on how to rank course preferences. You should also plan to review the registration resources provided in the [June release of Bates 101](#).
- **Join us for another Being at Bates Panel.** These panels feature key Bates community members including current students – and sometimes alums! – people who have experienced the day-to-day trials and triumphs of, well, being at Bates. We're offering them to help you further envision what your day-to-day experience will be like.
 - We have a panel coming up **specifically for incoming student-athletes** on Monday 8/3 at 7:00pm ET.
 - [View the session description and register to attend today.](#)
- **The [full Orientation schedule](#) is now live on the FYE website** - note the tabs for General Orientation and In-Season Fall Athlete Orientation. There may be a few

additions over the coming days, but this should give you a good idea of what's in store once you arrive on campus.

- Heads-up: Orientation involves navigating various campus spaces on a variety of terrain, including pavement, hard flooring, carpeted flooring, and uneven grassy terrain. Audiovisual presentations, including microphone-amplified voice, projected slides, and interactive polls are provided in most Orientation sessions.
 - First-Year Experience strives to build a culture of belonging where all members of the community feel valued, and our programs are safe, inclusive, and fun. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact the Office of Accessible Education at accessibility@bates.edu, or 207-786-6222 no later than five days prior to arriving on campus.
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- With only **five weeks** to go until your Bates adventure begins, you may be wondering:
 - What should I bring for my dorm room?
 - What shouldn't I bring?
 - What furniture will my room come with?
 - You can find those answers and more [on this page](#) - we encourage you to peruse it as you await your room and roommate assignment (coming the first week of August!).

That's it for now! If **anything** comes up at any time, don't hesitate to reach out to us by replying to this email, emailing fye@bates.edu, or calling us at 207.755.5900. We're so excited to welcome you to campus in the fall, and want to hear from you.

With Bobcat spirit,

[The First-Year Experience Team at Bates](#)



Upcoming Dates

- **Fri 7/24:** Round two of fall course registration closes @ 4:00pm ET
- **Mon 8/3:** Deadline to complete lessons 1 - 3 of *Perspectives*
- **Tue 8/4:** August release of Bates 101

[Check out all upcoming dates here.](#)

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