



First Things First

Supporting you before day one.

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

July 7, 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:

- Your [Bates 101 July Resources](#) are now available on Garnet Gateway. The focal point of this release is the Constructive Dialogue Institute's **Perspectives program**. At Bates, you're going to be joining a community of students from a broad range of backgrounds and with diverse worldviews. To help set you up for success in this environment, Perspectives will equip you with the skills to navigate conversations across differences.
 - **All incoming students are required to take Perspectives.** It's an important part of being a member of our community, is aligned with First-Year Experience values, and directly supports Bates' commitment to positively impacting the wider world through the transformative power of our differences.
 - We recommend that you complete the 25-minute lessons on the following timeline:
 - **By August 3**, complete the introduction and lessons 1 - 3
 - **By August 19**, complete lessons 4 - 6
 - If you meet these dates - completing lessons 1-3 by 8/3 and/or completing lessons 4-6 by 8/19 - **you will be entered into a drawing to win a Nintendo Switch 2, Sony wireless noise cancelling headphones, Bates beverage holders, or \$25 College Store gift cards!**
 - In a few minutes, you will receive an email titled: "**You have been invited to the Perspectives Program**" from <no-reply@constructivedialogue.org>. After accepting your invitation, you can leave and return to the lessons at anytime - [go here to log back in.](#)

- **Round two of course preference ranking opens Wednesday 7/15 at 9:00am ET on Garnet Gateway:** It's **not** first-come, first-served, so you have until Friday 7/24 at 4:00pm ET to complete it.
 - In this round you'll rank six to twelve non-First-Year Seminar classes.
 - Results from round one will be released this Friday 7/10 at noon ET.
 - 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](#).

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 7/10:** Round one of fall course registration results is released at noon ET.
- **Wed 7/15:** Round two of fall course registration opens at 9:00am ET.
- **Fri 7/24:** Round two of fall course registration closes at 4:00pm ET.

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

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