SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th

9:00am - 2:00pm  CHECK IN & RESIDENCE HALL MOVE IN
Check-in and pick-up your key, and student ID before heading to your residence hall.
Orientation Advisors (OA’s) and Resident Advisors (RA’s) will be on hand to show you to your room.

Memorial Field House

9:00am - 11:00am  MINERVA BREAKFAST
Stop by our Minerva Breakfast to learn more about the Minerva Program, to meet Minerva leaders, and enjoy breakfast.

Tent on West Beach

10:00am - 1:00pm  RESOURCE FAIR
Stop by the Nott Memorial for a mini resources fair. Representatives from Wicker Wellness, HR, Schaffer Library, the Bursar’s Office and more will be here. If you plan on working on campus, stop by the resource fair to complete employee paperwork with HR including I-9. Original documents must be presented to complete the I-9 form. Copies are not accepted. Please see the list of acceptable documents here.

Nott Memorial

11:30am - 2:00pm  CLASS OF 2026 WELCOME LUNCH
Come and enjoy lunch with the other members of your class!

Tent on Library Plaza

1:00pm - 4:15pm  PARENT AND FAMILY MEET & GREET
Parents and families should have received all the information they need to help support their students during our August Virtual Parent and Family Orientation sessions. Please join us and meet a few members of our College Leadership Team in person. Dean of First Year Students, Kate Schurick; Assistant Vice President for Campus and Community Living and Learning, Ryan Keytack; Assistant Vice President for Campus Engagement, Matt Milless will be available at this session. They will help to make sure all of your last-minute questions are answered.

Reamer Auditorium

1:00pm  FIELD HOCKEY VS MONTCLAIR STATE
Frank Bailey Field

2:00pm  WOMEN’S SOCCER VS UTICA
College Park Field

3:45pm  ORIENTATION KICKOFF & TIME FOR GOODBYES
Join us as members of the Union Administration officially welcome you to the Union Community and your Union College experience.

Frank Bailey Field

Hear from:
David Harris, President
Kate Schurick, Dean of First-Year Students
Aileen Schatz, Director of the First-Year Experience

4:15pm  UNION’S PARENTS AND FAMILY PROGRAM
Parents and Families – join the staff from College Relations, immediately following President Harris’s welcome for the Class of 2026. Meet with the Parent Engagement team and enjoy light refreshments.

Alumni Gym Stairs

4:15pm  ORIENTATION ADVISOR MEETINGS
Throughout Orientation you will get together with the members of your Orientation Group and meet your Orientation Advisor (OA). This will be your family for the next few days! Our OAs will facilitate conversations and connections among group members and serve as a mentor and friend during your transition to Union.

OA groups will be emailed to you and posted on your residence hall room door
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3th cont.

5:15pm - DINNER WITH YOUR OA GROUP
Join your OA and group for Dinner. Throughout our Orientation Program you’ll have the opportunity to join your OAs and group to check-in during meal times and sample what our dining services has to offer.

Your OA will direct you to one of 4 locations to get dinner.
4 locations include Upper, Dutch, Hale House, Old Chapel

6:30pm - WHAT TO EXPECT AT ORIENTATION & MINERVA REVEAL
Join your OA and group to hear a little more about what to expect over the next few days. You’ll hear from our First-Year Committee Members and we’ll reveal what Minerva you and your orientation group are a part of!

Memorial Chapel

7:00pm - WELCOME FROM CAMPUS SAFETY
Hear from members of the Campus Safety staff about their role on campus, the services they provide, how they work to enforce rules, regulations and policies on campus, and share personal safety tips and practices with you to keep the Union Community safe.

Memorial Chapel

7:10pm - LEARN THE ALMA MATER
We will teach you the alma mater. This is a long-standing tradition at Union. Be sure to practice before coming to campus!

Memorial Chapel

7:30pm - CLASS PICTURE
Get ready to say, “Cheese” and be proud to be a member of the Class of 2026 as we take the official class picture for the Class of 2026!

Nott Memorial

8:00pm - FLOOR MEETING WITH YOUR RA (for residential students)
Your Residence Hall

9:00pm - ORIENTATION BINGO
Join the Class of 2026 at one of Union’s most popular events. Come early to get a seat, enjoy some snacks and hopefully win some prizes. You could win anything from laundry soap, to extra money on your declining, to Union gear and more.

College Park Hall Ballroom

9:45pm - LATE NIGHT RES HALL PROGRAMMING
Fox, West & Richmond

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th

8:30am - CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
West College (West Dining)

9:30am - THE SCOOP ON UNION THEATRE AND DANCE PRODUCTIONS (optional)
If you are eager to find out about how to be involved in productions at Union--or perhaps just curious about the department, come share some space with faculty who specialize in acting, dance and design tech, who will answer questions and let you know about protocol to be involved in our productions, work study and classes this year. If you can’t make it, please address any questions to Andrew Mannion, Interim Artistic Director at manniona@union.edu

Yulman Theatre's Studio A

10:00am - POSSE SCHOLARS MEET & GREET
This short gathering will allow the incoming Posse Scholars an opportunity to get to know some of the upperclass Posse Scholars. Vital to the sense of belonging, this session helps set the table to build relationships on campus.

Unity Lounge
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th cont.

10:00am  WALKING TOUR OF SCHENECTADY (optional & weather permitting)
10:30am  Join some of our OAs as they head to the Schenectady Greenmarket, the farmers market that takes place on Sunday mornings. Our OAs will also point out some of their favorite restaurants and shops on the walk down.  
Meet at the tent on West Beach

11:00am- SCHOLARS WELCOME (for students in the Scholars Program)
12:00am  This session is for students enrolled in the Scholars Program. This session is an opportunity for you to meet other students in the program and learn what to expect.  
Visual Arts 204

11:00am- BRUNCH
1:00pm  West College (West Dining)

1:00pm & 2:00pm  ACADEMICS & WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN MEETING YOUR ADVISOR (rotation)  
Learn what to expect and what is expected of you when it comes to academics at Union and what to expect when meeting your academic advisor (who you’ll meet on Tuesday).  
Michelle Osborn, Interim Dean of Studies  
Memorial Chapel

UNIQUELY UNION (rotation)  
Hear from different students that make up the Union Community, about their experiences while at Union both in and out of the classroom.  
Olin & Reamer

3:00pm  IT’S UP TO U: PART 1  
Memorial Chapel

3:30pm & 4:30pm  IT’S UP TO U: PART 2 (rotation)  
In order to create and maintain a safe community here at Union College, it takes every member of the community to do their part. This session will show incoming Union students how they can help themselves and their fellow students when unwanted behavior starts to happen in their rooms, residence halls, classrooms, or anywhere else on and around campus. Students will be able to strategize how they would intervene when they observe something inappropriate happening in their community.  
Memorial Chapel

MINERVA SWAG PICK UP (rotation)  
Meet with your OA group & pick up supplies for MinervOlympics and your Minerva house swag!  
At your Minerva Houses

5:30pm  TASTE WALK  
Join your OA group as you enjoy some delicious samples from local restaurants just a short walk from campus!  
Begin at Tent on West

7:30pm  MEN’S SOCCER VS RUSSELL SAGE  
College Park Field

8:30pm  ZACH PINCINCE HYPNOTIST SHOW  
Zach Pincince is one of the youngest stage hypnotists in the nation. He brings a youthful energy and innovation to his unique show that is unlike any other hypnotist you’ve ever seen.  
Memorial Chapel

9:30pm  LATE NIGHT RES HALL PROGRAMMING  
Fox, West & Richmond
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th

8:30am - 9:30am  CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
West College (West Dining)

9:30 am  SUSTAINABILITY AT UNION  
Join us to hear why Union has been listed in the Princeton Review's Top 50 Green Colleges! Learn about Union's history in sustainability as well as what we are doing now to reduce our Campus' overall carbon footprint. In addition, see how you can learn about sustainability at Union and get involved to help make Union a greener campus and a leader in the region and nationwide!  
Memorial Chapel

10:30 am  ORIENTATION ADVISOR MEETING - MINERVOLYMPICS PREP  
Get with your group to design your house flag, this is your first opportunity to earn points for your house as part of MinervOlympics!

11:00am-11:45am  AOP & POSSE MEET & GREET (for AOP and POSSE students)  
A first and brief introduction between AOP 2026, UP 17, and our support office staff. Come ready for some icebreakers!  
Karp 105

11:00am-1:00pm  BRUNCH  
West College (West Dining)

1:00pm  CAMPUS WIDE SEEK & FIND/ CAMPUS TOUR  
Join your OA and group for a little competition. You'll compete in different challenges throughout campus while getting to know some key locations. What group will finish first?

3:30pm  BREAK

4:00pm  ORIENTATION ADVISOR MEETING  
It's time to regroup with your OA before the evening's competition.  
OA Meeting Location

4:15pm  MINERVOLYMPICS OPENING CEREMONY  
Join your orientation group to mark the official start of the MinervOlympic games! Get a chance to show off your team and house spirit and learn about the Minerva Program. Remember, you don't have to join your Minerva, you already belong!  
Rugby Field

5:00pm  DINNER  
West Beach/West College (West Dining)

6:00pm-9:00pm  MINERVOLYMPICS!  
Let the games begin! As an orientation group, you'll compete both as a team and as part of your Minerva House to acquire points in a variety of different challenges and activities. Which house will be our champion, will Breazzano be able to defend their title?!

9:00pm  MINERVOLYMPICS CLOSING CEREMONY  
Come together for the presentation of awards and to celebrate the official end of the competition with music, food and fun!  
Rugby Field

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th

8:30am - 9:30am  CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
West College (West Dining)

9:00am - 12:00pm  INDIVIDUAL ADVISING APPOINTMENTS  
Bring your schedule and any questions you want answered. This is your first opportunity to meet your advisor.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th cont.

9:30am  LIBRARY RESOURCES AT UNION
Have you ever been out and about only to discover that your device needs a charge? If this happens while you’re studying in the library, did you know that you can check out Mac, PC, iPhone, Android, and/or tablet power adaptors? There are lots of resources and services available to you at Schaffer Library. Come learn about some of the other items you can get in the library and - if you act now - find out how you can get some of your textbooks from other libraries around the country/world.

Olin Auditorium

INTRO TO BECKER CAREER CENTER
Join the Becker Career Center team as they provide an overview of services, resources and advantages of the career center. The Career Center will discuss the many services, programs, events, resources, and specific information on their signature program, Uready.

Memorial Chapel

HOW TO SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY AT UNION
Join the Office at Student Success for a discussion on best practices to succeed academically during your first year and beyond. Topics will include services provided by the Office of Student Success as well as tips in regards to time management, asking for help, and academic support on campus.

Reamer Auditorium

12:00pm - 1:30pm
MAJORS FAIR LUNCH -
During lunch you can learn more about our academic offerings. Talk with professors about major and minor requirements, learn about the many academic departments at Union, and find out about some of the interesting courses offered this coming year.

Tent on Library Plaza

1:30pm - 3:30pm
DROP/ADD FOR NEW STUDENTS
If you need to make changes to your class schedule, you’ll be able to make those adjustments during this time.

Nott Memorial

1:30pm - 3:30pm
INDIVIDUAL TOURS OF CAMPUS
Connect with your OA to sign up for an individual tour to walk through your class schedule and be ready to start the week.

Nott Memorial

3:30pm
MINERVA PROCESSION FOR CONVOCATION
Join your OA and Minerva Student Leaders for the procession into Convocation.

Meet on Rugby Field

4:00pm
OPENING CONVOCATION

Library Plaza

5:00pm
MINERVA FEAST
Immediately following convocation, join members of your house to share a meal, meet your house’s leadership and officially welcome first-year members to the house community. Seating will be by Minerva, so look out for your house’s color tablecloth for where to sit.

Tent on Library Plaza

6:45pm
ORIENTATION HIGHLIGHTS/U JOURNEY KICKOFF
Head to Messa Rink to see a few highlights from the past few days of Orientation and get ready to officially kick off your own U Journey!

Messa Rink

7:15pm - 9:00pm
FIRST-YEAR FEST
Join the Class of 2026 for our First-Year Fest, enjoy snacks, and have some fun with your classmates before classes officially begin.

West Beach

*Please note that the schedule is subject to change
Any changes/updates will be posted on Union.edu/firstyear