



2017  
*Owlmanac*



Welcome  
to  
*Rice!*



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### Why Owlmanac?

Almanac is defined as “a handbook, typically published annually, containing information of general interest.” We thought this was exactly what this book accomplishes, and it adds in a fun owl pun!

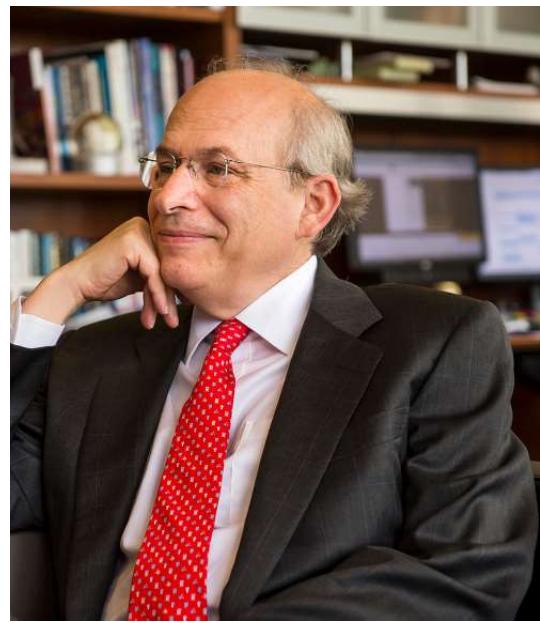
Enjoy reading!

# A WELCOME FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Dear Class of 2021,

Welcome to Rice University and to O-Week! We are grateful that you have chosen Rice for your undergraduate education. We hope that your years here will be a time of intellectual growth and exploration, and that you will find excitement and satisfaction both in your classes and in learning experiences beyond the classroom. We hope you will form friendships that will be important to you not only during your years here, but over the entire course of your life.

This week of orientation, which we call simply “O-Week”, has proven over the years to be one of the most important and memorable experiences for our students. It is valuable of course because you will have an opportunity to get oriented — to find your way around the campus and some of the city, to learn about Rice culture and rules, and most importantly, to learn about the many people who are here to help you with whatever problems and challenges you face. Equally important, it is during this week that you develop some of the relationships that begin to make you a part of the community, both the community of your residential college and the community of the larger university.



One of Rice’s greatest strengths is our inclusive culture, one in which people quickly feel a part of a supportive community. Being a member of that community carries many benefits, but also carries responsibilities. Many of these are embodied in our very simple values statement: Responsibility, Integrity, Community and Excellence. We hope you will reflect carefully on what each of these entails.

One responsibility that all of us share is to constantly strive to contribute to and improve our university. We hope you will never stop imagining how to make Rice better. Just as Rice will surely have a lasting impact on you, we expect you to have a positive impact on Rice, and especially the experiences of your fellow students.

I look forward to getting to know you over the next four years, and hope that you will take a moment to say hello and tell me about yourself whenever we have a chance to meet.

Welcome, again, to the beginning of what we expect will be a rewarding and fulfilling adventure.

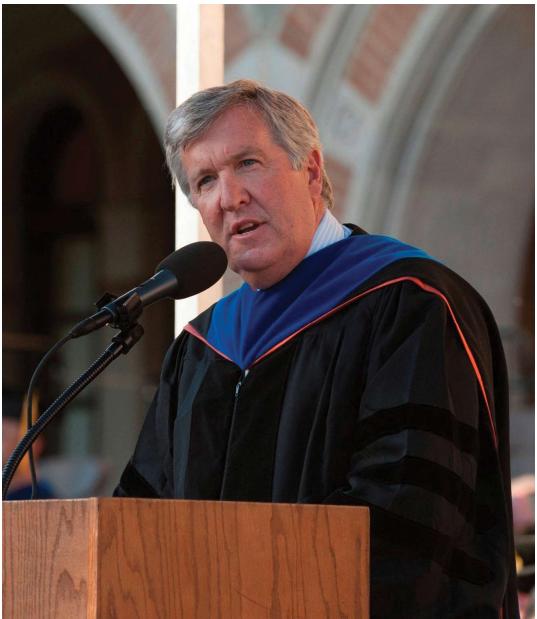
Warmly,

*David W. Leebron*

David W. Leebron  
President



# A WELCOME FROM THE DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATES



On behalf of the faculty and staff, welcome to Rice! This book will provide a wealth of information about the university and, in particular, your orientation to the university. You will have many choices to make, both now and in the future, so becoming well informed about the options, opportunities, resources, and requirements is important to making those choices wisely and successfully.

The good news is that Rice has created a wonderful Orientation Week program to introduce you to these resources and requirements. Your college masters, your college's faculty associates, your O-Week Coordinators and Advisors, your Diversity Facilitators and your Peer Academic Advisors have been preparing for this week since early in 2016, and you will be hearing from all of them throughout the summer. In addition to this book, there are many resources available online, including videos describing academic advising and co-curricular programs, and I encourage you to take full advantage of all of this information.

All of this information will appear at first to be overwhelming, so I have two pieces of advice. First, know that we are here to help you, answering questions and guiding your thinking. Second, take your time and go slowly. Rice offers so many academic and co-curricular opportunities that it may be tempting to try to take them all. We are here to help you make choices so that you can have a meaningful and life-changing experience, selecting just those opportunities which you will find to be the most rewarding.

Looking forward to O-Week 2017!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hutchinson".

John Hutchinson  
Dean of Undergraduates



# A WELCOME FROM THE O-WEEK STUDENT DIRECTORS

On behalf of all the O-Week staff, welcome to Rice! We couldn't be more excited to have you as a part of the 2017 matriculating class. We know the college application process can be time-consuming and challenging, and we congratulate you on choosing an amazing school! We truly hope that you take advantage of all the opportunities Rice has to offer and continue to develop into the amazing person you'll become as a result of your time at Rice.

We're the O-Week Student Directors, Patrick Garr and Abril Brugo. We've been working closely with the O-Week Coordinators since January to make O-Week 2017 the best O-Week yet. Orientation Week (O-Week) is an extremely cherished tradition at Rice, welcoming you to your new home at Rice and your residential college.

One of the best aspects of O-Week is the crazy big support network you'll get right as you step on campus. From the moment you arrive, your Advisors will be there to greet you, make you feel at home, and prepare you for your first year at Rice. They'll be around to answer any questions you have, from questions about what time dinner is served (very, very important), to questions about the social atmosphere at Rice. The awesome thing about Advisors is that they don't stop being Advisors after O-Week – they're here to support you throughout your first year and beyond. Don't hesitate to go to them for advice.

All that being said, we bet you're really curious about what Rice and your residential college are like. This book provides a wealth of information on Rice, from academic information to information about various campus resources. In this mailing, you'll also find a book that contains specifics about your residential college — make sure you take a look at both of these books.

See you in a few weeks!

Patrick Garr & Abril Brugo  
O-Week 2017 Student Directors



# WHAT IS O-WEEK?

From the moment you step foot on Rice's lovely campus, you will be entering one of the most fun, helpful and exciting weeks Rice has to offer: Orientation Week (O-Week). This is an entire week dedicated to getting to know your peers, holistic and intensive academic planning sessions, opportunities to explore Houston and its surroundings, and much more. O-Week is one of Rice's most beloved traditions, and each year, every college chooses a theme in order to unify the incoming class and advising teams into one greater entity. Each O-Week is packed full of events designed to ease your transition, and no matter what activity you're doing you'll feel more and more a part of the Rice community.

One of the most important parts of O-Week is academic advising. You'll be meeting with student and faculty advisors who specialize in your areas of interest in order to establish what classes you will be taking for your first semester and lay out a tentative academic plan for your time at Rice. You will also have a chance to talk with and sign up for many different student organizations that you might be interested in participating in. In addition, you'll get to meet the various resources of both your residential college and around campus.

The other half of O-Week is devoted to getting you fully accustomed to both Rice's and your residential college's specific college culture and social life. Most importantly though, O-Week is your first chance to meet other new students and get to know some of the upperclassmen at Rice. You'll be doing and learning things every day, all of which contribute to your understanding of your life at Rice.

By the time class starts on August 21st, you'll be fully confident about your academic endeavors and fully integrated as a proud member of Rice University. O-Week is a truly unique Rice phenomenon, and we pride ourselves on having an orientation unlike any other. It's an experience that sticks with Rice students for years, and many people look back on the time spent during O-Week as one of the best parts of their Rice experience, a time when lifelong friendships are born and a sense of community is fostered. O-Week is the common bond that all Rice students share, and it sets a great foundation for your years to come at this wonderful institution. O-Week is coming, and it's going to be great!



# WHO WILL YOU MEET DURING O-WEEK?

O-Week Coordinators are at the heart of your college's O-Week. Your O-Week Coordinators have worked tirelessly since January to prepare for your arrival. One of the awesome things about Rice is the great deal of faith the administration puts in students to run things. In turn, the O-Week Coordinators work diligently to make sure your transition to Rice is as smooth as possible, from academics, to social life, to the people that you'll meet. Your O-Week Coordinators selected your Advisors, Co-Advisors, and Affiliates, placed you with your roommate, put you in an O-Week group, and planned tons of amazing events for you throughout O-Week. Your Advisors will be the people excitedly greeting you outside your college's parking lot, but your O-Week Coordinators will get to meet you after move-in. Make sure you stop by and introduce yourself, they're really passionate about O-Week – and you!

## O-WEEK COORDINATORS

### O-WEEK ADVISORS

Advisors are a diverse group of students from your residential college who are so friendly and enthusiastic about welcoming you to Rice that they don't mind returning here almost two full weeks before classes start to help you move in and start your time at Rice! These fantastic people have been hand-selected to act as your guides throughout O-Week; they'll make sure you get to all activities and meetings, answer any questions you might have (or direct you to someone who can answer them), expose you to Rice's academics and student life, introduce you to your residential college's culture, and just serve as all-around resources. Your advisors have been anticipating your arrival for months, so forgive them if they are slightly (insanely) excited when they first see you!

One thing that all Advisors have in common is their desire to help you have the best experience possible at Rice, so they'll continue to be resources for you long after O-Week is over and may very well become some of your greatest friends.

Co-Advisors are students who are equally friendly and enthusiastic about welcoming you to Rice, but they hail from other residential colleges. Co-Advisors love your residential college so much that they choose to join its O-Week as an ambassador of their home college. They can help show you Rice beyond your residential college and bring a little bit of their own college's culture with them. About a third of each advising team is made up of Co-Advisors who are eager to connect you to the larger campus community and give you a glimpse of their own college's customs. These advisors will give you a chance to explore a college outside of your own, so take advantage of them and branch out to other colleges.

## O-WEEK CO-ADVISORS

### O-WEEK AFFILIATES

Affiliates are O-Week personnel who serve specific roles designed to help you with your transition to Rice. Most O-Week groups will have one affiliate who is paired with your advisors, while other affiliates will not be paired to a group at all. While they are paired with groups, they are an important resource for all new students at the college. The affiliate assigned to your group may not always be present for every group activity, as they will be floating around to meet other students and providing them with specialized knowledge and advice. Be sure to meet all the affiliates present, as they are incredibly important campus-wide resources during O-Week and beyond. Most residential colleges have these affiliates: Peer Academic Advisors, Diversity Facilitators, Photographer, Videographer, Gopher, Rice Health Advisor, Student Maintenance Representative, Chief Justice, and President.



## COLLEGE MAGISTERS & RAS

At Rice University, each residential college has its own set of Magisters and Resident Associates. The Magisters represent the adult leadership within the college, but they are truthfully much more than that. While they take a hands-off approach to making sure that everything within the college is running smoothly, they are also around if you ever need to talk to an adult about anything. They host study breaks, live at the residential college, and interact with the students on a daily basis. Magisters are present to help make the students' lives easier at Rice, and help with any issues that may arise, academic or personal. In short, they are around to help make your residential college a home away from home. Magisters generally serve terms for five years, but extenuating circumstances have allowed some Magisters to stay for more or less amounts of time.

Resident Associates have similar roles as the college Magisters, in that they help the students residing in the college, live at the college, and are part of the adult leadership within the college. They also serve as a resource for the students within a residential college, helping to foster the college community and monitoring and supporting the academic and personal wellbeing of the students in their college. They are not directly responsible for coordinating the college as the Magisters are, but they do assist the Magisters in supporting the intellectual, cultural and social activities within the colleges. There are generally two sets of Resident Associates in each college, and they serve similar terms as the Magisters do.

While the above explains what the Magisters and Resident Associates are on paper, there is much that cannot be conveyed through just text. They really do put a lot of work into making the residential colleges seem like homes. They care about the welfare of the students and will celebrate with you during your proud moments and present a shoulder to lean on in your tough moments. They are here for you and will be throughout your time at Rice. So get to know them when you get here, because they will want to get to know you.

College Coordinators are an essential part of each residential college. They handle all the day-to-day administrative duties around the college, from dealing with the college's mail to working with college associates. In your Coordinator's office, you can make copies, buy stamps, send a fax, use basic office supplies, pick up your mail, or just sit and chat! Get to know your college Coordinator during O-Week and you'll have an awesome resource who knows the ins and outs of the administrative side of Rice.

## COLLEGE COORDINATORS

## COLLEGE ASSOCIATES

College Associates are faculty, staff, and community members who are a vital part of the residential college and are committed to engaging, mentoring, and serving as a resource for students as well as each other. Associates get involved in the college in a wide variety of ways, ranging from casual meals, sporting events, and social gatherings, to lectures, career panels, and theatrical performances – to name a few, all with the goal of enriching intellectual, cultural, and social life. There is no prescription for how associates contribute to the college because each associate brings a unique set of experiences and perspectives. During O-Week, you will be introduced to associates on at least two occasions, a lunch in the college and a dinner off campus, but these meetings are just an introduction to the program. During your first year, you'll have many more opportunities to meet associates, seek mentoring, share interests, and ask questions. Associates are around on a regular basis, so if you see any of our wonderful associates in the commons, or somewhere around campus, be sure to stop, introduce yourself, and take advantage of the opportunity. You never know when your connections with these professionals, both in and out of Rice, will help you in the days to come.

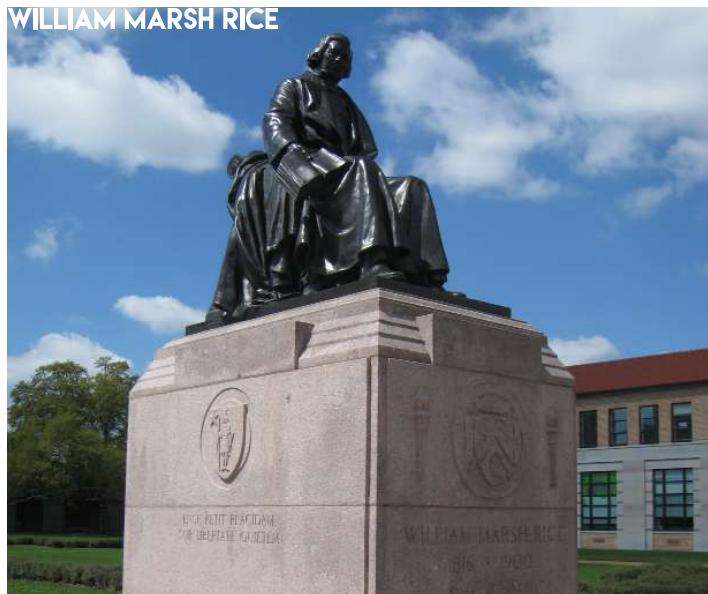


# THE HISTORY OF RICE

## THE BEGINNINGS

"Murdered Man's Estate Founds Great University." This iconic headline filled Houston papers in 1912 as Rice University opened its doors to its first matriculating class. William Marsh Rice, a wealthy businessman hailing from Massachusetts, had chartered the William Marsh Rice Institute for the Advancement of Literature, Science, and Art in Houston, Texas where he made his fortune only 23 years prior. The charter declared that the institution would be built only after Rice had passed away. His untimely death came in 1900 as his valet, Charlie Jones, conspired with a local lawyer, Albert Patrick, to kill Rice. While Jones prepped the poison, Patrick worked to forge a new will that handed all of the money to him. Rice's friend, attorney, and trustee for the new Institute, Captain James A. Baker, ordered an autopsy on Rice's body to find traces of poison, indicating Charlie Jones in the murder.

WILLIAM MARSH RICE



The trial continued for four years as evidence of forged checks, betrayal, and murder surfaced. The conclusion: a verdict in favor of the original will and the founding of the university. And so the search for The Rice Institute's first president began. The board of trustees named mathematician and astronomer Edgar Odell Lovett president in 1907, upon the recommendation of then president of Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson. For the next five years, Lovett traveled to 78 international higher learning establishments across three continents to solicit ideas for The Rice Institute's mission and establish renowned faculty members. And so on that 23rd of September, 1912, exactly twelve years after William Marsh Rice's death, the doors to The Rice Institute were opened to a matriculating class of 48 men, 29 women, and 10 faculty members.

EDGAR ODELL LOVETT



## THE ROAD TO YOUR MATRICULATION

The Honor System, which Rice holds so dear, was established by a vote of the student body in 1916, the same year Rice held its first commencement ceremony. Two years following, Rice awarded its first Ph.D. William Marsh Rice was finally immortalized in 1930 when his memorial statue was dedicated in the Academic Quadrangle. Rice wins the Southwest Conference championship in 1949 before winning the Cotton Bowl in 1950, inspiring the university to begin construction on the current Rice stadium. The stadium was completed and opened in September 30, 1950. Seven years later (1957) the residential college system was instated when East, South, West, and North halls were converted into the men's colleges of Baker, Will Rice, Hanszen, and Wiess. Jones was built in that same year on the other side of the campus as a women's-only dorm. In 1960 the name of the University was changed to William

Marsh Rice University and in 1962 United States President John F. Kennedy told the world the United States intends "to become the world's leading space-fairing nation" standing in Rice Stadium. In 1965 Brown College opened as the second all-women's college. Rice's charter changed in 1966 to allow Rice to charge tuition and admit non-Caucasian students. In 1968, Lovett College opened followed closely by Sid Richardson College in 1971. In 1996, Richard Smalley and Robert Curl, professors at Rice, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery and application of carbon-60 molecules (otherwise known as buckyballs). Martel College was founded in 2002 with the final two colleges, Duncan and McMurtry, founded in 2009. August 2016, the next great matriculating class starts at Rice University to continue the outstanding traditions of exceptionalism and honor.

# THE COLLEGE SYSTEM

One of Rice's most unique characteristics is its residential college system. Instead of having regular dorm buildings like most universities, Rice has eleven different residential colleges housing students of all years and interests. Inspired by the college systems at the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford, the residential college system is a great asset to the Rice community. It was established in the 1950s as a way to facilitate constant learning and interaction between students and can be a central part of student's identity while at Rice. Think of it as a "house" from J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series like Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff, or Ravenclaw. Each student will be randomly assigned to a residential college before they begin their Rice experience. Each college

is more than just a living space for students — they are communities where leadership and traditions have a special place. Student leadership is very important at Rice and this is reflected at every residential college. Each college is autonomous with its own student government, budget, constitution, culture, history, and much more. The most important elements of each college are the students who belong to it, as they have the potential to determine its future direction and build upon the foundation laid down before them. During your time at Rice you will learn that each college has its own personality and elements that make it unique. Whatever college you happened to be placed in will soon become your home!



Baker College is the first residential college on campus in founding order, alphabetical order, and classiness. Rice University would not exist if their namesake, Captain James Addison Baker, had not solved William Marsh Rice's murder mystery to ensure his savings went towards the Rice Institute. Known for their refined palate (Baker Kitchen always has fresh pastries at breakfast), rich traditions (Baker 13, BakerShake), and all around great people, Baker is definitely an amazing place to make friends. In your time at Rice you will inevitably dine in their exquisite commons, the closest building Rice has to Hogwarts' Grand Hall, which is bustling at all hours of the day. Easily recognizable in bold red attire, don't be afraid to approach us and strike up a conversation. As the college "from hell," Baker prides itself in not taking competitions too seriously and always having a darn good time. If you are going to take away anything from this short history of Baker let it be this: Baker Comes First, always.



Located on South Campus, Will Rice College is the "College of Gods and Goddesses." As the second college founded at Rice University, Will Rice is full of tradition and a long history of success. Shining with myth, power, and value, Will Ricers bleed rust and gold. Aside from an incredible amount of intelligence, they have one thing on their minds — winning. They like to think of winning as their religion and Beer Bike as their Christmas, and lets just say, they are very faithful. As the only college to have ever swept Beer Bike (not only once, but FIVE times), they take pride in the hard work they put into being, as Will Ricer's say, the best college on campus. With a reputation of domination, it seems that everyone likes to hate on them — it's okay, haters gonna hate. However, don't be intimidated by their competitiveness and tradition of excellence. At their core, they are a friendly college with awesome people. So, go hang out in their quad and lay in their hammock, they love the company!



Established third amongst the four founding colleges, Hanszen College is named after the Rice Board of Governors member, Harry Clay Hanszen, and is lovingly known to its members and students around campus as "The Family College." They say "third is the one with the treasure chest," but what Hanszenites really treasure is the family they have throughout their time at Rice. Hanszenites take pride in their strong sense of community and are recognized for being extremely welcoming to others. Hanszen community is based on the idea of "Hanszen Heart," which is embodied through actions and traits like looking out for each other, cheering people up when they are down, congratulating individuals on their successes, and never being short on compliments. Hanszen's mascot is The Guardian, a metal statue forged in days long passed that stands triumphantly in the Hanszen quad bearing sword and shield. Hanszen has a great history, as it was the first college to create and use a crest, and both Coffeehouse and KTRU—Rice's radio station—were founded within its walls. However, just as the double-headed eagle in Hanszen's crest looks in both directions, Hanszen not only values history and tradition, but also looks forward to novelty and the future. Hanszenites love to meet and welcome new people, so come by and join the family!





**EST. 1957**

It may be a long walk to Wiess, but those who are brave enough to make the trip never want to leave. Wiess was founded as the 4th of the original four residential colleges (saving the best for last) and named after Harry Carothers Wiess, a respected and beautiful oil tycoon. Wiessmen (the term is gender-neutral) are nothing if not distinctive - our goldenrod (NOT yellow) shirts are like sun rays that you can see all across campus, our public party has its own Wikipedia page, and our one cheer will echo in your head for weeks after you first hear it. We are a college of wonderful traditions, from our original theatrical production of Hello Hamlet, to the expression of love that is the Ubangee (be sure to ask any Wiessman you meet what it is!). Whenever you have the chance to make it to the paradise that is Wiess College, you're sure to be welcomed with open arms and friendly faces as long as you remember "i before e except after c."



JONES COLLEGE

**EST. 1957**

If ever you find yourself on the north side of campus, pay a visit to Jones, the most spirited and victorious residential college. Jonesians consider themselves winners through and through. In fact, they have never lost any competition they have ever entered and you can always count on hearing them cheer the phrase "Jones Wins Again!" One of the best times to see Jones Fast Women and Hard Men in their natural habitat is on Beer Bike. It's a one-day event they train all year for! Their hard work pays off though; last year, the Jones Fast Women and Hard Men both won Beer Bike, bringing glory ringing through the halls of Jones. While Jones may be an incredibly competitive and tight-knit community, never fear! Jonesians are some of the most welcoming and fun people on campus. Definitely pay Jones a visit to get a taste of their unique floor culture and awesome traditions. JIBA!



BROWN COLLEGE

**EST. 1965**

Brown. They're the friendliest place on campus. They always end up being everyone's second favorite college, because they all get along and are really open to having other people around. Brown prides itself on its strong and long lasting traditions, and Brownies are possibly the most spirited and active people on campus. If you ever doubt this you can look at the sheer amount of water balloon they make for Beer Bike. Brown prides itself on its traditions. From their valiant efforts during Brown Defense to the toga-themed Bacchanalia, the Brown community is extremely tight-knit and caring. Brown is the furthest college north, but this does put them the closest to the Metro stop, Huff House, and the Student Health Services. They're fine with that though because that means they get to see and talk to more people on the way to classes. So during your years here at Rice, remember that Brown is always ready to welcome you with open arms!



LOVETT COLLEGE

**EST. 1968**

Named after Rice's first president, Edgar Odell Lovett College is truly a wonderful place. Perhaps most famous for their toaster-shaped building, Lovett is defined not by their (lack of) aesthetic appeal but by their strong sense of tradition and community. The seventh college in the order of founding, Lovett was built in 1968 during a high point in campus activism and student protests. In response to this, their building was constructed to be internally riot-proof; their elevator does not reach the top floor so as to avoid large objects being thrown off.

Their rooms may be minimalistic, but that simply allows them to work in the commons together more often. Together in the commons, Lovetteers push each other through late nights, order more than enough late night food, and compete in Smash, pool, and ping pong games, creating a tight-knit, supportive community that welcomes anyone who wants to join them. They throw two public parties every year (Getcheroxoff in the fall semester, Casino Party in the spring). Lovett has a very supportive crew of fans that attend their games, especially when they play Will Rice, which has led them to win the President's Cup for the past four years. Stop on by any time and say hi to one of the friendliest, inclusive, and attractive colleges on campus!



**Sid Richardson  
College**

**EST. 1971**

When people ask Sidizens how the weather is up there, we tell them. Why? Because Sid's 14 stories in the air and it's awesome. How awesome? "Dedicated by a president" awesome. That's right, Lyndon B. Johnson gave the dedication speech for Sid. Where's that music you hear blasting all around campus on Fridays around 3 PM coming from? Radio Free Sid. What's with all the people painted black running around campus? Sid Orc Raid. Who hosts the best party featuring a live band and the greatest era for rock and roll (the '80s)? Still Sid. But Sid has a soft spot too, hosting such events as the Night of Innocence, the biggest Disney-movie-pajama-party of the year. And they have strawberries in the servery. All. The. Time. So head on over to the Tower of Power and say hello, they'd love to have you.



**MARTEL  
COLLEGE**

**EST. 2002**

Though many like to contest that Martel is not a college, Martel doesn't have to work very hard at all to convince them that it's indeed one of the best colleges around. Martelians are known for their laid-back and welcoming nature, which makes for a dedicated community of people who love each other like family. Martel is the only Greek college at Rice and the only college with its own sallyport and a full-size second-floor sundeck for chilling and grilling. Founded in 2002, Martel is the 9th college of founding order with the nicest rooms on campus. You would think that being a newer college would hinder the amount of tradition and history, but Martelians relish the traditions that have been building these past few years and welcome the opportunity to create new traditions. Be sure to befriend some awesome Martelians to get invited to unique events we have like Greek Week, Holiday Party, and Oktoberfest! They throw the very first and last public parties of the academic year: Don't Mess With Texas and Beach Party, and you can be sure there's always something going on at Martel. Feel free to stop by and hang out because Martel is always open!



**MCMURTRY  
COLLEGE**

**EST. 2009**

What's purple, silver, and awesome all over? The 10th residential college, McMurtry! While only six years old, McMurtry College has been bursting with creativity and has joyously established many traditions like McSkate for wintertime bonding, McFloat for summer fun, and Friday in the Quad (known as FIT-Q) for weekly Friday relaxation. McMurtry is a tightly knit community that knows how to hit the books, but also knows how to have tons of fun. When the conch shell is sounded and a loud "MUUUURT" is heard, you'll know they're nearby! On closer inspection, you might spot a kilt or two since McMurtry loves to show off its Scottish heritage and may even play bagpipes for fancier occasions. On Beer Bike morning you're bound to see McMurtry students in banana costumes because McMurtry Beer Bike is so amazing it's *bananas*. Throughout the year, you'll likely see them having a blast in their beautiful, Yurt-shaped commons, relaxing in the quad or on our lion-crested patio, or hanging out on the 5th floor deck. You might find "Murts" and their traditions quite foreign, but don't worry, McMurtry embodies Rice's diversity and friendliness. They'll probably invite you to some Scottish dancing or maybe even challenge you to a game of ping pong or pool, so get ready to experience McMurtry!



**DUNCAN  
COLLEGE**

**EST. 2009**

There is a mystical land on the north side of campus, sheltered on all four sides by a U-shaped building and a glass commons. Along one side sits a shallow pool, its waters cool, inviting, and refreshing to a DuncCity Spirit, especially on your birthday. In the middle, four trees stand straight and tall, witnesses to many s'mores, water slides, and quad soccer games. If you journey to this place called Duncan College, also known to many as the home of the Sun God, you will find its inhabitants relaxed, happy and friendly, living up to their proud motto "Somo Equipo, Somos Familia". Duncan is known for several attributes; it's the newest, greenest college with grass on the roof and a universal passion for pizza rolls. Represented by the noble kangaroo (seen by their kangaroo suit named Roo), Duncaroos have established a myriad of strange traditions for themselves which range from Donnybrook – a college wide Nerf war capture-the-flag game – to Friday in the Quad #FITQ - a community event held in the gorgeous quad with food, juice, and sometimes even a water slide! On the competitive spectrum, Duncan is...fluid. While their past is commemorated by the phrase, "Duncan College Where the Points Don't Matter," Duncaroos assure you the points are indeed starting to matter. Either way, I strongly encourage you to swing by the 11th residential college known as DuncCity at some point next year and get to know some Duncaroos!



A Rice  
Welcome

15

A group of diverse graduates in black caps and gowns with yellow stoles are smiling outdoors. The background shows green trees and foliage.

# Academics at Rice

# THE RICE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Rice students have diverse interests and experiences but everyone is here to learn. While it's great if you know exactly what you want to study, it's totally fine if you don't. Most students come in undecided or change their major at least once during their time here. All Rice students must take courses in Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences, and Engineering, and your first year is a great time to begin exploring all of those areas.

When you begin thinking about your academic goals, think about what you would like to get out of your time at Rice as a whole, not just what you want to major in. Have you always wanted to learn a foreign language or a new instrument or how to fence? Have you ever thought about

traveling or exploring new professional interests? Rice is a great place to try new things and to explore a variety of interests. Fortunately, Rice has an entire system in place to help students formulate a personalized and holistic academic plan.

You can begin thinking about your academic goals and interests in preparation for O-Week. However, there is no need to worry about planning your schedule or registering for classes until you arrive in August. The entire Community of Advising will be on hand during O-Week and throughout your first year to guide you through the entire process, and to support you through every step of the way.

## THE COMMUNITY OF ADVISING

The **Collaborative Offices** are campus-wide offices that work with the Office of Academic Advising to provide academic resources and support for students. You will meet them during various sessions throughout O-Week and will engage with them throughout your Rice career. Visit [oaa.rice.edu](http://oaa.rice.edu) for a full list of collaborative offices.

The **Office of Academic Advising (OAA)** has a professional advising staff that provides academic guidance on topics such as planning, major selection, graduate school, and transfer credit. You will interact with the OAA through all of the academic events and sessions during O-Week and by appointment throughout the year.

**College Magisters** are tenured faculty living in each of the Residential Colleges. They are a great resource to discuss both academic and personal matters.

**O-Week Coordinators and Advisors** will be available throughout O-Week and your first year to help you acclimate to Rice both socially and academically.

There are four **Divisional Advisors** assigned to each college representing the academic schools of Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Engineering. They will be on hand to help you plan your schedule during O-Week and they make themselves available throughout the year to provide academic advice.

**Peer Academic Advisors (PAAs)** are upper-classmen from each of the colleges who are specially trained to provide academic advice. There will be four on hand at your college during O-Week and over twenty at each college during the year.



**Major, Minor, and Transfer Credit Advisors** are the best resource for department specific information. During O-Week you will have the opportunity to speak with advisors from all the departments at the Academic Fair. After O-Week you are encouraged to reach out to them with questions regarding their specific departments.

**Associates** are faculty, staff, and community members affiliated with each of the Residential Colleges. Your O-Week group will have dinner with an associate during O-Week and they will continue to be a presence around your college eating meals in the servery and hosting events, outings, and study breaks throughout the year.



Academic planning is about more than the courses you take. It's a holistic process that takes your courses, interests, and goals into account. If you are eager to begin thinking about your Rice academic experience you can check out the 'Introduction to Academics at Rice' PowerPoint which you will receive before O-Week and you can use our "10 Pieces of Advice for a Holistic Academic Experience" to begin reflecting on what your academic experience at Rice could look like.

### 10 PIECES OF ADVICE FOR A HOLISTIC ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 1 College is a big adjustment academically and socially so it's important to give yourself time and space to acclimate. When planning your first semester, 14 to 16 credit hours is a standard course load and a good place to start.
- 2 Ask for help. A Rice education should be challenging but nobody is expected to be successful entirely on their own. Don't be afraid to reach out to your peers, professors, adult team, or any of Rice's resources for support. It's not taboo.
- 3 Get to know your professors. They are great people who are eager to help you and see you succeed. Office hours are a great place to start!
- 4 Step outside your comfort zone. Study new and interesting things; go abroad; take-up a new hobby. College is a time for growth. Try new things!
- 5 You don't need multiple majors or minors. It's completely okay to take lots of courses in a particular department without declaring a major or minor.
- 6 Study Abroad! An entire semester abroad is not for everyone but there are plenty of opportunities to travel for a week or over the summer. Take advantage! It can expand your perspective on both Rice and the world.
- 7 Don't pick a major simply to accommodate professional interests. Study what's most interesting to you.
- 8 Make a four-year plan but remember that it is not set in stone. This will permit maximum flexibility and a more complete understanding of all of the paths your undergraduate experience can take. Overwhelmed by thinking so far ahead? The full academic advising network is available to help you not only during O-Week but throughout your time at Rice.
- 9 Busy isn't always better. Empty time is not a vacuum. You don't need to schedule every second with studying, classes, and extracurricular activities. Many of the most meaningful relationships and best learning moments come from just hanging out with friends or spending hours sitting at dinner.
- 10 Your academic experience at Rice is all about YOU. Use it to explore YOUR interests and as a jumping off point to achieve YOUR goals.

### ACADEMIC RESOURCES

If you ask any upperclassman they will tell you that you can't get through Rice alone and that's totally alright. Most new students find that their courses are more challenging than those they took in high school. Fortunately, Rice has lots of resources to support you in all facets of your academic life through your first year and beyond.

- 1 Your **professors** are here to help you! They are always willing to provide academic advice and assistance. Many students find that their relationships with professors are among the most meaningful they establish at Rice. Still nervous about reaching out? Talk to your advisors and PAs or drop by office hours.
- 2 The **Office of Academic Advising** disseminates academic information to all. You can seek their advice for course registration, making your academic plan, identifying co-curricular opportunities, and helping with specialized advising, like pre-health, pre-law, and other graduate school options.
- 3 **Fellows & Mentors** are students at each of the residential colleges who provide academic assistance and hold events to enrich the intellectual life of the college. They host review sessions, office hours, and individual tutoring sessions, so use them!
- 4 **Student Success Initiatives** helps students develop the skills they need to be successful at Rice and beyond. If you need help developing skills and strategies for time management, studying, problem solving, and/or goal setting, they are a great resource.
- 5 **Center for Written, Oral, and Visual Communication** is located in Fondren Library and helps students hone their writing, interview, and presentation skills.

- 6 The **Wellbeing Office** provides support for students struggling with stress and anxiety.
- 7 The **Center for Career Development** doesn't only help students find jobs and internships but it also helps them discover their interests and develop their career goals! It's never too early to begin talking to them about your strengths and interests.

## CHOOSING CLASSES AND COURSE REGISTRATION

Choosing your first semester of courses at Rice can seem scary, but don't worry! O-Week provides you with a variety of resources to help you figure out a schedule that works for you. However, if you want to start thinking about it now, here's some handy information.

### NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS

Rice students typically take between 14 and 16 credit hours and new students are advised to take approximately 15 credit hours during their first semester. To be a full time student at Rice, you need to take between 12 and 18 credit hours per semester. Most courses are worth 3 credit hours, though labs and language courses may vary. And though most courses are worth the same number of hours, they vary in difficulty. One 15-hour schedule is not necessarily equal to another 15-hour schedule, so make sure to talk to your PAAs and advisors about the workload

you can expect from each of the courses. Although you may want to take a variety of new and exciting courses, be wary of making your first semester too challenging. Rice students usually discover that college courses are more time-consuming and challenging than their high school classes. It's a good idea to give yourself time to adjust to the workload, especially as you are adjusting to your new surroundings here at Rice and at your residential college.

### CHOOSING YOUR CLASSES

Unlike high school, you have much more freedom in choosing the classes you want to take. Some majors, especially in the engineering field, have basic courses that you need to take early on in order to be prepared for later years. These are good to take care of early, so you don't get stuck in the future. Don't pile too many major courses on yourself, though; it's always a good idea to take one course outside your area of study that you may find interesting. Undecided? There's plenty of time to shop around, so check out what looks interesting! Use Degree Works. This tool is available via ESTHER and will help

you monitor your progress while at Rice and understand which courses are needed to fulfill your major requirements. You can also use the What-If option to view the required courses for a major you are interested in before declaring. Excited about looking at courses already? Go to [courses.rice.edu](http://courses.rice.edu): you can filter courses by semester, department, and distribution. But don't worry about coming into Rice with a pre-determined schedule; there will be plenty of time to figure this out and get helpful advice during O-Week.

### PREREQUISITES & AP/IB CREDIT

Upper-level courses sometimes have prerequisites, which are courses you have to take before you're allowed into them. However, if you have some AP/IB credit you may be able to receive credit for the prerequisites and register for the upper-level course you want (but realize that it's okay to drop back down if you find the upper-level course too challenging). Your intended major and future plans may help decide whether or not it would be better to

use your credits. For example, some medical schools do not accept AP credit for certain courses, so make sure to look into that if you're interested in medical school. AP/IB credit may also count towards your major, distribution, or general requirements toward graduation. Students should refer to the general announcements for more information on their specific program.



## REGISTRATION

As a new student, you will register for your classes during O-Week. A great resource to start putting your schedule together is the Schedule Planner, which can be found at [scheduleplanner.rice.edu](http://scheduleplanner.rice.edu). Another resource for students is Degree Works. You can use the What-If option to view the required courses for a major you are interested in. You can then see which courses you will need to take for that major and plan your registration. After you get your classes figured out, you will input them online in Esther. Soon after, you will find out which courses you got into. Since there are limited spots in each class, you may not

get all of the courses you sign up for. Don't worry! This happens to everyone, and you will be okay. There is an Add/Drop period when you can add more courses to your semester (or drop some) to get your schedule ironed out. Special Registration is an option where you can ask professors to let you into courses that are full or have other special requirements. If registration scares you, don't worry! We've all been through the process, and everyone is here to help you succeed. This is a basic introduction to the registration process, but you will learn much more when you arrive for O-Week.

## RESOURCES

- ga.rice.edu:** Information on graduation and major requirements, as well as other academic opportunities and policies/procedures.
- oaa.rice.edu:** Resources for general and specialized academic planning and contact information for faculty, staff, and student advisors.
- courses.rice.edu:** A list of every course offered at Rice for each semester.

- scheduleplanner.rice.edu:** A resource to help plan your classes for the semester.
- esther.rice.edu:** You will register for your classes here, and you can also find course and instructor evaluations from past semesters here.
- registrar.rice.edu:** You can view the academic calendar, registration dates and times, information on holds, and download registration forms.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

For each academic period, the Office of the Registrar publishes an academic calendar. The calendar can be accessed from the Registrar's website, and is divided into Fall semester, Spring semester, and Summer for each corresponding year. They are a great resource for academic deadlines as well as future planning for holidays and travel. Information includes but is not limited to the following: registration dates, holidays, tuition deadlines, grade deadlines for instructors, final exam periods, and orientation/commencement dates.

### FALL SEMESTER

Sunday - Friday, August 13-19, 2017	Orientation Week for new students
Monday, August 21, 2017	First day of classes — Start of Fall Semester
Monday, September 4, 2017	Labor Day — No scheduled classes
Monday - Tuesday October 9 - 10, 2017	Midterm Recess — No scheduled classes
Thursday - Friday, November 23 - 24, 2017	Thanksgiving Recess — No scheduled classes
Friday, December 1, 2017	Last day of classes
Saturday - Tuesday, December 2 - 5, 2017	Study days — No exams
Wednesday - Wednesday, December 6 - 13, 2017	Final exams
Wednesday, December 13, 2017	End of the Fall Semester

Visit  
[registrar.rice.edu/calendars/](http://registrar.rice.edu/calendars/)  
for the full academic  
calendar!

### SPRING SEMESTER

Monday, January 8, 2018	First day of classes - Start of Spring Semester
Monday, January 15, 2018	Martin Luther King Jr. Day — No scheduled classes
Thursday - Friday, February 9 - 10, 2018	Spring Recess — No scheduled classes
Saturday-Sunday, March 10 - 18, 2018	Spring Break — No scheduled classes
Friday, April 20, 2018	Last day of classes
Saturday - Tuesday, April 21 - 24, 2018	Study days — No exams
Wednesday - Wednesday April 25 - May 2, 2018	Final Exams
Wednesday, May 2, 2018	End of the Spring Semester

# BRIEF OVERVIEW OF MAJORS

Each student is required to declare a major by the end of sophomore year. The choice of a major will not define your career or life path but will shape your experiences and development at Rice University. Many students enter Rice as undecided, so don't worry if you are unsure as to what you wish to study. Additionally, some students decide to double or even triple major, but it is highly

encouraged to consult with an academic advisor as to the overall hour requirements for varying majors and the benefits to your own academic benefit. Each major field can be divided into the corresponding school or department. Below is a list of majors and minors available at Rice:

## MAJORS

### School of Architecture

- Architecture
- Architectural Studies

### School of Engineering

- Bioengineering
- Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Computational and Applied Mathematics
- Computer Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Materials Science and Nanoengineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Statistics

### School of Humanities

- Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations
- Art History
- Asian Studies
- Classical Studies
- English
- French Studies
- German Studies
- History
- Hispanic Studies (includes Spanish and Portuguese)
- Latin American Studies
- Medieval and Early Modern Studies
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies
- Slavic Studies
- Spanish Studies
- Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality
- Visual and Dramatic Arts

### School of Music

- Composition
- Music History
- Music Theory
- Performance

### School of Natural Sciences

- Astronomy
- Astrophysics
- Biological Sciences
- Biochemistry and Cell Biology
- Chemical Physics
- Chemistry
- Earth Science (Geology/Geophysics)
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Environmental Science \*
- Kinesiology
- Mathematics
- Physics

### School of Social Sciences

- Anthropology
- Cognitive Science
- Economics
- Linguistics
- Managerial Studies \*
- Mathematical Economic Analysis
- Social Policy Analysis
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Sport Management

\* indicates that major must be declared as a second major

## MINORS AND CERTIFICATES

- African Studies
- Anthropology
- Biochemistry and Cell Biology
- Business
- Certificate in Civic Leadership
- Certificate in Engineering Leadership
- Computational and Applied Mathematics
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

- Energy and Water Sustainability
- Engineering Design
- Environmental Studies
- Financial Computation and Modeling
- Global Health Technologies
- Jewish Studies
- Mathematics
- Medical Humanities

- Museums and Cultural Heritage
- Naval Science (Navy ROTC)
- Neuroscience
- Politics, Law, and Social Thought
- Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities
- Sociology
- Statistics

## INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

- 4+1 Masters in Global Affairs
- 4+1 Masters in Teaching
- Air Force Science (Air Force ROTC)

- Applied Physics Program
- Leadership Rice
- Military Science (Army ROTC)

- Neurosciences Program
- Rice/UT Health Public Health Scholars
- Writing and Communication

## PREPROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS AND ADVISING

- Education (Secondary Teaching Certificate)
- Prebusiness (Advising)

- Prelaw (Advising)
- Premedicine (Health Professions Advising)



## ARCHITECTURE PERSPECTIVE

Congratulations, you have been accepted into one of the best architecture schools in the United States, Anderson College! Oops, did we say college? No, Anderson Hall is not another residential college, but it very well could be if you consider the amount of time you will soon spend with your fellow architecture students, archis (pronounced ar-keys) as we are known throughout campus. You will be joined by a group of 20-25 other new archi's from across campus and the globe. You will spend many joyous hours eating, working, and socializing with your class in studio. Studio is the main architecture course as well as the space where you will do your design work.

The beginning of your architecture education is a transition period. I am sure that you have heard of the long sleepless nights that architecture students inevitably have, but your first year is meant to help you get accustomed to your new life here at Rice and at Anderson. The beginning of the 6-year curriculum is basic design concepts, to help you begin to think like an architect and help broaden your understanding of the field of architecture. You'll be taught to represent your ideas and designs clearly from the advice that you receive during your reviews. You'll also fine-tune your time management skills, because those will become particularly important as you progress through your education.

There will be long nights eventually, but with the right time management, archi life is not too different from that of other majors. But don't worry; your time in studio isn't

just straight work. During your time in studio, you will bond with your fellow freshmen archi's and make some of the closest friends you will have. And eventually the late nights will be filled with coffee and food breaks, dance parties, and group tv or movie showings.

It goes without saying that you will learn a lot this year but be sure to take care of yourself too. Studio is a priority, but be invested and explore in your other many interests too because the first year is the best time to start. The majority of your first year classes will be general university requirements and you will have a little more time to participate in clubs, intramural sports, or college-related activities. There are a lot of opportunities for you here, so make the most of the next 6 years. In fact, get out as much as possible. College is all about newfound independence, so don't be afraid to explore Houston, get involved in the Rice community, meet new people, and take some time to relax.

Take pride in your work, but stay humble and don't forget when coffeehouse closes (1 am). Don't forget when breakfast opens (7:30 am). Invite your non-archi friends to come visit you and bring you food from time to time. Show them your projects and be coolly unsurprised when they don't understand them... they probably won't. Archi life is the good life, pursuing what you love, so get excited and don't be afraid to get going.

## MUSIC PERSPECTIVE

Congrats! You made it! You've been accepted to the prestigious Shepherd School of Music within Rice University. All your hard work and auditions have paid off! Don't worry; the fun doesn't stop there. You get to a part of one of the best music schools in the country, and you'll have amazing opportunities to practice and perform with incredible people. Rice offers a much more amazing, close-knit, and diverse experience than your average conservatory. The school of music is located in Alice Pratt Brown Hall, usually and fondly referred to as Shepherd. The teachers are highly respected and regarded at Shepherd and within the Houston community. Your professors will expect much from you, but you will receive so much in return. And never forget, they are all there to help you become the best musician you can be.

Once you enter the large glass doors of your new favorite building, you'll be greeted with the harmonious sounds of some of the world's most talented young people. You can

become one of these talented young people with the help of the amazing and rigorous curriculum you're about to begin. Shepherd has a large variety of some of the finest practice rooms that overlook Rice's beautiful campus. They are open from 7 A.M. all the day until midnight.

During these many hours practicing, make sure that you make time for extra-curriculars and socializing. You have the great privilege of attending many free performances at the Shepherd School or in the Houston community. Be sure you have time to participate in the college experience here at Rice too because that's the beauty of studying music at a conservatory within a university. You will have a great support structure either from friends within shepherd, or within the university itself. Rice and Shepherd both have a lot to offer their undergrads, and you never know what sort of inspiration you can find within the hedges.

If you are considering studying engineering, then congratulations and welcome to the wonderful life of an engineering major! You now have a second family here at Rice. Though you may spend a lot of time working and studying, there will never be a lack of help and support from your family away from home. Get excited to tackle challenging problem sets and have many engaging classes.

A faculty academic advisor will give you information on what classes to take and mock schedules for your whole four years during O-Week. Professors hold office hours during the week, where you can go and get help with homework, material learned in class, or pretty much about anything. Aside from this, TAs hold weekly homework and review sessions. However, the most important resource is your fellow students. Study groups form naturally among friends in classes; working on homework, studying for tests and general group bonding are the results.

Even though engineering is a lot of work, there will always be time for relaxing and having fun. Many engineers also have hidden passions and have a great time with clubs, college government, sports, etc. In fact, some of the most involved people are in the engineering division! Don't be scared to venture outside the hedges on Rice campus. Houston has a wide variety of activities to engage in, from

great museums, to the ballet, to amazing food. Although people will say engineering is hard, and even if sometimes you feel as if you are drowning in a sea of work, don't panic. When you can think analytically and problem-solve, the world is really at your feet.

If you do decide to take the engineering journey, you'll start with the "Big Three" intro courses: math, chemistry, and physics. Although you do not need to choose which specific type of engineering you want to major in until sophomore fall (or sophomore spring at the latest in some majors), there are some classes that you need to take your first year to keep your options open depending on which major you are considering. If you are in between different engineering majors and/or decide not to follow the proposed schedule listed in the engineering orientation booklet, make sure you talk to your divisional advisor during your first year. On the other hand, if you decide at the end of freshman year that you do not want to be an engineer, no big deal. The classes you took are not wasted and you can still choose almost any other major. Although you may not see the same people in all your classes as you get more specialized, the family feel of engineering creates some great memories working on group projects and senior design projects. Rice University is what you make it, so make it the best!



## SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

If you're thinking about majoring in the Sciences, you've come to the right place. Rice has an amazing science program, and incredible students to go with it. Whether you start out your freshman year with the "Big Three" (Calculus, Chemistry, and Physics) or use your AP credit to opt straight to some of the upper level courses, you will always have plenty of support from both professors and students.

Office hours are offered weekly by professors who are more than happy to give you advice about your major, courses, or homework problems. Professors' office hours are usually supplemented with weekly or bi-weekly TA sessions, geared to help groups of students through tough problem sets or to prepare for an upcoming exam. You'll also be matched with a divisional advisor to help guide you during O-Week as well. But, if you have a busy schedule, never fear, students at Rice are always willing to lend a helping hand. Many friendships at Rice are solidified during late night study sessions with food from the Hoot. Additionally upperclassmen are more than

willing to take a couple of hours out of their week to lend a hand and help you understand a difficult concept. Academic fellows and mentors are also a huge help; they often host study sessions a few nights prior to midterms in order to answer last minute questions. Just make sure to start your work a couple of days before it's due.

Worried about research? Rice professors are great at helping facilitate undergraduate research. Simply talk to your divisional advisor, and chances are that you will be more than able to find a professor who will be glad to let you into their lab.

However, try not to get caught up in the stresses of being a science major; rest assured, everyone is riding the same struggle-bus, and chances are, with some planning, a balance between work and play, and some help from your peers, you won't only get a degree from the Wiess School of Natural Sciences, but have the experience of a lifetime as a science major at Rice University.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

Pursuing a social science major is one of the best ways to take advantage of all that Rice has to offer. In the social sciences, you can study a relevant, human-oriented field while developing the statistical, research, and analytical skills that can bring these ideas into action. Course schedules are more flexible - social science majors generally require fewer hours than natural science or engineering disciplines, and many of the majors are based on electives within the major rather than a predetermined course of study. This allows students to focus on what they're most interested in within a given field while allowing for exploration of other academic interests. Many students use this flexibility to double

major in other fields and explore a variety of approaches to the discipline. In addition, social science courses, especially at the upper levels, are some of the smallest at Rice and lead to frequent interaction and discussion with our accomplished faculty. Many Rice students will unexpectedly switch to social sciences after having a positive experience in their distribution courses, so even if you're not considering a social sciences major right now, keep your mind open! Regardless of when you begin your social science journey here at Rice, you're sure to have a unique and enriching academic experience that prepares you for future success.

## HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVE

Although Rice is well-known for its science and engineering programs, the School of Humanities actually offers the largest number of majors at the university. Covering a wide range of topics, humanities degrees are heavy in reading and writing, leading to the development of awesome critical thinking and analysis abilities, as well as some super swanky writing skills. If you major in the humanities, you learn how to think and how to question. You also learn how to take those thoughts and questions and turn them into arguments and theories. These communication skills translate well into a myriad of professional fields and career paths (humanities students are totally employable!). The classes are typically smaller,

allowing students to develop strong relationships with peers and professors. More often than not, classes are discussion-based, allowing students to really engage and learn from each other, as well as from Rice's outstanding faculty. Another great thing about the humanities is that a lot of courses and subjects are interdisciplinary; even courses about really niche topics, such as Early Medieval Art, give students writing, discussion, and critical thinking skills that can be carried over into other areas. Studying the humanities means studying the world and its people – the way they think, write, and document their history and culture. At the end of the day, who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

Every year transfers students are asked why they want to transfer to Rice University. Whether it was the pursuit of enriched academics or the hunt for a diverse and interconnected community, Rice is guaranteed to exceed your goals and expectations. The truth is that beginning your time at Rice will likely be wholly different from anything you have experienced before. Much of this distinctiveness can be attributed to the residential college system. Other universities use similar systems to organize their students but at Rice it represents a genuine opportunity to find a community and a family as soon as you step foot on campus.

It can be frustrating to repeat orientation and constantly explain your unconventional background. However, there is a reason why Unconventional Wisdom is a cornerstone of the Rice experience. As a transfer student you are in a unique position to appreciate the passion and drive that your fellow students, professors, and administration take to create a truly comprehensive college experience. Your experiences and viewpoints that you have fostered at other institutions will challenge and mold the Rice experience in new and dynamic ways. O-Week represents the first chance to foster new friendships with freshmen, your classmates, and upperclassmen. It is during this week where you will lay the foundation for your years to come at Rice University.

Going into orientation it would be helpful to compile basic information regarding your courses taken at your previous institution. While this is quite abstract you could find more concrete information about what materials you might need for specific courses by contacting transfer credit advisors (a list can be found on the Rice Office of Academic Advising website). However, it is absolutely possible to come into orientation with minimal preparation.

Academic planning will be a substantial portion of O-Week and Academic advisors will be prepared to help you through the process of transferring credits and planning your first semester schedule. Your Advisors and Peer Academic Advisors will walk you through scheduling for your first semester at Rice as well as put you in contact with departmental heads to convert your TRANS credits.

You will be assigned a transfer student mentor by the Transfer Student Association who will be available as resource for any questions you may have about academics, social life, and extracurriculars at Rice. The Transfer Student Association hosts meet-and-greets and plans activities throughout the year, so you can maintain friendships from all over campus. If you are considering living off campus, look for a place to live ahead of time and definitely contact other transfer students for advice and experiences living off campus! An important piece of advice from the transfer student writing this article is to go into orientation with an open-mind and open-arms. While the peers you matriculate with will be younger than you and be entering college for the first time some of them may become your closest friends and colleagues. Rice University is truly excited to welcome you all and congratulations on completing your journey here.



## FIRST-YEAR WRITING INTENSIVE SEMINAR

First-year Writing-Intensive Seminar (FWIS) courses are 3-credit-hour seminars on a variety of topics such as Greek myth, graphic novels, and archeology, all of which fulfill the University's Writing and Communication requirement.

While these courses are designed to teach university-level writing and communication skills, FWIS assignments often go well beyond the limits of a traditional college essay or presentation. Assignments might ask students to reflect on field trips to local museums, to conduct interviews with members of the Rice and Houston community, or even to critically examine the experience of strolling through campus.

These small classes, capped at 15 students, support group discussion and ensure that students receive substantive

feedback from instructors on their writing, speaking, and visual communication.

These courses fulfill Rice's Writing and Communication requirement, which all students must complete in order to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree. To satisfy the requirement, undergraduates must complete:

- the Composition Exam with the score of "Satisfactory" or FWIS 100; and
- one First-year Writing-Intensive Seminar (FWIS) taken in the student's first year at Rice.

FWIS courses cannot be dropped after the second week of classes nor taken pass/fail. Students will be randomly assigned to take a FWIS course in either fall or spring of their first year.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE PLACEMENT

Are you planning to take a language course with the Center for Languages & Intercultural Communication? You must take the Language Placement Test to determine the most appropriate course level for you. Whether you have AP credit or have no background in that language, the placement test is required to ensure that you enroll in the correct class.

Online testing will be available in Canvas beginning the week before O-Week! Take the test by Tuesday of O-Week

in order to have your result before registration on Friday. You will be able to register for your language course only after your placement has been recorded.

### Questions?

Email [clicplacement@rice.edu](mailto:clicplacement@rice.edu)

or go to

[http://clic.rice.edu/LPT\\_FAQs.aspx](http://clic.rice.edu/LPT_FAQs.aspx)

## STUDYING ABROAD

Are you ready to visit places you've seen only in pictures and learn about another culture, improve your foreign language skills, expand your professional options, develop your intellectual pursuits, explore new perspectives, and meet new friends? Go abroad to explore, discover, and learn about the world beyond the hedges!

The Rice Study Abroad Office offers high quality, academically rigorous programs and exchange partnerships with prestigious universities all over the world. Whether you want to study computer science in Singapore, perfect your Spanish in Madrid, or conduct research in the Australian rainforest, there's an exciting and academically enriching opportunity for everyone! All majors, including engineering and pre-med students, are able to study abroad with careful planning. Rice students can choose to

spend a summer, semester, or full academic year abroad. Students can apply for study abroad-specific scholarships, and financial aid will travel with you to help fund your academic adventure.

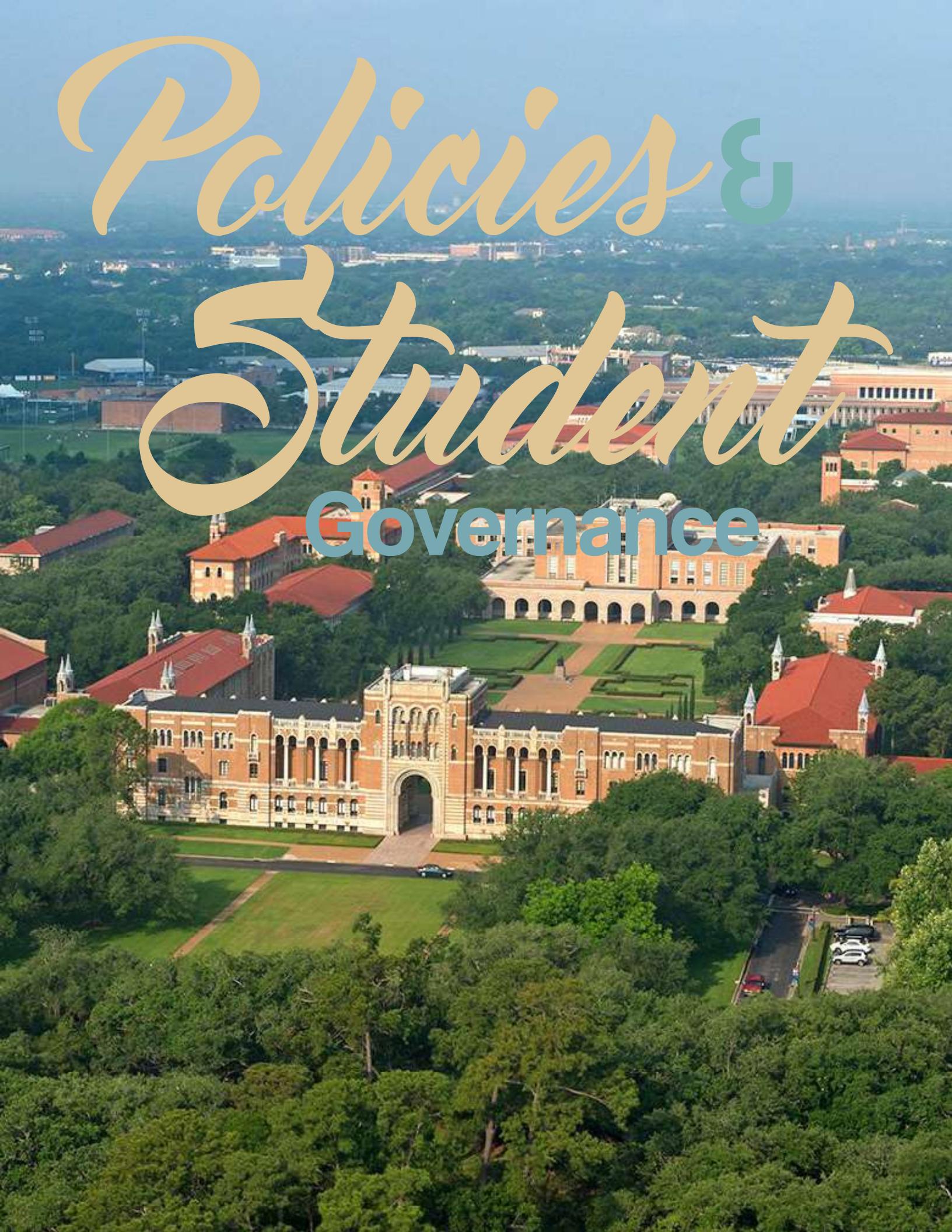
Studying abroad is a once in a lifetime experience that will be one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of your Rice University career! To get started on this transformative journey, watch the Step One video and explore Rice approved programs on our website at <https://abroad.rice.edu>. Mark your calendars for the Study Abroad Fair in the fall where you can meet program representatives and exchange students, and you can also learn more by speaking with our study abroad alumni or visiting our office during walk-in hours. We look forward to helping you begin your journey!



## BUYING BOOKS

Like many universities, Rice has its own Campus Store, so you don't have to go far to find everything you'll need. The Rice University Campus Store can be found inside the Rice Memorial Center (RMC) which is located near the center of campus. Textbooks are organized by subject and each course tag lists out your buying options (Used, New, Rental, and Digital). The Campus Store also Price Matches Textbooks (see store for details). If you're thinking about ordering your books online, check out ShopRiceU.com our official Campus Store website; you can find special deals on things like laptops, as well as, you can get your books or spirit gear delivered to your Residential College for Free! The Campus Store also has pencils, pens, calendars,

binders, paper, headphones, and much more – in fact, there's very little that you wouldn't be able to find for all your classroom needs. Besides school supplies, the Campus Store also sells everything you need to show your spirit and represent Rice in style. Clothing and Gift items include – but are not limited to – Hats, T-shirts, Polo's, Athletic Wear, Sweaters, Mugs, Key Chains, Flags, and Gifts for loved ones! The Rice University Campus Store is a great place to find textbooks and the process of buying books is quick and easy. They also offer discounts and offers throughout the year on select merchandise, so be sure to look out for offers in store, online, and like them on Facebook (@RiceUStore).

An aerial photograph of the Rice University campus in Houston, Texas. The main focus is the large, ornate red brick building with a central archway, identified as the Main Building. The building is surrounded by green lawns and trees. In the background, other buildings and the surrounding cityscape are visible under a clear blue sky.

# Policies & Student Governance

## HONOR CODE

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this (exam, quiz, paper, etc)." Established in 1916 by students, the Rice University Honor System is a hallmark of the Rice academic experience. It provides the foundation for Rice's academic expectations of students and embodies the relationship of trust and commitment between students and faculty. All students who matriculate into the Rice community are expected to adhere to the level of academic integrity set forth by the Honor Code. Many professors do not proctor exams and will sometimes give take-home tests. The Honor Pledge, written on every exam, quiz, and pledged homework

assignment reminds us of this trust and integrity, and the freedoms we receive in return.

Any attempt to undermine the academic integrity and trust of our community through plagiarism or cheating in any capacity will not be tolerated under this code of academic conduct. Faculty members, graders, TAs, and especially students, all have the responsibility to abide by the Honor Code and report violations to the Honor Council. For more information, see the Honor Council section and visit [honor.rice.edu](http://honor.rice.edu); if you have any further questions, contact your college's Honor Council Representative.

## HONOR COUNCIL

The Honor Council, composed of undergraduate students elected by their peers, investigates and deliberates accusations of academic dishonesty. It includes four officer positions – Chair, Internal Vice Chair, External Vice Chair, and Secretary – as well as Class, College, At-Large Representatives, and New Student Representatives (selected in the Fall Semester). All members work to uphold the academic integrity of Rice University by serving on investigative meetings and hearings to determine whether or not accused students are in violation, and to choose an appropriate penalty for those students found in violation. To learn more about members on the Council and their duties, contact your college's Honor Council Representative.

For a list of Honor Council Representatives, visit:

[honor.rice.edu/members-and-ombuds/](http://honor.rice.edu/members-and-ombuds/)

## ALCOHOL POLICY

Rice's Alcohol Policy is based on a philosophy of shared governance of each member of the community regarding use of alcohol on campus, and on Rice's experience that this philosophy produces the best outcomes for student safety and wellbeing. To maintain this shared governance, students must act reasonably, responsibly and respectfully towards alcohol, each other, Rice University police, and all other members of the community, and must observe campus rules relating to alcohol. Rice has an alcohol policy that allows students who are of legal drinking age to enjoy the adult privilege of consuming alcohol in a responsible manner. Persons under age 21 are prohibited from consuming alcohol at Rice, both by Texas law and Rice rules.

Popular culture has perpetuated the notion that the consumption of alcohol is commonplace in colleges; however, more than half of Rice students always identify as non-drinkers or light drinkers. Because of the nature of college, it is safe to say that during your time at Rice you will be in a situation where alcohol is present, yet Rice students do not create pressure for you to drink.

Undergraduate alcohol consumption is prohibited during Orientation Week. All people, including the advisors, coordinators, and affiliates, follow this rule; alcohol consumption of any kind or amount will not be tolerated during this week. Removing alcohol from campus during this time is intended to allow new students to get to know your O-Week group and your college community, and to create an inclusive environment.

Whether you plan on drinking or not during your time at Rice, every member of our community is a member of our Culture of Care. At Rice, we look out for one another. Student resources like Caregivers and the Chief Justice are available to help, and if a concern arises that anyone has consumed too much alcohol, RUPD and REMS are always available. Remember that RUPD and REMS are here to keep us safe, not to get us in trouble. The Rice Alcohol Policy has an amnesty provision to encourage students to call for help if they have any concern that another student needs medical attention. In general, neither the impaired student nor the student providing assistance will face disciplinary action for the possession, use, or provision of alcohol, even if they are underage, if they call

REMS for help. The important thing is to call these resources as soon as you think there might be a problem.

Rice's Alcohol Policy was written to allow for the safe consumption of alcohol by people who are of legal age to do so. A copy of this policy can be found online at SJP.rice.edu, by following the links. You are responsible for reading and understanding the Alcohol Policy, and you will be required to affirm that you have read it before you can register for classes. All new students are encouraged to read the Alcohol Policy before coming to Rice, and to even talk with your family about what your experience at Rice will be like given these rules. While you might find it helpful to speak to your advisors or Chief Justice if you have any questions about the Alcohol Policy, you should not rely on summaries from others (or even this article!)



Self-governance is an essential feature of student life at Rice. As such, the University trusts students to make decisions regarding many of the important things that directly affect students. One such area is student conduct. Unlike many universities, where punishments for infractions are imposed by far-removed campus administrators, the Rice administration trusts students to make decisions about what they expect of their fellow students, and what is and is not acceptable conduct for a Rice student. This is where the University Court comes in. Rebuilt in 2011, the University Court consists of seventeen members - four officers, one representative from each College, and two New Student Representatives. (If you're interested, you can apply during O-Week!) Members of the Court hear cases of students accused of violating the Student Code of Conduct, discuss these cases, and eventually make a decision about whether or not the student's conduct was acceptable within this community.

It's important to remember that the University Court is not a policing agency. It exists merely to serve the student body. Through the University Court, students' cases receive careful attention, and students have more respect for the Court's decisions because they were made by students themselves. The University Court has another important role. As the Supreme Court is to Congress, UCourt is to the Student Association (SA). Whenever there is a need for adjudication in an SA matter, it is the University Court's duty to perform a thorough investigation and, if necessary, conduct a hearing. The most important thing to remember about UCourt is that it exists to serve you, and the best ways to stay off its radar are to be aware of the Student Code of Conduct and always to be reasonable, respectful, and responsible.

as your only source of information about the Policy.

Finally, note that while of-age students are allowed to consume alcohol, hard alcohol is generally prohibited (except under certain very limited circumstances). The term "hard alcohol" applies to all alcohol and alcohol-containing beverages except beer, wine, champagne, and pre-made alcoholic drinks not made from distilled spirits; the alcohol content of beverages not considered hard alcohol must be below 22%; distilled spirits of any kind are considered hard alcohol. Violations of the rules regarding hard alcohol are taken especially seriously, given how dangerous hard alcohol can potentially be. You can expect conversations about the Alcohol Policy during O-Week, but the best source of information about the rules is the Policy itself.

## UNIVERSITY COURT

For a list of University Court Representatives, visit:

[sjp.rice.edu/ucourt/](http://sjp.rice.edu/ucourt/)



Policies & Student  
Governance

# STUDENT ASSOCIATION

"All in favor say 'Aye'."

With a resounding "Aye", the room shapes the future of Rice for years to come. The Student Association (aka the SA) was formed as the primary student government body for Rice. Our mission is to enrich the undergraduate experience by engaging, inspiring, and advocating for all Rice undergraduate students. From initiatives aimed at supporting low income students to advocating for sexual assault prevention to proposals that help redefine the state of education at Rice, the SA is the go to body for making substantive change on campus. Whether you were involved with your student government in high school or want to get involved early here at Rice, the Student Association is a great place to start. While each college has their own individual governing body, the SA is the campus-wide government that addresses broader student concerns and acts as the primary bridge with faculty and high level administrators.

The SA Senate is made up of the Executive Committee (campus-wide elected president, two vice presidents, treasurer and secretary) and Presidents and Senators who are independently elected at each residential college. The SA also has a host of different committees that work to address topics related to academics, student life, wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and diversity and inclusion. Each year the SA also chooses a select number of New Student Representatives (NSRs) to serve in the SA committees. New students who are selected for this prestigious program are trained and empowered to work closely with administrators, execute special projects and act as SA ambassadors at their colleges. We hope you will consider applying for the program!



For a list of Student Association  
Senators, visit:

<http://sa.rice.edu/people/senators.php>





# Campus Resources

# RICE WELLBEING AND COUNSELING CENTER

The Wellbeing and Counseling Center at Rice University has a group of professional staff who are trained to assist students in getting wellbeing support.

## CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING

**Confidential Counseling** offers free solution-focused, short term treatment. Students can also consult with the professional staff for mental health concerns and get referrals for services and programs in the Houston area.

## TITLE IX SUPPORT

**Title IX Support** assists students in learning about options on and off campus for getting support and making a report if you or a friend has experienced sexual or relationship violence. Please visit [www.safe.rice.edu](http://www.safe.rice.edu) for more information.

## WELLBEING ADVISING

**Wellbeing Advising** assists students in addressing wellbeing concerns, such as stress management, procrastination, conflicts with friends, roommate issues, difficulty making decisions, struggling identity, academic concerns, or problems that are more serious in nature.

## PEER GUIDANCE

**Rice Health Advisors (RHA)** are fellow students who have been trained on a variety of wellbeing topics such as roommate conflict resolution, time management, self-care and on-campus resources. They work at your residential college to provide health education opportunities, health supplies and peer support.

**STRIVE** is a student-driven coalition that empowers all members of the Rice community to play an active role in eliminating gender-based inequality and sexual violence. STRIVE College Liaisons are student representatives who are appointed to promote healthy relationships through events and who are available to students to provide information about on and off campus resources. Contact: [ricestrive@gmail.com](mailto:ricestrive@gmail.com)

Students can contact the Wellbeing and Counseling Center at **713-348-3311 (24/7)** to schedule an appointment or for a consultation. The Center is located at Gibbs Wellness Center. Walk-ins welcome during normal business hours. For more information and tips on wellbeing, please visit [www.wellbeingandcounseling.rice.edu](http://www.wellbeingandcounseling.rice.edu) or the Rice University Student Wellbeing Facebook page.



## STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

Student Success Initiatives (SSI) is responsible for supporting students from Matriculation to Graduation to identify support networks in various campus communities, to understand resources critical to excelling, and to develop strategies to overcome challenges they face while at Rice. The first time you will connect with SSI is during Orientation Week. First Year Programs, the office within SSI responsible for O-Week and other transition programming, works with student, faculty, staff, and community partners to design a comprehensive program to welcome you to your new home.



RICE UNIVERSITY  
**STUDENT  
SUCCESS  
INITIATIVES**



The Rice Women's Resource Center aims to promote gender equality and social justice advocacy in order to foster a supportive and engaged community on campus. Usually abbreviated as the RWRC, the Women's Resource Center was founded in 1996 and has grown to a large and vibrant organization that serves as a resource to people in the Rice community of all genders. As an organization and as a coordinating team, we strive to ensure that our goals of inclusivity and intersectionality are reflected in the many events that we put on. Our office is located in the RMC just across from Coffeehouse and is staffed with student volunteers who answer questions, distribute items such as condoms, hair ties, and pads & tampons, and help Rice students locate appropriate resources such as the Wellness Center or the Houston Area Women's Center. There are always students in the office hanging out, working on homework, or discussing an issue they are passionate about – it's a safe space full of friendly people! The office also contains books, pamphlets, and magazines available for check-out or reading on our very comfy couches! Our volunteers and coordinators hold a variety of programs throughout the year. Annual events include the Vagina Monologues, I <3 Consent Week, and self-defense classes. We publish a monthly zine full of student submissions in the form of everything from poetry, academic papers, and short stories to visual art. We also host speakers, lunches,

After O-Week, you will have frequent opportunities to engage with Student Success Initiatives both in the classroom and around campus. One such way is by enrolling in UNIV 110, a course for first year students that seniors have described as what they wish they had known when they started at Rice. SSI also supports first generation college students through our Rice Firsts Mentoring and Rice Firsts Advocate Training. Lastly, they offer programming, trainings, and practical skill-building to help with time management, learning styles assessment, study skills, interpersonal communication, career guidance and more.

Since there are many critical resources on campus, SSI can be a great starting place if you are unsure of where to begin. SSI also collaborates and facilitates interactions with other departments and community partners to help students achieve success as they identify it. Email SSI at [success@rice.edu](mailto:success@rice.edu) or visit them online at [success.rice.edu](http://success.rice.edu).

## RICE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

panels, social events, and much more that are open to all!

Anyone can get involved, so bring your unique talents to the RWRC as a volunteer by working in the office, serving on a committee, or contributing written or visual work to our monthly magazine. The RWRC and the people you meet here can become an integral part of your Rice experience that may spark lifelong passions and interests, cultivate connections with students from across campus and Houston community members, and help develop leadership skills. Stop by the O-Week or Fall Activities Fair to talk to us and learn how to get involved, visit our website ([women.rice.edu](http://women.rice.edu)) or our Facebook page "Rice Women's Resource Center", or email us at [womenrc@rice.edu](mailto:womenrc@rice.edu).



# QUEER LIFE AT RICE

Looking for a way to jump into the queer community at Rice? Whether you identify as queer, any part of the LGBTQIAP+ acronym, or you're an Ally, we'd love to get to know you! Here are some resources to help you navigate your first year at Rice and life in the greater Houston area:

## STUDENT GROUPS

The **Queer Resource Center (QRC)** is an umbrella organization for other queer groups on campus, and has a mission of support, visibility, and activism for the queer community. It acts as a medium for continuous enhancement of queer life on campus through projects which range from organizing Rice's Pride Week to ensuring O-Week is the best it can be for new students of all genders, sexualities, and identities. If you want to get involved (or if you have questions about queer life and resources at Rice), feel free to visit our website or email us!

**Queers and Allies (Q&A)** is a club that focuses on building and maintaining the queer community at Rice. We will host a pizza party near the beginning of the semester (more details to come - keep an eye out for flyers and Facebook posts), so come out and join us! Meetings are Wednesdays at 9:00 pm in the student organizational space (in the basement of the Rice Memorial Center, right across from Willy's Pub).

**Query** is an intentionally unofficial queer theory discussion and advocacy group. To join us, look for flyers around campus and a Facebook post in the first few weeks of classes for information about our first meeting.

Website:  
[queer.rice.edu](http://queer.rice.edu)

Email:  
[qrc\\_leadership@mailman.rice.edu](mailto:qrc_leadership@mailman.rice.edu)

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/riceqrc](https://facebook.com/riceqrc)

Website:  
[pride.rice.edu](http://pride.rice.edu)

Email:  
[qanda.rice@gmail.com](mailto:qanda.rice@gmail.com)

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/groups/riceqanda](https://facebook.com/groups/riceqanda)

Facebook:  
[facebook.com/groups/632529730138962/](https://facebook.com/groups/632529730138962/)

## OTHER RESOURCES

Wellbeing affects all of us. Rice's professional staff at the **Wellbeing and Counseling Center** are trained to assist students through a variety of concerns. Services include confidential counseling, wellbeing advising, and Title IX support. The Wellbeing Office also hosts ally training sessions throughout the year so that students (of all identities) can better understand what the queer community is about and how to ensure they create the most optimal environment for queer students.

Website:  
[wellbeingandcounseling.rice.edu](http://wellbeingandcounseling.rice.edu)

The **Office of Multicultural Affairs** coordinates and implements comprehensive educational, cultural and social programs designed to emphasize inclusiveness, while promoting intercultural dialogue, awareness and respect for diversity. In charge of the Diversity Facilitator program during O-Week.

Website:  
[oma.rice.edu](http://oma.rice.edu)

The **Montrose Center** is a Houston LGBTQ+ center offering resources, counseling, youth/senior programs, addiction treatment, HIV/AIDS care, anti-violence services, and education and meeting spaces. It's also a great place to volunteer!

Website:  
[montrosecenter.org](http://montrosecenter.org)



QUERY



# RICE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Rice University has its very own police force that patrols campus 24/7, making sure that you stay safe. The police officers tend to interact with the students frequently, as a part of Rice's commitment to student self-governance. You should never be nervous about RUPD. They are a fully-fledged police department with all the same power and responsibility as the Houston Police Department and special training regarding the college environment. If there is any situation on campus where you feel unsafe or threatened, there are blue-light emergency phones all over campus that dial the police immediately; if you are not near a blue-light phone then the RUPD number is **(713) 348-6000**.

RUPD is dedicated to campus safety. A large part of campus safety involves securing Rice's facilities. In order to enter the building at Duncan, you will need to use your Rice ID card (you'll get this during O-Week). It is important to get in the habit of keeping your ID and keys with you around Rice's campus. Your ID will provide you access to many buildings and services that campus offers. If you forget your ID card and keys during daytime hours, your

college coordinator will help you into the building. If you forget after hours you can call RUPD and they will help you out.

As class, clubs, and organizations meet at night, students often walk through the campus after dark. It's always best practice to walk with a friend or two when you are going across campus (it's more fun too!). Rice is generally safe but you should always be aware of your surroundings and the availability of safety resources (RUPD and blue-light towers) if you feel uncomfortable. If you decide that you don't want to walk anywhere at night, there is a campus-wide all-hours shuttle that will take you anywhere on campus.

RUPD is a police department, but not one that is threatening or overbearing. They are genuine people who care a lot about keeping Rice safe. Make sure to say hi to RUPD officers that you see around campus and always remember their number **(713) 348-6000** (put it in your phone right now) if anything comes up.



# RICE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

When you're in class one day and the person next to you suddenly looks down at their wrist, jumps up, and runs out in the middle of the lecture, don't be surprised. This means that a few seconds ago, somewhere on campus, someone just got hurt or became very sick. The phrase "call RUPD!" was uttered, a cell phone was dialed, and a dispatcher sent out a page to the Rice Emergency Medical Services (REMS) duty crew. In just a few minutes emergency vehicles will arrive at the scene of the call. Highly-trained Rice students are the first responders in these vehicles and they are there to help.

REMS operates one of the most prestigious collegiate EMS programs in the country. REMS provides emergency pre-hospital care to the Rice community 24/7 and handles everything from sprained ankles to heart attacks to alcohol poisonings. All members are student volunteers that have undergone extensive training to receive their

national certification. With an average response time of less than four minutes, the men and women of REMS are committed to providing the best care possible to anyone who needs it. Call them at **(713) 348-6000** (same as the RUPD!) whenever there is a potential medical issue. REMS focuses on safety first, they are not going to punish students for calling them.

If you find that you love talking with these REMS members, have an interest in patient care, like pants with lots of pockets, scissors that cut through anything, running out of class when your pager goes off, or being part of a great service to Rice, the EMT-Basic class (offered every Spring) could be for you. REMS is a volunteer organization and students like you will be its future members, for more information on REMS visit their website at [rems.rice.edu](http://rems.rice.edu).

## STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

The Rice Student Health Service Center is located in the Morton Rich Health Center next to Brown College. The services are available to all eligible students regardless of the type of health insurance owned. Your health fee covers your physician visits. Any additional services such as laboratory exams or vaccines are provided at a small fee which may be paid by cash or credit card. You may not use your student account for this.

Rice Student Health Services provides a variety of different services for students that help them prevent health issues as well as address illnesses when they arise. The program provides a fully functioning doctor's office, complete with three primary care doctors and three registered nurses. This center fulfills most common medical needs such as physicals, gynecological exams, and care for acute illnesses. It also does testing for sexually transmitted diseases, immunizations and travel consultations. All of these services are available to you on the first day of O-week.

You can make appointments with the Health Center with the number below. There will be more information about Health Services on the campus tour during O-Week. Additionally, their website has lots of useful information about their services.

Website:  
[health.rice.edu](http://health.rice.edu)  
Hours:  
M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Phone:  
(713)-348-4966



## RECREATION CENTER

The Barbara and David Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center is a state of the art facility designed specifically to suit your health and wellness needs. Whether you are looking to let off some steam by shooting hoops or lifting weights, need a soothing chair massage or want to join your friends for a game of water volleyball, the Gibbs Rec Center has got you covered.

With more than 20 free group exercise classes each week, an awesome space to rent affordable outdoor gear and programs and services featuring the latest trends in fitness and recreation, it's hard to imagine you would spend

a day at Rice feeling bored. Come by the facility and see all the great things we have to offer! We guarantee you won't be disappointed.



## CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP

The Center for Civic Leadership fosters engaged citizenship among Rice undergraduates through integrated curricular and experiential learning opportunities. These opportunities help students develop the capacity to exercise civic leadership by better understanding themselves, their responsibilities as citizens, the complexity of social issues, and the mechanisms for creating sustainable change in Houston and communities beyond. By serving as the hub for the university's engagement with off-campus partners in Houston, the United States, and around the world, the CCL assists Rice faculty and staff with creating additional experiential learning opportunities with external partners.

In addition to academic coursework in leadership, the CCL offers research, service, and internship opportunities

that enable students to work with a range of off-campus partners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Programs include Urban Immersion, Alternative Spring Break, Houston Action Research Teams, the Loewenstein Fellowship in Civic Research and Service, and the Leadership Rice Mentorship Experience. While CCL programs are open to all undergraduates, those who seek greater depth and intentionality in their leadership development have the opportunity to pursue the Certificate in Civic Leadership. As the home to undergraduate fellowships advising, the CCL also enables students to build upon their academic and leadership experiences to identify undergraduate and post-baccalaureate opportunities that best meet their future goals.

Further information can be found at <http://ccl.rice.edu>

# CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### 15 THINGS TO DO AS A FRESHMAN

**3** MEET WITH A CAREER COUNSELOR TO DISCUSS YOUR CAREER PATH

**4**

BUILD & MAINTAIN A LINKEDIN PROFILE

**5** SEEK OUT YOUR COLLEGE PCA'S FOR ASSISTANCE

**6**

BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION "TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF"

**1**

BOOKMARK CCD.RICE.EDU & HANDSHAKE IN YOUR WEB BROWSER. ADD THE CCD CALENDAR TO YOUR GOOGLE CALENDAR

**2**

STOP BY THE CCD OPEN HOUSE 8.25.17

**9** SCHEDULE A HEADSHOT THROUGH HANDSHAKE TO UPDATE YOUR LINKEDIN PROFILE PICTURE

**10**

VISIT THE CCD FOR WALK-IN APPOINTMENTS M-F FROM 12:00-1:00PM

**7** BEGIN WORKING ON YOUR RESUME & UPDATE IT EVERY SEMESTER

**8**

READ YOUR CCD NEWSLETTER, WHICH IS EMAILED EVERY WEEK

**11** ATTEND THE FALL AND SPRING CAREER & INTERNSHIP EXPOS. COMPANIES HIRE FRESHMEN!

**12**

ATTEND AN EMPLOYER INFO SESSION

**13**

FIND A WORKSHOP THAT INTERESTS YOU AND RSVP IN HANDSHAKE

**14** MOCK INTERVIEW. RECRUITING STARTS EARLIER EVERY YEAR, & THE CCD CAN HELP YOU BE READY

**15**

SEND A THANK-YOU NOTE/EMAIL WITHIN 24-48 HOURS AFTER ANY INTERACTION WITH AN EMPLOYER

## RICE DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Rice Disability Support Services (DSS), located in the Allen Center, is a great resource for students with any sort of disability. Students who may need accommodations should contact DSS to discuss their needs and begin the registration process. Disability related requests for

accommodations and services are evaluated individually, based on documentation and completion of the registration process. Email DSS at [adarice@rice.edu](mailto:adarice@rice.edu) or visit them online at [dss.rice.edu](http://dss.rice.edu).

## SUSTAINABILITY AT RICE

Create the sustainable planet you want to live on, and have fun doing it.

Rice offers numerous opportunities for students to engage in environmental issues, whether it be in the classroom, through research, at the colleges, in the nearly 20 environmental clubs and organizations, as interns, through events, as part of a student-run business, as volunteers, and even as part of study abroad and spring break experiences. And if the experience you are looking for doesn't yet exist, you can help create it!

The entire Rice campus is designated as the Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum, and within this campus/arboretum setting are eleven buildings certified by the US Green Building Council as green buildings through their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating sys-

tem. This offers the perfect setting for students to use the entire campus as a laboratory for learning about sustainability, and for implementing real solutions to environmental challenges. Rice's sustainability office (the Administrative Center for Sustainability and Energy Management) actively supports student-led environmental initiatives, and frequently partners with and consults students as part of its campus greening programs.

You can stay in touch with the latest Rice environmental news, features, and opportunities by subscribing to the Sustainability at Rice monthly newsletter at <http://sustainability.rice.edu/newsletter/>. You can also follow Sustainability at Rice on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter (@SustainableRice), and Instagram (@SustainableRice). Learn more about Rice's sustainability programs by visiting <http://sustainability.rice.edu>.



# SHUTTLE SERVICES

Need to get to the Stadium, or to the Student Parking Lot (West Lot), but you're dreading the cross-campus trek? Just walk down to the nearest bus stop painted on the curb in the Inner Loop and jump on to one of the Rice University buses that circle around the Inner Loop. These shuttles will run every 8-10 minutes from Monday to Fri-

day, 6 AM to 10:45 PM. Make sure you visit <http://bus.rice.edu> to check the status of the shuttles! And, check out <http://webservices.rice.edu> or your app store or google play at Ridesystem then "rice" to install the app for the Rice Mobile app, available for iOS and Android. The following are other shuttle services provided by Rice:

## RICE VILLAGE

Friday, 5:30 PM to 12:30 AM every 30 minutes. Saturday, 5:30 PM to 12:30 AM, every 15 minutes.



## NIGHT ESCORT

Provided Sunday to Thursday during the school year by the Transportation Department with a 17-passenger van. Service starts at 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM. On Friday and Saturday nights, the service runs from 10:00 PM to 3:00 AM, while RUPD provides the service on request the remainder of the night. Call (713) 348-3333 for night escort services!

## UNDERGRADUATE SHOPPING SHUTTLE

This route circles the Inner Loop to Target and Fiesta on Kirby on Saturdays, 11 AM to 3 PM, every 30 minutes during the school year.



# ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

Not bringing a car to campus? No problem! Here are ways to get to the places you want to go.

## METRO

Get a FREE METRO Q Fare Card for rides on all METRORail and bus services. Go to the Cashier's office in the Allen Center to obtain the card and go back to reload it. With multiple light rail and bus stops close to campus, this is a great way to explore the city. Also, METRORail's Downtown Transit Center stop is one block from the Megabus station, which connects you to Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, San Antonio, and New Orleans.

## SUPERSHUTTLE

Use discount code OWLS1 to receive 10% off rides to Bush Intercontinental Airport or Hobby Airport. Bookings can be made on the mobile app.

## ZIPCAR

Zipcar is a car sharing program, much like a car rental service but more convenient. Reserve a vehicle by the hour or day and only pay for the time you use it. With multiple locations and vehicles on campus, Zipcar is perfect for running errands or a weekend day trip. Reservations can be made on the mobile app.



## CROOZEN

Launching August 2017, this new ridesharing app was created to coordinate trips between drivers and riders who share a mutual destination. As a Texas-based rideshare company, Croozen's mission is to provide an all-inclusive, safe and enjoyable travel experience for ALL users. Rice's partnership with Croozen will help students find shared rides to music festivals, Chinatown, sporting events, or even to the airport.

## HOUSTON BCYCLE

Check out this bike share program when it launches on campus with 8 stations this fall. As part of a larger network of 38 stations and 275 bikes across the city, BCycle is a great way to make short trips across campus, to Rice Village, or to Hermann Park.



# RICE OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Your computer is going to be an important tool in your college experience used for everything from completing homework assignments to taking notes in class to keeping in touch with friends from home. Rice's Office of Information Technology provides computing services such as printers, computer labs, technical troubleshooting, and offering advice.

## WHAT TYPE OF COMPUTER DO I NEED?

Rice doesn't require you to bring a specific type of computer, so base your decision on how comfortable you are working with a computer and its operating system. Be sure your computer's operating system is current with the latest updates and patches plus anti-virus software installed. If you are buying something new, you can see some recommendations online (see <http://it.rice.edu/newstudents/>). Go to our KnowledgeBase or KB (<https://kb.rice.edu/>) and search for "purchase" to find some hints on buying a computer and obtaining free or discounted software.

## SHOULD I BRING A PRINTER?

You don't have to bring a printer. A past survey showed that about half of Rice undergraduates brought their own printer for convenience. Often roommates share the expense of a printer, just like a minifridge. If you bring a printer, be aware that the Rice network does not support wireless printers so you will need a cable to connect your printer to your computer.

If you don't bring a printer, you can print in your college computer lab, other campus labs, and Fondren Library for a small fee. Printing costs 7 cents per page for black and white and 35 cents per page for color. Posters and architecture/engineering plots can be printed for \$3 per linear foot. Printing charges are included in your bill from the Cashier's Office.

## LAPTOPS VS. DESKTOPS?

Your decision, but a laptop might be more convenient for a student's lifestyle of taking notes in class, working with a study group in the library, or binge watching shows in bed on the weekends. Sometimes students have both and prefer the larger desktop monitor when studying in their room.

## RICE EMAIL

Undergraduate student email is managed externally through Rice Google mail. Once you receive your Rice student ID number, you can set up your Rice email account. Official communication from the university will be sent only to this account so be sure to monitor it (or forward to another email account). Learn more at <http://it.rice.edu/email>.

## COMPUTER LABS

Each college has a small computer lab with a printer, but larger labs are scattered across campus; in fact, some of your classes may be taught in computer classrooms. If a course requires a special software program, you will find it installed on lab computers along with standard programs (word processor, spreadsheet, and web browsers).

Over the summer, contact the Help Desk if you have questions about what type of computer to buy or how to set up your computer for the Rice network. You can find more instructions about connecting to the campus network online (<http://itweek.rice.edu>) and can complete these steps before you head to Rice. Each college room has a wired ethernet connection port to connect to the campus network, which is much faster and more reliable than wireless connections. Consider bringing an ethernet cable (standard ethernet 568a cable) so you can plug in. Be sure to buy a long, 25-foot cable so you have flexibility in arranging your room.

Need help? Have questions?

When you arrive in the fall, you'll meet your college's OIT Ambassador, a resident student who can answer basic questions and refer you to OIT's offered services. The OIT Help Desk is where you can get technical assistance via email ([helpdesk@rice.edu](mailto:helpdesk@rice.edu)), telephone, (**713-348-4357**), or online ([helpdesk.rice.edu](http://helpdesk.rice.edu)). Be sure to like the OIT FaceBook page to get tech tips and event news (<https://www.facebook.com/RiceOIT/>).



## THE SERVERIES

Welcome to the wonderful serveries at Rice! Tasty brick oven pizzas, D.I.Y. waffles, and famous cinnamon rolls are awaiting you. Get excited. The freshman fifteen exists because there is so much food that it's hard not to find something you like to eat... or a dozen you things you want to eat in one sitting. But really, there is something for everyone.

Breakfast, which is highly under-attended, offers an assortment of regular hot items like scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy, oatmeal, pancakes, French toast, and make-your-own waffles, along with the usual standbys like cereal, milk, bagels, danishes, English muffins, and toast. Lunch, where they really pull out all the stops, usually consists of a variety of pizzas, a salad bar, fresh fruit, a sandwich bar, a fried foods section with fries, grilled cheese, hotdogs, made-to-order hamburgers and toasted sandwiches, a vegetarian section, and a daily hot special. Dinner is the same as lunch with a different hot special and minus the pizza and hot dogs. On to the most important meal: dessert. Your sweet tooth will never

be wanting. Fresh cookies and ice cream are available during lunch as well as dinner where the chefs also surprise us with a specialty treat like tiramisu, chocolate mousse, cheesecake, etc. If you want to keep it simple or the daily hot dishes are not striking your fancy then you can always revert back to ever faithful servery standbys: cereal, milk, soy milk, yogurt, fruit (usually bananas, oranges, and apples), bread, peanut butter and jelly. To quench your thirst water, coffee, hot water, juice, and a plethora of pop/soda are always available. Bón apetéte! ¡Buen provecho!

If you're living on campus, you'll probably have the meal plan, which gives you breakfast, lunch, and dinner on weekdays. On Saturdays, you'll have to find dinner somewhere other than the servery. Off-campus food in is great option, or you can cook food in your college's kitchen. On Sunday, you'll get brunch and dinner. That's a total of 19 meals! You can enjoy those meals in any of Rice's six serveries.



## SAMMY'S CAFE

Sammy's Café is a very popular destination for graduate students, off-campus students, and students who are simply tired of the offerings in the servery. The café has a basic cafeteria setup in the RMC. The concepts within @ Sammy's include: The Whoo Deli – made-to-order sandwiches and salads, Grillosophy – a gourmet grill, In the Loop – epicurean, char-grilled pizza and the Parliament of Chefs – items from each of the four campus serveries and two college kitchens will be featured on different days. All of these options highlight the culinary talents of the many American Culinary Federation certified chefs

on campus. The RMC also features 4.Tac0, a quick stop for unique, delicious tacos ranging from Korean Beef to Chicken Tikka as well as baked potatoes, bottled beverages and incredible chips and queso. 4.Tac0 is open from 11:00 AM-6:00 PM Monday -Thursday and 11 :00 AM- 2:00 PM Fridays- it's a great option to consider if you missed a servery meal. The food is relatively affordable, though don't expect a \$5 meal if you are planning on getting a drink. If you are looking for a cheap alternative to servery food, Sammy's is a great option!

Willy's Pub is the oldest and most unique student run business on campus. Pub originally opened on April 11, 1975, when then Rice President Norm Hackerman poured the first beer. Since then, Pub has been a staple of the weeknight social scene at Rice. It has survived crises: the drinking age changing from 18 to 21, the fire of '95, and revisions to the alcohol policy. Yet, each time it comes back stronger and more vibrant. Pub is a paradox, changing each year with new managers and new bartenders, yet keeping the same grungy, central RMC basement location. Stop by on Thursdays if you want to get down with your bad self, stop by on Wednesdays if you wish to participate in the most prestigious trivia competition that has ever graced this campus, or stop by in the middle of the day if you just like beer and good company.



## STUDENT-RUN BUSINESSES



Coffeehouse is the best college. What's that? Coffeehouse isn't even a college? I'd like to counter that by highlighting its extremely tight-knit community and the fact that many people might actually have made their homes within its glass doors. Serving as "A Proud Purveyor of America's Most Socially Acceptable Drug," Coffeehouse is Rice's student run coffee shop, but for many, it's so much more than that. At any moment, Coffeehouse can be seen housing high levels of caffeine, fake levels of caffeine (decaf), group project meetings, friends taking a much needed study break over master-crafted lattes, live music from live people, and much more. Expect to spend a lot of time and tetra points under Coffeehouse's skylights over the next four years. For those interested in taking on the role of KOC (Keeper of the Coffee), Coffeehouse hires at the beginning of each semester.



RICE COFFEEHOUSE



Established in 2011, The Hoot is Rice's only late-night student-run cafe, employing midnight snack fairies to help you get through your post-dinner woes. Located in the Student Center, The Hoot sells a plethora of hot food items, drinks, and affordable snacks to satisfy your hunger cravings into the late hours of the night. Whether you're craving candy, stress eating HBCBs (if you don't already know what they are - you'll find out soon enough!), or wanting a chilled iced tea - The Hoot has it all! They also have bi-weekly specialty nights featuring popular requests, such as samosas and spring rolls! So stop by on your way to Fondren for an energy drink, grab a sandwich for your fourth (or fifth, or sixth) meal, or call on them to cater pizza to your next meeting - they've got you!



Located in the Housing and Dining Office Garage, Rice Bikes is a full-service bike shop and rental service open to students, faculty, and the community. The shop sells refurbished and new bikes as well as bike accessories. Not just your typical bike shop, Rice Bikes also hosts rides, bike crawls around Houston, and garage band nights. They currently have 30 student mechanics from 10 residential colleges on their team. The original Rice Bike Shop was born in the Sid Basement by two guys who loved working on bikes and merged with the Rice Bike Rental program in 2014 to form an official Student Run Business. For more information about the shop, or to apply to be a mechanic, visit their website ([bikes.rice.edu/](http://bikes.rice.edu/)). Swing by to see their bike selection, chat with a mechanic, or try riding their infamous unicycle, surrey, or tall bike!



## RICE PROGRAM COUNCIL

Rice Program Council (RPC) is the campus-wide programming board, organizing 40+ events open to all undergraduate students throughout the school year. RPC is entirely student-run, and it's a wonderful way to get involved outside your college. Almost all RPC events are completely free and on-campus! Some fall events include Welcome Back Day, an event filled with great music, fun activities, and lots of free food and swag, Screw-Yer-Roommate, where you set your roommate up on a blind date that they meet by finding matching costumes, and Esperanza, the fall formal dance. Some spring events include Crush Party, an event where you get to meet new people from

all across campus based on a funny survey, Rondelet, the spring formal dance, and Beer Bike. Throughout the year, RPC also offers a variety of late-night, substance-free events, including a Gingerbread House Building Competition, Trick-or-Treat on the Rink, and Night Bites. RPC also provides free or subsidized tickets to various Houston cultural events, including the Symphony, the Opera, the Ballet, the Rodeo, and many others in conjunction with the Passport to Houston program to encourage students to explore Houston beyond the hedges. Visit [rpc.rice.edu](http://rpc.rice.edu) for additional information on RPC events and apply to be a part of the RPC family!

## THE RICE THRESHER

The Rice Thresher is Rice's weekly student newspaper and is staffed solely by undergraduates. Established in 1916, the Thresher covers Rice news, athletics and local entertainment, while also featuring a satirical page on the back of every issue (the Backpage). A student publication and a growing media organization, the Thresher offers paid positions in everything from writing and business to tech and web development, in addition to designers, artists

and copy editors. No experience is required to join the Thresher; we'll make sure you get the training you need to make the most of your experience at Rice — be a part of a close-knit team, stay updated on campus politics and events, and provide a crucial service to your fellow classmates. If you're at all interested, email [thresher@rice.edu](mailto:thresher@rice.edu) for more information.

## RICE CAMPANILE

Were you the editor of your high school yearbook? Do you want to learn how to use the Adobe Creative Suite, make friends, eat free food, and go to New York City during the spring semester? The Rice Campanile is Rice University's student run undergraduate yearbook, and we build a

chronological yearbook covering events from May through May every year. Email us at [yearbook@rice.edu](mailto:yearbook@rice.edu) if you're interested in gaining resume-listable leadership, business, design, or writing skills while having fun along the way! You also get paid for your work!

## KTRU

The airwaves of KTRU Rice Radio thrive off diversity in the same way our college campus does. Our DJs have access to thousands of tracks in genres ranging from Funk, Punk, and Ska, to Hip-Hop, Reggae, Jazz, Electronica and many more! KTRU doesn't discriminate when it comes to music (unless it's top 40... that's what all the commercial radio stations are for), and we encourage our DJs to learn about new types of music in addition to playing what they love. KTRU also puts on free concerts featuring popular local and national bands, gives away tickets to shows hap-

pening in Houston, and hosts popular on campus events including The Battle of the Bands. Whether you're looking to learn more about radio broadcasting, help organize concerts, or share your favorite music with the Rice and Houston community, one thing about your involvement at KTRU will be certain: your exposure to new styles of music and experience as a DJ will build your love for all things music! Listen to us on 96.1 FM, through our app and online, and apply at [ktru.org](http://ktru.org) to be a DJ for the best radio station in Houston, KTRU Rice Radio!



the Rice **Thresher**





Spirit  
& Tradition

# ATHLETICS AT RICE

On behalf of Rice Athletics and all our fantastic student-athletes, Rice Rally Club would like to welcome you to Rice and invite you to join us at our Owls' athletic events all throughout your time at Rice! Our athletic department recently introduced a new and refreshed brand that will lead us far into a continued new age of Rice Athletics, and we need YOU to join us in supporting our Owls! We could try describing the rush of holding up our owl signs as a football game is about to kick off or the incredible atmosphere in Tudor Fieldhouse after our basketball teams hit a 3 or the volleyball team wins a huge point, but we couldn't do them justice. Those are really the "you just had to be there!" moments we all live for.

Yes, all students get into home athletic events for free. Yes, games and matches serve as awesome study breaks and are a TON of fun. Yes, there will be free stuff given away at games. And yes, our programs are extremely successful—our Owls have won 12 Conference USA championships in the past 3 years alone! Our athletic department is truly on the rise, with new facilities for tennis, football, soccer, track & field, swimming, and golf either completed or under construction. Rally Club invites you to be a part of the movement; #GoOwls!!!



## RICE RALLY CLUB

Rally Club is one of eleven blanket tax organizations on campus dedicated to increasing awareness, interest, excitement, and attendance of Rice sporting events. The club was originally founded in 1926, fell apart in the early 2000s, but returned to campus with an invigorated spirit and passion to meet its goals and fulfill its mission in 2014.

The club uses three main channels to distribute information to the student body about Rice athletics. The club has a Facebook (Rice Rally Club) and a twitter (@RiceRallyClub), which it uses to give information about upcoming games, tailgates, and promotions. The second channel is through the Residential Colleges where fliers and posters are displayed to spread awareness. The last channel is through the Rice Student Rewards App. The app has

a schedule of all Rice Athletic events, sends students notification before major games, and sends weekly emails recapping the week ahead. Through the app, students accumulate points just for attending games or engaging with Rice Athletics on social media. These points can then be redeemed for a bunch of cool prizes.

The Rally Club is also responsible for throwing all pre-game tailgates for all sports. The club has a tailgate for every football game and then two to five tailgates for every other sport depending on schedules and key matchups. The tailgates always include food and some include fun tailgate games, contests, or giveaways. Get ready for a new surprise addition to the stadium from Rice Athletics...



## ALMA MATER: RICE'S HONOR

All for Rice's Honor, we will fight on.  
We will be fighting when this day is done.  
And when the dawn comes breaking,  
We'll be fighting on, Rice, for the Gray and Blue.  
We will be loyal, to Rice be true.

(To the tune of "Our Director March," written by  
Frederick E. Bigelow. Lyrics written by Ben H. Mitchell '24 in 1922.)



## RICE FIGHT SONG

Fight for Rice, Rice fight on, loyal sons arise.  
The Blue and Gray for Rice today, comes breaking through skies.  
Fight, fight, fight!  
Stand and cheer, Vict'ry's near, Sammy leads the way.  
Onward go! To crush the foe, we'll fight for Blue and Gray.

(Words and music by Louis Gerard '40)



## RICE CHEER

Rice fight never dies!  
Blue gray in the sky!  
Stand, cheer, vict'ry's near!  
Go go gooooooo Rice!



## MASCOT: SAMMY THE OWL

Sammy's story begins way back in the pre-university day, when the Rice Institute was founded in 1912. That first year, the Rice intercollegiate teams chose the owl for a mascot. In 1917, when students from Southwest Conference football rival Texas A&M kidnapped the owl (at that time a canvas and fiberglass incarnation), Rice students pooled their resources and hired a private detective to go to College Station to find the missing mascot. When the detective, having recovered the owl, sent a coded telegram to Houston that read "Sammy is fairly well and would like to see his parents at eleven o'clock," the Rice mascot had a name.



Sammy has gone through many forms since the canvas and fiberglass days. At one point, live great horned owls were present at university sporting events. In recent years, Sammy has traveled to bowls games with the football team, he never misses the Houston Rodeo, and is a frequent flyer to many Rice events. He enjoys dancing, signing autographs, and getting into trouble. Look for him at the next football, men's basketball, or women's basketball game; he's happy to become your profile picture!



Spirit &  
Tradition

## BEER BIKE

How can one describe Beer Bike? Mere words fail to do it justice. If you ask any Rice student what their favorite holiday is, the nearly unanimous answer will be “Beer Bike.” It’s like Christmas morning for college students, except way better.

First, the basics: It all started way back in 1957, when a small but hearty group of intrepid students decided to create an inter-college relay race which consisted of biking around the inner loop, stopping half-way through each lap to chug a beer then jump back on the bike. It was originally called the “Inter-College Bicycle Race,” but this unnecessarily verbose title was dropped in the 1960s and replaced with the much more efficient and catchy “Beer Bike.” And thus, an institution was born. The race is always on a Saturday in March, and it has expanded from one to three separate races: alumni, women’s, and men’s. Each race consists of ten chuggers (they chug water now, not beer) and ten bikers from each college, competing against one another for eternal glory (or at least a few months’ worth of bragging rights). At the sound of a gunshot, the first chugger from each team nearly inhales the water at inhuman speeds (24 ounces for the men, 12 for the women and alumni), the first biker is pushed off with legs already pumping (1 mile for the men, 2/3rds miles for the women and alumni), and the race is afoot. Then it’s chugger, biker, chugger, biker, etc. until all ten chuggers and ten bikers are done. Everyone then gives each other a hearty pat on the back, some cheers and anti-cheers are exchanged, and it’s back to respective college quads for free food and further festivities. But what began as

a simple and creative competition has evolved into a cornerstone of Rice culture. Beer Bike is no longer just an isolated event. It’s an entire year’s worth of anticipation and preparation culminating in a week of festivities and activities that gradually crescendos, erupting in an explosion of college spirit, athleticism, and camaraderie that leaves in its wake a student body both exhausted and blissfully content.

The week preceding Beer Bike is known as “Willy Week,” after William Marsh Rice (the founder of the university, in case you skipped the section on Rice history). This week is marked by a surge in college spirit as jacks plague the campus, cheer and anti-cheer battles become commonplace, and each quad will find groups of die-hard individuals filling water balloons around the clock for the water balloon fight on Beer Bike morning (as the second largest in the world, it’s much more of a war than a fight). The week is also filled with nightly campus-wide celebrations: concerts, international beer night, Beer Bike trivia, the beer debates...the list goes on and on. Inevitably, academics tend to suffer during Willy Week as people get caught up in the excitement. Hopefully not too much. The Saturday of Willy Week is Beer Bike itself, and what a glorious day it is. Each college has its own distinctly different approach to the event: Will Rice takes winning really seriously, the Sid Rich men’s team sometimes intentionally disqualifies itself, and all of the other colleges fall somewhere along the spectrum. No matter how intense your college might take Beer Bike, it goes without saying it will be a time to remember.



## JACKS

Of all the mischief of which you new students may partake at Rice, jacks are up there with the best of it. A jack is a large-scale prank carried out by one residential college on another college, several other colleges, or the university itself. The magic happens only during Willy Week and O-Week, while the rest of the year is reserved for planning. The token jack of Rice’s history happened 22 years ago, when a group of Wiessmen managed to rotate Willy’s statue in the Academic Quad a full 180 degrees overnight. Other jacks have involved a moat outside of Wiess, Houston mayor Annise Parker, and hung up pandas in Duncan’s commons. Certainly, the jacks of yesteryear set a high standard, and it can be intimidating, but we believe in you. Go ahead and re-define EPIC. Before you get too excited (or, for parents reading the O-Week pamphlet, concerned for your child), do consider that there are limits to how far a jack can go. Specifically,

- You can’t “jack” individuals. That’s harassment.
- Anything that risks physical injury to anyone is not allowed.
- Jacks have to be reversible. If there’s property damage, your college pays the bill.
- Certain items are practically sacred to certain colleges. You can’t touch these.
- Jacks should be fun. If the jacked college can’t say “Dude, that was awesome!” it probably isn’t a good jack.

The finer points will be explained to you later, but the essential concept is that jacks are always fun, never malicious. With that in mind, have fun! And if you come up with anything awesome, keep it hush-hush until the opportune moment - you don’t want the other residential colleges getting wind of it early.

**Life  
Outside  
of the  
Classroom**



# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Rice has a wide variety of clubs and organizations for almost any interest that a person could have. Everything from Archery to Zumba can be found among the many different options at Rice. Interested in building a concrete canoe? Connecting with people of your religion? Helping out at the humane shelter? Tutoring refugees? Singing in an acapella group? Learning how to dance? Editing a student run newspaper? Continuing a sport from high school or picking up a new one? All this and more can be found here. And if you can't find any organization containing your specific interest, start your own! No matter what your interests, there are activities outside of class and organizations around Rice for everyone.



For a full list of student organizations at Rice, visit

<http://goo.gl/164qUc>

# INTRAMURAL & CLUB SPORTS

Even if you aren't one of Rice's varsity athletes, you will have plenty of opportunities to participate in all kinds of organized sports during your time at Rice.

The Intramural Sports program offers a wide variety of individual, dual, and team sports to all students, faculty, and staff at Rice University. Rice offers over twenty intramural sports and over twenty club sports, so chances are, there's a sport out there for you. You can sign up for sports ranging from ultimate frisbee to inner tube water polo. IM sports are the easiest way to get involved in organized sports, and they are entirely free for you to sign up!

Intramural (IM) sports are a fun way to participate in sports you may not have ever played before, in a relatively low-competitive environment. IM sports can be played with other members of your college or with friends from many different colleges, depending on the format. Each college team can sign up and compete in the college-only Leagues to compete for the President's Cup. Whether you choose to be a multi-sport connoisseur or focus your talents on dominating a single sport, come on out and play!

If you're looking for a more competitive atmosphere, Rice also offers club sports, which are different from IM sports in that these teams compete against other schools, such as Texas A&M, University of Houston, and Tulane. Club sports are typically require a higher level of commitment than IM sports, but don't let this discourage you from trying out! Many students try out for fun and end up really dedicating themselves to a sport they picked up their freshman year for all their years at Rice.

If you want more information about playing IM Sports, contact your College Sports Rep or go to

<http://recreation.rice.edu/ims>



## MUSIC FOR NON-MAJORS

One of the best things about Rice is the number of musical opportunities that happen right on campus! From acapella groups to musical theatre, you'll be sure to find a musical outlet. Just because you're not majoring in music does not mean that you have to give it up when you get to Rice. First, there's Campanile, a full orchestra that rehearses once a week at Shepherd. If you're interested in playing in a more classical setting, this might be for you! In addition, there's the Rice Symphonic Band and the Rice Chorale. You can earn course credit in all three of these groups, and each group puts on at least one performance a semester.

Secondly, what's college without some awesome acapella groups? There are currently five groups – Low Keys (female), Apollos (male), the Phils, Nocturnal (both co-ed), and Basmati Beats (also co-ed) – and auditions are held in the beginning of the year. Even if you've never sung in an acapella group before, you sure can give it a try at Rice! Thirdly, there are a couple of musical theater productions a year. Don't be afraid to go out of your comfort zone and try out! You could just step into the best experience of your life. Rice offers many outlets to nurture and enjoy your musical talents. So no matter what you prefer, you're sure to find something that suits your note.



## PERFORMING ARTS

Rice students can be quite dramatic, so it's no wonder that theatre here is so vibrant! With the help of brilliant faculty, occasional visiting professionals, and the facilities of Hamman Hall, the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts produces one play every semester, auditions for which are open to all students. Also, the Rice Players area campus-wide theater troupe that presents not only full-length productions but also student-written one-act plays.

Meanwhile, almost every college puts on shows every year, ranging from the renowned musicals of Wiess Tabletop to annual Shakespeare performances at BakerShake (Fun fact: Baker Shake is Houston's oldest Shakespearean Troupe, now beginning its 44th year!). Students can participate in these plays regardless of what college they're in, and even if you don't want to act, shows always need hands to help with lighting, costumes, scenery, and more.

All in all, theatre can make for great entertainment, bonding, and learning experiences. Rice has other amazing performance groups that put you on stage without having to memorize lines. Spontaneous Combustion (a.k.a. Spo-Co), Rice's improv troupe, makes audiences' stomachs hurt from laughing nonstop, as well as. Also, Rice Dance Theatre, puts on modern dance shows, and there are multiple other dance organizations from different cultures!



So it's summer before your first year and you really need to get a job on campus next year. This may seem like a scary proposition, but don't panic. There are a ton of resources available to help you with your job search, and there will be many upperclassmen who will be happy to help you with any questions you may have. The Job Board website will probably be your best friend. This website, run through the Rice Office of Financial Aid, is open only to Rice students and Rice employers. Employers post job descriptions, required prerequisites, work hours, etc. Potential employees (you!) post resumes and other relevant documents, all electronically. If an employer likes your resume, he or she will contact you personally to set up an interview/meeting. Certain employers will only take federal work-study employees, so make sure you check on your specific workstudy status through the Office of Financial Aid before signing anything. Your employer will

also help you fill out the necessary forms to ensure you get paid in a timely and fair manner. Working on campus has many perks: You don't need a car to get to your job, and Rice employers are generally pretty flexible about scheduling around your academic needs. Jobs can range from filing at Resource Development to greeting people at the Rec Center to guiding tours to setting up electronics at the Jones School of Business.

Regardless of which job you choose, though, it is important to strike a balance between work and the other aspects of your life at Rice. Please advocate for yourself—academics always come first, and you shouldn't hesitate to talk to your boss if you're having problems balancing everything. Your advisors, other upperclassmen, RAs, HRFs, or Magisters are also fantastic resources to help you navigate the world of employment.

## LIVING WITH A ROOMMATE

In the very near future, you'll receive a packet of questionnaires, a picture, and the name of someone you'll be spending an entire year with—your roommate! While you may be nervous or worried right now, you should be getting excited! Having a roommate is an incredible opportunity not only for friendship, but also for personal growth. For many of you, sharing your personal space may be completely new and it is important that you learn to adapt. Kind of like a newlywed couple, you're going to have to make compromises while you adjust to living with one another. At first, you may feel like it's difficult to connect with your roommate. Even if you don't think you have that much in common, try to make conversation! Whether you ask about their hobbies or talk about how awesome your advisors are, getting to know your roommate is important to living together successfully. Open communication can go a long way toward helping



you and your roommate live well together. The earlier you start, the better! Taking the time to discuss your sleep schedules, guest preferences, and other habits can save you energy and frustration later on. Try to keep an open mind as well. You may see things on their roommate information form that bother you, but that won't tell you everything about them. They're just as excited and nervous to meet you as you are to meet them. Lastly, you and your roommate don't need to become best friends. The O-Week Coordinators have worked hard to match you with a roommate based on your personality (as described on your information form) and your preferences, but it's up to you to form a good relationship with your roommate. Some roommates do become good friends, and that's awesome, but the most important thing is that you can respectfully coexist.



## BALANCE

Rice University is an academically rigorous institution. Academic courses here represent the culmination of years of experience from industry specialists and academics from a variety of fields. While classroom education is valued and present in the Rice experience Rice students understand that education comes in many forms. Whether it be through independent research, community service, or extracurricular activities students at Rice find ways to enrich their lives beyond the academic. Rice campus is a treasure trove of opportunities and the extent of your involvement is entirely at your discretion. Rice maintains a comprehensive and inclusive intramural league as well as competitive intercollegiate club sports. In addition, there are over two-hundred clubs and organizations at Rice which represents Rice's diversity in religion and culture. Just beyond the borders of Rice campus there lies Houston, one of the great metropolitan areas in the U.S.,

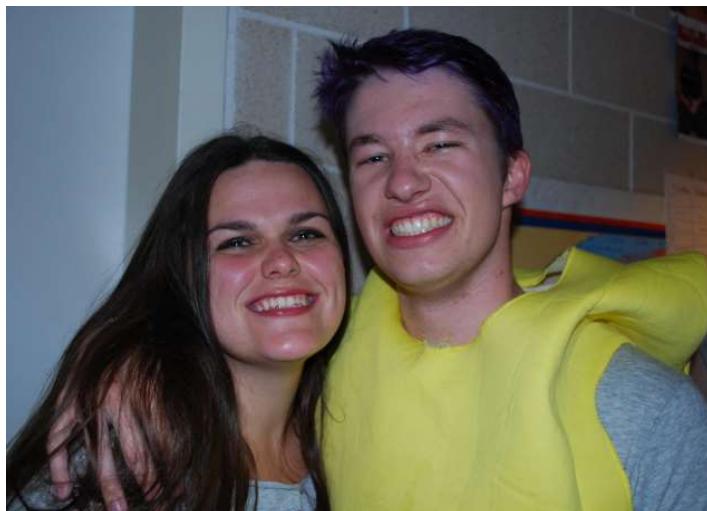
where there are even more opportunities for community involvement and civic engagement. Outside of participating in the opportunities on and off-campus engaging in the diverse and inclusive community here at Rice represents involvement in and of itself. Your first semester represents a time to discover where your passions lie but keep your well-being in the forefront of your mind when making these commitments. The Rice experience is your own to mold and the resources on campus represent an opportunity not an obligation. Follow your passions and take chances but be mindful of how much you can handle. Academic advisors, your college Magisters, and your peers are all available to help find a balance between your goals that you can be proud of. If you ever feel overwhelmed remember that your advisors, associates, friends, counselors, mentors, colleagues, and professors are here to support you.

Parties at Rice are either public (a themed party hosted by a residential college or club and open to all) or private (a smaller gathering for invited friends). Nearly every college throws public parties with themes such as Duncan's Duncstep (two-stepping) Party, Sid Richardson's 80s Party, Brown's Bacchanalia (toga! toga!), or Martel's Texas party and they are almost always widely attended. With over-the-top decorations, free food and drink, and dance floors that stay active and packed until the wee hours of the morning, it's hard to resist checking these parties out. Private parties are where you can socialize with a smaller crowd and take place either in dorm rooms or off-campus. People love to have creative themes for these, so expect something as obscure as "Hipsters vs. Dinosaurs."

Just remember that whatever the scene, parties are all about having a good time and meeting new people. Parties (particularly public parties) at Rice are heavily frequented by new students, so your first year here is a great opportunity to meet new people. For those of you who partied in high school, college parties may be quite different from what you are used to. They are usually

packed with more people than you ever imagined could fit into a single room and there might be many people drinking. For drinking at parties, you should refer to the Alcohol Policy article in the Campus Policies section.

Keep in mind you don't have to drink at parties if you don't want to - parties are all about having a good time and you should never feel pressured to drink or do anything that makes you uncomfortable. Also keep in mind that while parties might be the most publicized events on campus, there are many subtle but entertaining opportunities everywhere you look. Many clubs throw annual cultural celebrations with good food, music, dance, and socializing rolled into one. Various other groups on campus put on improv comedy shows, acapella performances, plays, and other cultural or social events. Beyond those, you can also get involved with other Rice events such as varsity sports games, concerts at the Shepherd School of Music. Whether it be through parties, or campus events, or a combination of both, you will have plenty of opportunities to expose yourself to new people, new cultures, and new ideas, in an environment that suits you.



# SEX & SEXUALITY

As any Rice student will tell you, the Rice population is made up of an incredibly diverse group of students from all parts of the world and they bring with them very different attitudes and experiences surrounding sex, sexuality, and gender. Some incoming students may be in long-distance relationships, some may have dated ever since they can remember, and others may not have any experience with relationships at all. Each student has different values and different ideas about what a relationship should be like and what behaviors that entails. No matter what you believe or have experienced regarding sex, there is a place at Rice for you: there are students who only have sex if they are in a serious relationship, students who date and have sex casually, students who don't have sex at all, students who date or have sex with multiple people, students who date people of the same sex, students who date people of the other sex, and students who fall in-between these categories. According to a recent survey by the Rice Wellness Center, approximately 50% of Rice undergraduate students have not engaged in sex.

That being said, coming to college is an opportunity to explore and try new things. You are away from your parents and friends from high school and establishing your beliefs, maybe for the first time. You are also surrounded by hundreds of people your age, with varying interests and backgrounds. Don't be afraid to experiment and find out what you like. Just remember that, no matter who you are interacting with and how, you should prioritize your mental and physical health and wellness. If you are going to engage in sexual activities, it is important to be safe. Discuss your relationship and your boundaries with your partner(s) and always use protection if engaging in a sexual act. You can get condoms, dental dams, informational pamphlets, and other materials from Rice Health Advisors, the Wellness Center, the Women's Resource Center, and Health Services. In the event of an emergency, Plan B is available in Texas without a prescription to anyone over

the age of 18. It is also a good idea to lay out ground rules with your roommate and suitemates and discuss your expectations, like who can come over when or how to let your roommates know you need privacy. Also remember that sex must always be consensual. In Texas, if you or your partner is drunk or otherwise intoxicated, you cannot legally consent to sex. Be open with your partner and always respect their decisions.

If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual, an ally, or you find yourself questioning your sexuality or gender identity at Rice, don't worry: Rice is an open and friendly environment and there are plenty of resources available to you, both on campus and in the Houston community. Definitely check out Queers and Allies, which is open to all undergraduate and graduate students and provides a venue to interact socially with other queer students on campus, check out resources relating to sexuality and gender, and get involved with activism and visibility efforts both at Rice and in Houston. Another resource for queer students and people interested in learning more about sexuality and gender is the Rice Ally Program, which educates students, faculty, and staff about what it means to be LGBT, how to support someone who is coming out, and how to fight heterosexism and discrimination. If you are coming out or thinking about coming out and need someone to talk to, look for the Rice Ally placard on the door of any office or dorm room at Rice: it means that those faculty, staff, or students are ally-trained and happy to help you. The Rice Counseling Center is also available to anyone who is questioning their sexuality or gender identity or having other personal, sexual, or relationship problems. Their services are free and confidential.

Overall, sexuality at Rice is as diverse as the other aspects of the school. What is important is that you are true to yourself, respectful to those who are different from you, and always safe!



An aerial photograph of Houston, Texas, showing the city skyline in the background under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a light rail or streetcar is visible on tracks, moving along a street lined with trees and buildings. The text "Houston & Texas" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Houston & Texas

# OVERVIEW OF HOUSTON

Houston is a great city with all sorts of cool opportunities. Most of the year, the weather is great (though you may want to invest in rain boots and an umbrella for the days it's not). Since Houston is the fourth largest city in the country, you never run out of cool things to see and do. The city's massive diversity means great food and a variety of cultural events. If you've got a car, you can easily drive to the Galleria (Houston's largest mall), NASA Space Center, Kemah Boardwalk, or even the beaches of Galveston Island! If you don't have a car, no worries! You can always ride the METROail (with a card that Rice funds for all of its students) to see professional sports games, ballet, opera, and symphony performances, the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo in the spring (aka the world's BIGGEST rodeo), Discovery Green park, and all sorts of hip



places to eat or grab coffee in Midtown or Downtown. You can walk to Hermann Park to see festivals, music in the Miller Outdoor Theater, the zoo, and a great running trail. We have the Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Museum of Fine Arts very close to METROail stops. You can drive (or even bike) to the Houston Arboretum and Memorial Park to walk the trails and take a break from urban life. There is really never a shortage of fun things to see and do in this awesome city (there's just not enough time to experience all of it!). The METROail is expanding, friends have cars, and the weather is usually good enough for biking or walking. Though Rice will be hard to leave because it's such a wonderful place, don't forget that there is an amazing city right outside the hedges that is just waiting to be explored.



# PLACES OF WORSHIP

So you're looking for a church, mosque, temple or other place of worship. Finding a place to worship away from Rice can be difficult initially especially if you don't have a car. Maybe you don't know what religion you are but you're now interested in exploring. Either way the communities of students and faculty here at Rice are extremely excited to welcome you to Rice. There are several religious organizations at Rice and students here are very open-minded about different faiths and respect the diversity that comes with religion. If you just need some time to get away and pray, the interdenominational chapel on campus is open by the student center



whenever you need it. Take advantage of the O-Week fair and the activity fair at the beginning of the year to talk to students in your faith or a faith that you are interested in and ask around about their place of worship. By doing this you'll not only have a clearer direction on where to go but also who to talk to about finding a community and maybe a ride! Take some time to immerse yourself within fellowships and meetings and see if any jumps out at you. Who knows, maybe you'll find another family on campus, where it wouldn't be just about learning religion, but about a sisterhood/brotherhood. If you decide to take the road solo here are a few jumping off points:

- Buddhist Centers - Diamond Way
- Covenant Baptist Church
- Dawn Mountain
- Grace Bible Church
- HARE Krishna Temple
- Hillel Foundation
- Islamic Society of Greater Houston
- Lakewood Church
- Masjid Muhammadi
- Nation of Islam
- Sanatan Shiv Shakti Mandir
- St. Phillip Presbyterian Church
- Temple Sinai
- United Orthodox Synagogues
- West University Baptist Church

# TEXAS ROAD TRIPS

Texas is home to a number of diverse attractions, hidden gems, and historical landmarks. If you have the opportunity and access to a car, grab some friends and some snacks and set off on a road trip adventure! Here are some popular destinations worth seeing:

## GALVESTON (50 MILES)

Although the beaches aren't Hawaii, the 45-minute drive to Galveston still makes for an enjoyable and relaxing day trip! Bring along a football or a Frisbee and some food to grill and you're all set for a fun day at the beach. You may be interested in seeing Moody Gardens or the historical Strand district while you're there!



## AUSTIN (165 MILES)

Less than three hours away, the Texas state capital is a must-see for anyone interested in culture, nature, and live music. Additionally, Austin's popular slogan, "Keep Austin Weird," embodies the free-spirited and eclectic vibe of the city. Famous for its nightlife and amazing restaurants, 6th street and South Congress—colloquially called "SoCo"—boast a wealth of things to experience! Home to popular music festivals like ACL and SXSW, Austin also has fantastic shopping and boutiques.



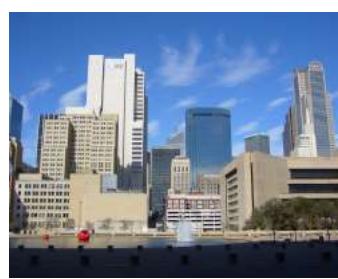
## SAN ANTONIO (190 MILES)

Just about three hours away, San Antonio is home to the historical Alamo! Immerse yourself in frontier history or take a stroll on the beautiful and bustling Riverwalk. For the thrill-seekers, visit Six Flags Fiesta Texas and enjoy rollercoasters and water rides. Animal-lovers can take in all their aquatic desires at Sea World.



## DALLAS (240 MILES)

Located in north Texas approximately four hours from Rice, Dallas offers great museums, amusement parks (there is a Zero Gravity one!), and sporting venues for you to explore! As one of the largest cities in the nation, Dallas offers both a true Texas feel with an international perspective. Feel free to visit the Texas State Fair and Hurricane Harbor to have some real fun!



## CAMPING

Texas offers a variety of different outdoor landscapes, allowing for fantastic camping and hiking opportunities! Rock-climbing at Enchanted Rock, kayaking or canoeing down Guadalupe River, or exploring the mountainous Big Bend National Park are all great options, but there are many other Texas parks and wildlife destinations that are also great places to camp out or spend a long weekend!



# *Conclusion*

# FINAL WORDS FROM THE O-WEEK STUDENT DIRECTORS

Dear New Student,

We hope this book has provided you with answers to many of your questions. If you still have any lingering questions, feel free to email us at [oween@rice.edu](mailto:oween@rice.edu)

When we were selected as O-Week Student Directors, one of our first tasks was coming up with a vision for O-Week 2017. We came up with a two-part vision:

- 1) Think critically about your values and how they shape your experiences and decisions
- 2) Consider other perspectives when going through life

As your summer comes to an end and you start preparing to move to Rice, we challenge you to start thinking about our vision and see how you can incorporate it into your own personal Rice experience.

Above all, keep an open mind! You'll never know what you're missing out on if you don't try new things. Put yourself out there, become who you want to be in college. This time is yours to own.

Can't wait to see you in a few weeks!

Patrick Garr & Abril Brugo  
O-Week Student Directors



# RICE SPEAK

**All-nighter:** When you stay up all night, whether it's working on an assignment, or hanging out with other night owls. Considered incomplete until you attend breakfast or see the sun rise before crashing. Common usage: to pull an all-nighter.

**Anderson:** Anderson Hall, known as the twelfth residential college; home of the archis.

**Archi (ar-kee):** A student majoring in architecture. Find one if you ever need something drawn.

**ASB:** Alternative Spring Break; the alternative involves a service project, often in another state.

**Associate:** Faculty, staff, and community members associated with a college. They're good people to get to know.

**Associate's Night:** A formal dinner held in your college's commons once a semester to honor its Associates. Dress up and come eat good food with interesting people.

**Backpage:** The back page of the Thresher, containing classifieds (free to Rice students), and satire.

**Baker 13:** A tradition where members undress, smear shaving cream on their bodies, and run around campus leaving a trail of body prints. It has been a proud Baker tradition for over thirty years but all undergrads are invited to participate!

**Baker Institute/Baker Hall:** The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and the building that houses The Institute. Not to be confused with Baker College.

**Bakerite:** A resident of Baker College.

**Beer Bike:** A very competitive, inter-college race/event held every spring, in which ten bikers and ten chuggers from each college compete in an epic struggle for personal and college pride.

**Beyond the Hedges:** See: Real World. It's got a ton of amazing stuff, from food to sports. Get out there and explore it!

**Big Three:** Specifically, chemistry, calculus, and physics. Almost all science/engineering students take the big three during their freshman year.

**Blow off:** To postpone doing something, as in "let's blow off studying and go to House of Pies instead."

**Boba:** Another word for Bubble Tea (a sweetened Asian tea beverage with tapioca balls). This is a very popular drink amongst Rice students and is often sold by clubs on campus.

**Book Store:** This is where you can go to get all

your textbooks for class, plus lots of nifty Rice paraphernalia. Take your parents there so you can all get gear to show off your school pride. Some students opt to purchase used books from their friends or buy books online instead of using the book store.

**Brownie:** A resident of Brown College

**Cabinet:** The governing body of \_\_\_\_\_ College. Made up entirely of \_\_\_\_\_ students. Meets every \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ pm in the \_\_\_\_\_. There is always free food. Be there and get involved.

**Campanile (kam-pa-neel-ee)**

A bell tower of any kind. The Rice yearbook, a mythical creature, which used to be known only to appear every leap year. For the past few years they've been out the fall after the year it covers. The yearbook crew does a great job, so it is well worth the wait. Rice's undergraduate orchestra for non-music majors.

**Chug:** One half of the Beer Bike race. Often proceeded by one of Rice's most sacred chants: "They're forty yards out, they're thirty yards, ready, set suck suck suck suck....!"

**Coffeehouse:** A student-run coffee shop providing the best legal way to artificially increase your study skills on short notice. Located in the RMC.

**Cohen House:** The faculty dining club near Sewall Hall. They make very good food. A few steps above the serveries. If you get the opportunity to eat or work there, take it.

**College Night:** Not just a night, but actually a full day of themed partying held every semester, where your entire college celebrates its awesomeness together. Every college has its own.

**D1, D2, D3:** Refers to distribution credits, Rice's way of making sure you get a balanced education. Roughly, D1 = humanities and arts, D2 = social sciences, and D3 = science and engineering. 12 credit hours of each category are required to graduate.

**DMC:** The Digital Media Center. A technophile's dream. Lots of computers to use and cool equipment available to check out. Located in the basement of Fondren Library.

**Duncaroo:** A resident of Duncan College.

**Eight AM's:** Classes beginning at 8 a.m. Look out if you take one. For whatever reason, eight AM's in college aren't as easy to wake up for, no matter what time you got up in high school.

**Extension:** A wonderful thing! A lengthened deadline for a paper/project, obtained by asking a prof. Use discretion when requesting

one. (Note: must actually ask prof)

**First Look Book:** Officially the Newcomers Guide, a book with a catalogue of pictures of all incoming students. This is a great resource if you're trying to figure out just who exactly it is that you're in the middle of talking about, or who it is that you keep meeting but can't remember for the life of you. Also, very useful in finding a Screw Yer Roommate date for your roommate in conjunction with Facebook.

**Fondren/Fondy:** The Rice library. It has seminar rooms, study rooms, and classrooms. It's a great place to study (and take a quick nap between classes). It's open 24 hours a day during the week.

**Frog Wall:** An architectural quirk of Anderson Hall, and popular stop for tour groups. Running your hand down the ridges of the wall produces a frog-like noise. Try it out for yourself.

**Gen-Chem:** Short for General Chemistry. This is a challenging course which many first-year students will take.

**GSA (Graduate Student Association):** The members of the various graduate programs at Rice. We play them in college sports and take some higher-level classes with them.

**Hanszenite:** A resident of Hanszen College.

**HBCB:** Honey Butter Chicken Biscuit. A tasty snack served at Whataburger and at the Hoot. It is sold late at night and rumored to also be sold in the morning. Use full name when ordering, Whataburger doesn't know Rice Speak.

**Hedges:** Extensive botanical growth found surrounding campus and in the quad. "Beyond the hedges" refers to the world beyond Rice.

**The Hoot:** A proud purveyor of late night food located in the RMC. Lifesaver for a long night of studying.

**House of Pies:** Delicious pie, obviously. This 24-hour diner is a late-night essential. **Housing & Dining:** The administrative office in charge of all food service and residential buildings on campus. Often referred to as H&D for short. Make sure to thank them for all they do!

**IM:** Intramural. Informal, low-stress sports played among students. Not to be confused with college sports which are played between teams representing each of the colleges, with points going towards the President's Cup.

**Ironman/Ironwoman:** Someone who both rides and chugs at Beer Bike (not at the same time). A class act and a real hero.

**Jack:** To pull a prank, usually on another college. The more clever and over-the-top (without being destructive/offensive) the

better. Poop in a bag doesn't cut it.

**Jonesian:** A resident of Jones College.

**Jones School:** Rice's Graduate School of Business. Not to be confused with Jones College.

**KTRU (kay-true):** The campus radio station, which now streams online, is a student operated radio station that plays everything from jazz, to reggae, to bands you probably didn't think existed.

**Ley Student Center:** Wing of the RMC that houses the Thresher, Student Association (SA), Campanile, KTRU, RPC, and Academic Advising offices, as well as Coffeehouse.

**Leebron:** Our beloved president, Dr. David Leebron. Also known as Bron-Bron or Leeks.

**Lovetteer:** A resident of Lovett College.

**Martelian:** A resident of Martel College.

**Matriculation:** Ceremony held during O-Week to officially welcome you to Rice.

**Murt:** A resident of McMurtry College.

**Media Center:** Building found near the stadium, where film and photography classes are held. Also houses a gallery space and theater with Houston's only silver screen.

**MOB (The Marching Owl Band):** They do not in fact march, nor is any musical ability required for membership, and they're the only band around with electric violins and kazoos. They always put on an entertaining show during halftime filled with amusing skits, jibes at opposing teams, and zany antics. Permanently banned from A&M.

**Montrose:** The area near campus around the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer. Contains lots of LGBTQ friendly clubs, restaurants, and all sorts of unique places.

**Mudd Lab:** The university computer center. If you have problems with your computer, the people here are glad to help out. Also, a great place to print large posters or anything in color.

**Musi:** A student majoring in the field of Music (i.e. Instrument, composition, etc.). See "Shepherd School."

**NOD (Night of Decadence):** A big party near Halloween which features lots of beverages and "decadent costumes." The only college-sponsored party (see "public party") you have to pay money to go to.

**O/C (Off Campus):** People who live off campus are referred to as "being O/C". People who live far away from Rice, or seem to spend a lot of time outside the hedges are referred to as "deep O/C".

**Orgo:** Short for organic chemistry. A

challenging course that Pre-Meds will get to know very well.

**Outer Loop:** The path that encircles campus. Great for a jog. About 3 miles long.

**Owl Days:** A weekend in the spring when lots of admitted high school seniors come to visit campus. Sign up to host and show someone how great Rice is.

**Pass-Fail:** You can declare a Pass-Fail for up to four courses not required for your major at Rice. Only one can be used per semester, but they can be lifesavers. You only need a D- in a class designated P/F to receive a P on your transcript. It does not influence your GPA unless you receive a failing grade. Great way to explore new classes and take some fun classes with no pressure.

**Brochstein Pavilion (or simply Brochstein):** This is a modernistic glass building located behind Fondren. Home to Salento (a non-student-operated coffee shop) and is a great place to relax and sit outside.

**Powderpuff:** Women's college flag football. One of the most intense (and fun) of the college sports, as well as a great spectator sport. Played during the fall semester.

**Pub:** "Pub" or "Willy's Pub" is located in the basement of the RMC. In addition to selling beer and pizza, they also serve wine coolers, subs, sodas, etc. If you want to be somewhere loud and dark, try the pub on Thursday nights, also known as Pub Night.

**Public Party:** Party thrown by a residential college. Most colleges throw one per semester, some throw one per year. Open to any Rice undergrad. All are themed so dress appropriately! Always feature a poppin' dance floor. Known as a "public."

**Private Party:** A party thrown by a group of people in a residential college, rather than the whole college. The rules and regulations vary with each college but they're outlined by the Alcohol Policy. Known as a "private".

**Pumpkin Grades:** Mid-semester grades given to new students in the fall so that they have an indication of how they are doing. They come out around Halloween.

**Quad:** The central academic quadrangle fixed around Willy's statue. Formerly known as the "academic quad." Can also refer to the open, grassy quadrangle of your college.

**R2 (The Rice Review):** An independent literary magazine published entirely by students.

**REMS (Rice Emergency Medical Service):** Known as EMT's, they're a group of dedicated, trained Rice students that provide medical attention in an emergency. You can join them too by taking the EMS class at Rice.

**Rice Players:** Only campus theater group not

associated with a college. Usually well worth the ticket price. Shows at Hamman Hall.

**Rice Village:** Also called "the Village," this commercial area is located just west of campus, within walking distance. Rice provides shuttle service to and from the Village on Saturday nights. Easy place for a carefree date.

**RMC (Rice Memorial Center):** This is the student center and location of the book store, Pub, Sammy's, Coffeehouse, Rice Bikes, and Recharge U. You can use the ATM there, as well as buy stamps at the Info Desk.

**Room Draw (Jack):** The process we use to assign rooms for the next year. It's a little bit complicated, but you'll figure it out.

**RPC (Rice Program Council):** The organization in charge of all university-wide social events. It's in charge of Beer Bike, Screw Yer Roommate, Esperanza, study breaks, etc.

**Rustication:** A harsh penalty in which a student is not allowed on campus except for classes and tests. There are a variety of different forms which this punishment takes based on the nature of the transgression. (i.e. Social Rustication represents a banning of a student from any school sponsored social event but does not denote a removal from campus housing)

**SA (Student Association):** The campus-wide body representing students. The SA deals with campus-wide issues and administrative business. Its officials are elected and you're already a member.

**Sallyport:** The big archway in the middle of Lovett Hall. Tradition holds that if you walk through it between matriculation and graduation you won't graduate.

**Screw Yer Roommate:** A Rice tradition held in the fall in which roommates set up blind dates for each other, and then either have a good time, or realize it wasn't meant to be.

**Servery:** The kitchen where your everyday food is made. Every college either has its own servery or shares one with nearby colleges.

**Shepherd School (or simply Shepherd):** Rice's School of Music. One of the nation's top conservatories, they hold free performances of some kind or other almost every day.

**Sidizen:** A resident of Sid Richardson College (simply known as "Sid")

**SMR:** Student Maintenance Representative, one at every college. This individual is the liaison between Housing & Dining and the students. They can help you change light bulbs, loft your bed, and should be contacted if there are any malfunctions in your room.

**Steam Tunnels:** The system of underground tunnels connecting all the buildings on campus. Strictly off-limits, but it's cool to know they're there. In recent years, they've

given tours of the tunnels to small groups of students, so watch out for the opportunity

**Sweep:** To win all the races at Beer Bike—men's, women's and alumni. Baker was the first college to sweep in 1976, contrary to Will Rice's claim that they are the only college to have swept.

**TC:** Taco Cabana. A 24-hour, Mexican-food-serving institution, and an all-nighter's best friend.

**Tetra Points:** The credit that comes with your meal plan, usually called Tetra. You start every semester with 50 Tetra Points and it rolls-over if you don't use it all. You can use Tetra to buy food/drinks in the Student Center or other campus eateries.

**Thresher:** Rice's student-operated newspaper. Famous for the Backpage and theater reviews of varying quality.

**Trashier:** The April Fools edition of the Thresher. Not "officially" part of the Thresher however.

**Ubangee:** Wiess tradition frequently unleashed upon anyone at any time. Think of it as an incredibly intense group hug colliding with a massive dog pile.

**Valhalla:** The graduate student bar located underneath Keck Hall. Allegedly serves the cheapest beer in Houston.

**Westheimer:** Street north of campus that is one of Houston's main thoroughfares. Has a huge assortment of interesting places and

restaurants.

**Wiessmen:** Residents of Wiess College.

**Willy's Statue:** Memorial statue and burial site of William Marsh Rice in the Central Quad. Commonly used as a meeting spot (Screw Yer Roommate). In a famous jack, Willy was turned 180 degrees by some ingenious Wiessmen.

**Willy Week:** The week preceding Beer Bike, filled with college activities, alumni, and plenty of jacks.

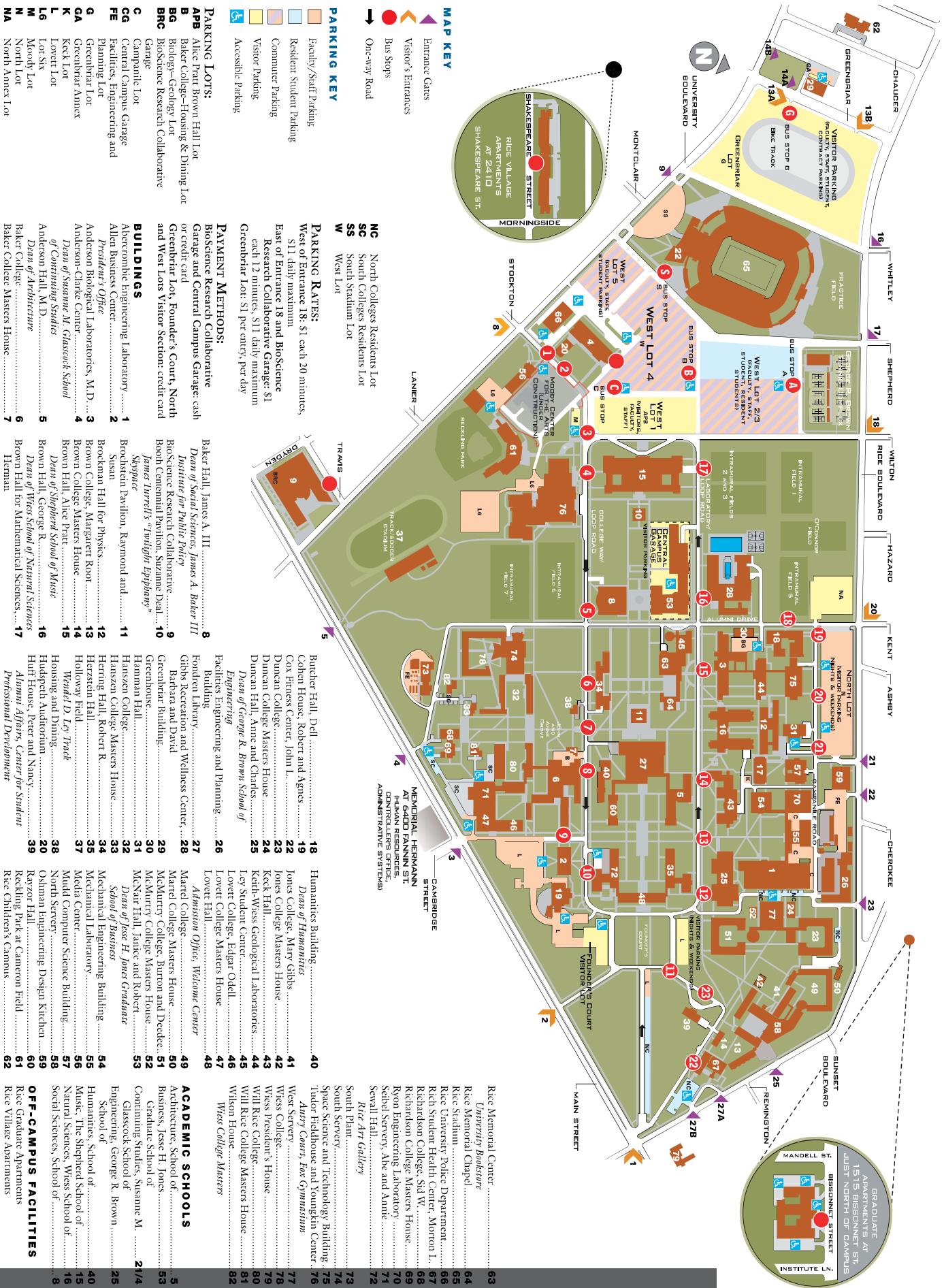
**Will Ricer:** A resident of Will Rice College.

**Y'all:** Short for "you all," this Southern slang is something you have to get used to. Y'all will be saying this whether you want to or not.



RICE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP

8/28/2015



## O-WEEK COORDINATORS AND STUDENT DIRECTORS

