



FAMILY HANDBOOK

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Congratulations!

Congratulations on being selected to participate in GEAR UP U, a four-day, three-night college experience. You'll have the opportunity to take classes, meet other students from across the state, and stay on a college campus.

This packet outlines information about camp, including what to bring, the activities we have planned, and who your family can contact in case of an emergency.

Parents and family members, we'd encourage you to keep this handbook for your use.

We can't wait to see you this summer for GEAR UP U at Marshall University!

Sincerely,

Mallory Carpenter
West Virginia GEAR UP
2025 GEAR UP U Camp Director

Have questions? Contact me at (304) 696-3546 or mallory.carpenter@wvhepc.edu.

Staff and Emergency Contact Info

If you need to reach your student at camp due to an emergency at home, please contact either of the following:

Mallory Carpenter, Camp Director

(304) 541-8142 (cell)

mallory.carpenter@wvhepc.edu

J.R. Luyster, Senior Director of Student Affairs

(304) 841-5673 (cell)

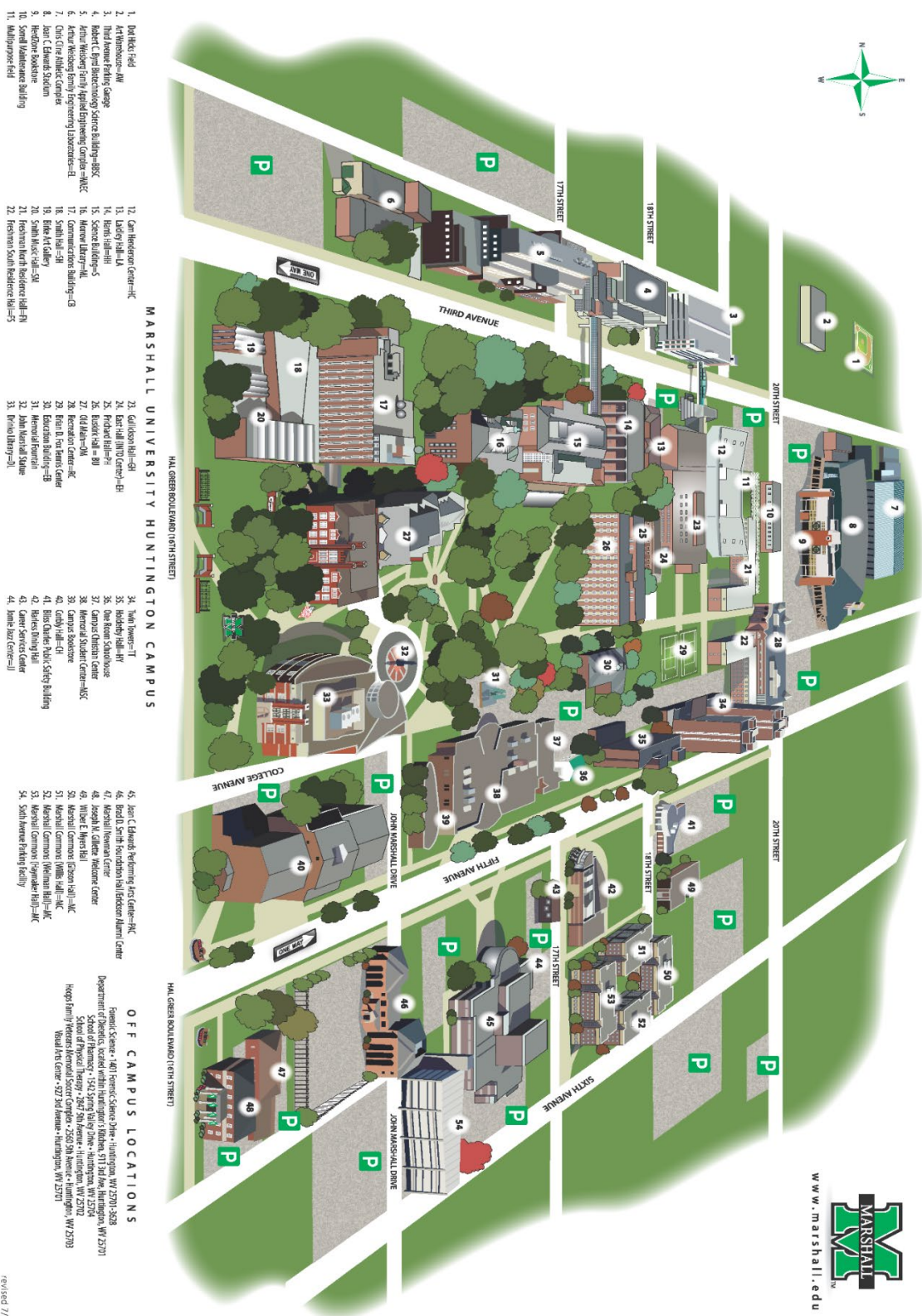
jason.luyster@wvhepc.edu

Directions

Marshall University is located in Huntington (Cabell County). From Charleston on Interstate 64, take exit 11 (for WV-10/Hal Greer Boulevard). Turn right off the exit and continue for 2.6 miles. Turn right onto 5th Avenue and continue for about .3 miles. You will turn left onto 20th Street. The stadium student parking lot is on the right. There will be staff stationed at the parking lot to point you in the direction of the opening ceremony, which will take place in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center (#45 on map). Students will be staying in the Freshman South Dorm (#22 on map). See map on the next page for further clarification.

Parking/Arrival Instructions

There will camp counselors to help direct students and families to the nearest parking area. From the parking area, camp counselors will help direct you to the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center for camp registration and to the opening ceremony. Following the opening ceremony families will be able to return to the parking area and unload to move in across the street in their student's assigned dorm.



REVISED 7/2020

Visitation and Phone Use Policies

Visitation policy

Parents and guardians may visit their student at any time during camp, but are required to check in with GEAR UP camp staff in order to be escorted to their student. However, we would like for GEAR UP U to be a learning experience that helps students develop more responsibility and self-reliance and would prefer that parents and guardians attend camp only during the designated parent times on the first and last days of camp (see camp schedule in this handbook). **Only parents and guardians** will be permitted to see their students during camp — no other visitors will be permitted for the duration of camp.

Contacting your student

If your student has a cell phone, you may talk to him or her during designated free time (see camp schedule). Students will also have access to a phone on campus so that they may call home if they choose.

In the event of an emergency, please call Mallory Carpenter at (304) 541-8142 or J.R. Luyster at (304) 841-5673.

Safety Policy and Procedures

Your student's safety is very important to us. We've developed several policies and procedures to ensure that all students have a positive experience at GEAR UP U.

Supervision

Safety and supervision are very important to us. GEAR UP U will have a full staff, which includes the following:

- Professional staff members from West Virginia GEAR UP
- Camp supervisors who also work in West Virginia GEAR UP schools (teachers, counselors, and principals)
- Camp counselors (college students)
- Security officers
- Residence hall staff (Marshall employees)
- Camp nurse

Safety precautions

- West Virginia GEAR UP will have a camp nurse on campus at all times.
- Medical and liability insurance has been purchased for the camp in case of an emergency.
- Marshall University campus police will be on hand to respond to emergencies or behavior situations.
- Students of different genders will be housed separately. They will not be permitted to visit each other in the residence hall rooms.
- A detailed Code of Conduct and a Discipline Policy is in place.

Schedule

Wednesday, June 25		
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Check-in and Registration	Joan C. Edwards Playhouse
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Opening Ceremony	Joan C. Edwards Playhouse
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Residence Hall Move-In	Freshman South Dorm
4:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Parents Depart	Freshman South Dorm
4:15 PM - 4:45 PM	Mentoring Part 1	Freshman South Dorm
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Dinner	Harless Dining Hall
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	CoolSpeak Speaker	Joan C. Edwards Playhouse
7:30 PM - 9:15 PM	Paint Your Future	Don Morris Room
9:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Mentoring Part 2	Freshman South Dorm
10:00 PM - 10:30 PM	Free time	Freshman South Dorm
10:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Room checks	Freshman South Dorm
11:00 PM	Lights out	Freshman South Dorm

Thursday, June 26th		
7:45 AM - 8:45 AM	Breakfast	Harless Dining Hall
8:40 AM – 9:00 AM	Morning Meeting	Don Morris Room
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Academic Block 1	Academic Course Locations
10:45 AM– 11:45 AM	Mentoring	Various Locations
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Lunch	Harless Dining Hall
12:40 PM - 12:50 PM	Midday Check-In	Don Morris Room
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Academic Block 2	Academic Course Locations
2:45 PM - 4:20 PM	CoolSpeak	Don Morris Room and MSC BE-5
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	Dinner	Harless Dining Hall
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM	CoolSpeak	Don Morris Room and MSC BE-5
8:30 PM – 9:30 PM	CoolSpeak Entertainment	Joan C. Edwards Playhouse
9:45 PM - 10:30 PM	Free Time	Freshman South Dorm
10:30 PM - 11:00 PM	Room Checks	Freshman South Dorm
11:00	Lights Out	Freshman South Dorm

Schedule

Friday, June 27th		
7:45 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast	Harless Dining Hall
8:40 AM - 8:50 AM	Morning Meeting	Don Morris Room
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Academic Block 3	Academic Course Locations
10:45AM - 11:45 AM	Mentoring	Various Locations
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Lunch	Harless Dining Hall
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	CoolSpeak	Don Morris Room and MSC BE-5
4:15 PM - 5:15 PM	Physical Education Classes	Marshall University Rec Center
5:30 PM - 6:15 PM	Dinner	Harless Dining Hall
6:30 PM - 8:15 PM	CoolSpeak	Don Morris Room and MSC BE-5
8:30 PM – 9:30 PM	CoolSpeak Entertainment	Joan C. Edwards Playhouse
9:30 PM - 10:30 PM	Free Time	Freshman South Dorm
10: 30 PM - 11:00 PM	Room Checks	Freshman South Dorm
11:00 PM	Lights Out	Freshman South Dorm

Saturday, June 28th		
7:45 AM - 8:45 AM	Breakfast	Harless Dining Hall
8:45 AM - 11:30 AM	CoolSpeak	Don Morris Room
11:30 AM - 11:45 PM	Group Photo	Fountain/John Marshall Statue
11:45 PM - 12:45 PM	Lunch	Harless Dining Hall
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Closing Ceremony	Don Morris Room
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Residence Hall Move Out	Freshman South Dorm

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change.

Financial Responsibilities

GEAR UP U is **FREE**, but parents do have some responsibilities, including the following:

- Providing or arranging for transportation for their student to and from Marshall University.
- Providing students with items such as proper clothing, bedding, towels, and other items listed on the “What to Bring” list (see page 11).
- Paying for property damages if your student causes them. Examples include damages to the walls or furniture in the residence halls or damages to classroom equipment.
- Your student does NOT need spending money, but you may choose to send some with them to buy souvenirs or snacks in the campus book store.

All meals and school supplies will be provided by West Virginia GEAR UP. We will also cover the cost of any activities listed on the camp schedule.

Car/Transportation Policies

Students will not be permitted to ride in a motor vehicle with anyone not listed on the transportation authorization form that guardians completed as part of the camp enrollment packet. Parents should remember to list themselves on the transportation authorization form as potential authorized transporters.

GEAR UP U staff or emergency personnel may transport your student in another vehicle in the event of an emergency.

What to Bring

Apparel:

- Comfortable walking shoes
- T-shirts (one shirt per day will be supplied by GEAR UP)
- Jacket or sweater
- Jeans
- Shorts
- Pajamas
- Underwear
- Socks
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Raincoat/umbrella
- Swimwear

Optional (at your own risk):

- Gadgets (e.g. cell phone, tablets, camera, etc.)
- Hair dryer
- Snacks

Do NOT bring :

- Weapons of any sort (including pocket knives)
- Alcohol, tobacco, and/or drugs
- Unauthorized medicines (medicine must be kept with the nurse)
- Explicit or vulgar books, music, magazines, or movies
- Clothing featuring inappropriate language, images, or messages

Bathroom items:

- Towels/washcloths
- Shower shoes
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Shaving items
- Comb/brush
- Personal hygiene products
- Sunscreen

Dorm room items:

- Pillow
- Pillowcase
- Sheets and blanket to fit an extra long twin bed OR a sleeping bag
- Alarm clock/ability to set alarm on your phone

Dress Code and Honor Code

Dress code

Students will dress appropriately in a manner that does not distract from the educational component of GEAR UP U. Any student that does not dress appropriately will be asked to change his or her clothing. Students will be provided with four GEAR UP shirts at the beginning of camp to be worn on each day of camp.

No backless, strapless, one-strap, or mid-drift tops or extremely short shorts, skirts, or dresses will be allowed. No offensive language or images will be tolerated on clothing. Undergarments should never be visible (no sagging shorts or pants). Shirts are required during all camp activities (no going shirtless — even during recreational activities). No offensive language or images will be tolerated on clothing.

Honor code

- I will participate in each required activity and will apply my best efforts and talents to do the best I can in each situation.
- I pledge to make my academic endeavors my first priority during GEAR UP U.

Code of Conduct

Participants are expected to demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviors all day, every day. The following code of conduct outlines the requirements of GEAR UP U. Any student who breaks the code may be sent home early.

Do

- respect the rights and property of yourself and others (including staff, instructors, and fellow campers)
- follow all rules and policies set by West Virginia GEAR UP and Marshall University
- use program equipment, supplies, and facilities properly
- stay with your group and within designated areas at all times
- communicate in a polite manner
- respect personal space, differences, and the boundaries of others
- follow the GEAR UP U honor and dress codes

Don't

- use profanity or other offensive language, including terms that are offensive to any particular person or group
- behave aggressively or inflict physical and/or emotional harm on others
- vandalize the property of others or Marshall University
- behave recklessly and put yourself or others in danger
- leave the camp boundaries without permission from GEAR UP U staff
- display inappropriate or excessive affection, including kissing, hand holding, excessive touching, etc.

Discipline Policy

LEVEL 1

To be addressed by the classroom teacher, camp counselor, camp supervisor, or resident advisor.

Language

- Use of profanity
- Impolite language
- Negative comments that hinder learning
- Talking back to a supervisor
- Lying

Physical Contact

- Bumping
- PDA (holding hands, hugging)
- Pushing
- Horseplay

Defiance

- Stubborn behavior
- Uncooperative behavior
- Breaking the GEAR UP U honor code
- Not following residence hall rules
- Disruption during instruction and group activities
- Constant talking
- Dress code violations

Property misuse

- Breaking pencils/classroom supplies
- Pushing/rearranging furniture
- Writing on desks, walls, furniture, and other campus property
- Going into another person's space

LEVEL 2

Requires interaction with peers and support staff (camp supervisors and/or GEAR UP staff).

Language

- Name calling
- Verbal intimidation
- Harassment/taunting

Physical Contact

- Kicking
- Spitting
- Slapping
- Wedgies/noogies
- PDA (kissing, holding)

Defiance

- Arguing with superiors
- Not complying with discipline redirection
- Defiance of verbal direction
- Not participating in class work
- Inappropriate use of space
- Refusal to adhere to the dress code

Property misuse

- Destruction of others' property
- Inappropriate use of materials and equipment

LEVEL 3

Intervention must involve administrator (camp director).

Language

- Vulgar language
- Verbal threats of harm
- Sexual/racial harassment
- Bullying

Physical Contact

- Physical intimidation of staff/peers
- Play fighting resulting in injury
- Physical assault
- Fighting
- PDA (sexual acts)
- Sexual assaults

Defiance

- Not attending all activities
- Leaving campus
- Having someone of the opposite sex in room
- Throwing objects
- Drinking alcohol
- Smoking tobacco
- Illegal drug use
- Possession/use of a weapon

Property misuse

- Vandalism
- Graffiti
- Defacing property
- Stealing

Lodging Information and Policy

Marshall University will house GEAR UP U students in campus residence halls. Students should consider the following rules and regulations for staying in the residence hall:

Appliances: The following electrical appliances may not be used in the hall: stoves, hot plates, microwaves, immersion heaters (water heating coils), heat lamps, toaster ovens, toasters, and any other appliance with an exposed heating coil, electric blankets, electric heaters, and/or any other such appliances that use great amounts of electricity or generate heat.

Alcohol/tobacco/drug paraphernalia: There will be NO alcohol, tobacco, or other drug paraphernalia permitted at GEAR UP U. Any confiscation will be permanent, and shall include any paraphernalia items associated with the violation, including but not limited to: chests, tubs, kegs, taps, pitchers, glasses, mugs, cans, bottles, pipes, vape pens, and funnels.

Pets: Medical service animals are welcome with documentation of need. No other animals or pets will be permitted at GEAR UP U.

Quiet/courtesy hours: A quiet hours policy is in effect from 10:00 p.m. through 7:00 a.m. daily. All requests to limit noise must be honored in order to avoid judicial action. If you bring a radio or speakers, please bring headphones, and keep the volume level low when you are not using headphones.

Fire risks/smoking: Combustible materials are strictly prohibited in the residence halls. This includes, but is not limited to, items enumerated under the heading of weapons. Confiscation and disposal of such items will be permanent. Disabling smoke detectors, or any fire safety equipment, by removing batteries or covering the detector with any material, is a violation of federal fire safety code and strictly prohibited. Fines/fees shall be determined by the Marshall University.

Smoking is not permitted at any time during GEAR UP U.

When a fire alarm is sounded, all students are required by law to vacate the building.

Visitation/guests/escort: Visitation by other campers of the opposite gender is NOT permitted. The staff reserve the right to deny access to any guest if it has been determined that such person has disturbed, disrupted, or endangered any residents.

Weapons: Weapons or "look alike"/replica weapons may NOT be housed or carried in the residence hall or on campus. Possession of rifles and firearms (including BB and paint ball guns), ammunition, firecrackers, and/or explosive materials (including carbide) and similar items such as gas-powered guns (including paint and nail guns) and sharp tipped arrows are strictly prohibited.

Technology Use Policy

TITLE: Marshall University Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

2.1. Introduction

Marshall University is dedicated to creating and maintaining an environment for learning that promotes respect for and appreciation of scholarship, freedom, and human diversity. In keeping with this commitment, Marshall University makes certain University Technology resources available to faculty, staff, and students. These resources include educational, research, and communication facilities, disk storage, and selected software or services. Access to and usage of these facilities is a public trust, and certain expectations, responsibilities and requirements are inherent to this trust. Access to these finite resources is a privilege and is provided with an expectation of responsible and acceptable use. In addition to the principles and guidelines provided in this policy, institutional policies along with certain federal, state and local regulations apply to the use of the Information Technology Resources.

2.2. General Principles and Guidelines

The basic premise of this policy is that responsible and acceptable use of the Marshall University Information Technology Resources does not extend to whatever an individual is capable of doing. Instead, certain principles provide a guide to users regarding responsible and acceptable behaviors and users are responsible for knowing and understanding them. These principles and guidelines include, but are not limited to:

2.2.1. The Marshall University Information Technology Resources were funded and developed for the sole purpose of promoting and supporting the mission of the University.

2.2.2. Authorized users of the Marshall University Information Technology Resources, or University sponsored remote resources, are those individuals who have been granted a username and password. The username and password combination is the users' identity and authorization to access and use the components of the Marshall University Information Technology Resources for which they are specifically authorized.

2.2.3. Authorized users will abide by institutional policies along with applicable local, state and federal regulations.

2.2.4. The resources of the Marshall University Information Technology Resources are finite and shared. Appropriate and responsible use of these resources must be consistent with the common good. These resources may NOT be used for individual gain or personal profit-making purposes.

2.2.5. The University reserves the right to limit access to the Marshall University Information Technology Resources when investigating cases of suspected abuse or when violations have occurred.

2.2.6. The University does not monitor or generally restrict the content of material stored on or transferred through the components of the Information Technology Resources. Use of the Information Technology Resources is a privilege, therefore the University reserves the right to restrict or deny usage of the Information Technology Resources when such usage does not promote or support the mission of the University.

2.2.7. Users must adhere to the ethical standards governing copyright, software licensing, and intellectual property as explained in the administrative procedure ITP-1. Marshall University Copyright Procedure.

2.2.8. Web pages hosted on university resources may NOT contain the official Marshall University logo unless it is according to the University Communications Branding guidelines.

2.2.9. "Mass Mailings" are excessive, unauthorized, and frivolous mailings of two hundred or more identical or nearly identical pieces of electronic communication sent by a user or users to other email or voice recipients and not allowed without approval. The details for approval are found in MUBOG IT-3 Electronic Communications Policy.

2.2.10. Unauthorized scanning of ports, computers and networks is prohibited;

2.2.11. Unauthorized attempts to circumvent data protection schemes or uncover security vulnerabilities;

2.2.12. Connecting unauthorized equipment to the campus network or computers. University authorized business and other activities directly related to the academic mission of the University are excluded; however, network

communication devices must have prior approval from the Division of Information Technology before they can be connected to the campus network. Unauthorized network communication devices or any networked device that may negatively impact management, reliability or integrity of the campus network or other University resource may be disconnected from the network.

2.2.13. Attempting to alter any University computing or network components without authorization or beyond one's level of authorization, including but not limited to ports, routers, switches, wiring, and connections;

2.2.14. Utilizing network or system identification numbers or names that are not assigned for one's specific use on the designated system;

2.2.15. Registering a Marshall University owned IP address with any other domain name without authorization is prohibited.

2.2.16. Using campus resources to gain unauthorized access to any computer system and/or using someone else's device without their permission or access based on their job description;

2.2.17. Providing services or accounts on University computers or via University networks to other users unless required to meet the normal activities of students working as individuals or in collaborative groups to fulfill current course requirements. University authorized business and other activities directly related to the academic mission of the University are also excluded; however, any computers running services that may negatively impact management, reliability or integrity of the campus network or other University resources may be disconnected from the network;

2.2.18. Commercial Use of the University's information technology resources is strictly prohibited for unauthorized commercial activities, personal gain, and private, or otherwise unrelated to the University, business or fundraising. This includes soliciting, promoting, selling, marketing or advertising products or services, or reselling University resources.

3 Non-Compliance and Enforcement

Violation of these guidelines constitutes unacceptable use of information resources and may violate other University policies and/or state and federal law. Suspected or known violations should be reported to Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO). The appropriate University authorities and/or law enforcement agencies will process violations. Violations may result in revocation of computing resource privileges, academic dishonesty or Honor Council proceedings, faculty, staff or student disciplinary action, or legal action. The maintenance, operation, and security of computing resources require responsible University personnel to monitor and access the system. To the extent possible in the electronic environment and in a public setting, a user's privacy will be preserved. Nevertheless, that privacy is subject to the West Virginia Access to Public Records Act, other applicable state and federal laws, and the needs of the University to meet its administrative, business, and legal obligations.

3.1. Common Forms of Violations

Although most users strive for acceptable and responsible use of the Information Technology Resources, inexperienced users may unwittingly engage in behaviors that violate the principles and guidelines of responsible and acceptable use. To that end, this section outlines some of the more common forms of violations that occur. These examples should not be interpreted as an exhaustive list of violations.

3.1.1. Furnishing false or misleading information or identification in order to access another user's account

3.1.2. Using another person's username/password or letting someone else use your username/password

3.1.3. Investigating, reading or attempting to access another user's files without permission

3.1.4. Attempts to access or manipulate certain components of the Information Technology Resources without authorization

3.1.5. Alteration of software, data, or other files without authorization

3.1.6. Disruption or destruction of equipment or resources

3.1.7. Using subterfuge to avoid being charged for computer resources or deliberate, unauthorized use of another user's account to avoid being billed for services

3.1.8. Using, copying or distributing copyrighted works or software without authorization

3.1.9. Sending email or a program which will replicate itself or may cause damage to another user's account

3.1.10. Interfering with legitimate work of another user

3.1.11. Sending abusive, harassing, or obscene messages

- 3.1.12. Viewing or listening to objectionable, obscene, pornographic, or harassing material in public areas
- 3.1.13. Excessive recreational use of resources
- 3.1.14. Sending unauthorized mass mailings, chain letters, or transmitting a crippling number of files across a network
- 3.1.15. Sending hoax messages or forged messages, including messages sent under someone else's username
- 3.1.16. Any activity or action that violates the University's Student Code of Conduct or Policies, faculty/staff policies and regulations, or federal, state, or local laws.

3.2. Enforcement

Information Technology is authorized to engage in investigations and apply certain penalties to enforce this policy. These penalties include, but are not limited to, temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of access privileges to any or all of the components of the Information Technology Resources.

If, in the opinion of Information Technology, it is necessary to preserve the integrity of facilities, services, or data, IT may suspend any access, whether or not the account owner is suspected of a violation. In such a case, IT will attempt to notify the user of any such action after the potential threat to the facilities, services, or data is contained. If such an investigation is required it will be done only under the direct authorization of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and all effort will be made not to disclose any content to anyone other than those with a need to know during the investigation or adjudication of the alleged offense

Consequences of the discovery and investigation process or normal maintenance might include the inspection of files contained in an individual's storage space or monitoring selected traffic on the networks. Again, all effort will be made not to disclose any content to anyone other than those with a need to know. However, where there are moral, ethical, or legal implications of the nondisclosure of such information, Information Technology personnel are similarly instructed to contact the Chief Information Officer (CIO) (CIO@marshall.edu), who may authorize its disclosure to appropriate authorities if deemed warranted.

In most cases an individual accused of a violation of this policy will be notified and have an opportunity to respond before a final determination of a penalty is made. The Chief Information Officer (CIO) or their designee, in conjunction with other responsible parties (e.g., University General Counsel, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, or Human Resources) will examine the available evidence and circumstances. If a penalty is levied, the decision may be appealed through the appropriate channels.

FAQs

FOR PARENTS

What kind of camp is GEAR UP U?

GEAR UP U is an overnight academic camp that focuses on high school preparation, college and career planning, and leadership development.

What/who is GEAR UP?

West Virginia GEAR UP is a federally funded grant program intended to help you and your student plan, apply, and pay for education or training beyond high school.

What will my student do at camp?

Your student will participate in career pathways classes, college mentoring, and leadership development.

Where will my student stay?

Marshall University (Huntington, WV) will provide students with lodging. Classes will be held on campus and in the immediate area surrounding Marshall University. Should transportation be required to and from classes, GEAR UP U and Marshall University staff will transport students.

What are my responsibilities?

As a parent, we expect you to make sure your student understands the GEAR UP U rules and expectations. If your student breaks the rules, you will be responsible for picking him or her up early. You are also expected to provide or arrange for transportation to and from Marshall University and to help your student prepare/pack for camp.

Will my student need money?

All meals and school supplies will be provided by West Virginia GEAR UP. If you would like your student to have additional "spending money" that is permitted, but not required.

Who else will be there?

Students from each of West Virginia GEAR UP's high schools will attend. WV GEAR UP serves schools in 11 counties and there will be between 200 - 250 students at camp.

Who supervises camp, and who will keep my student safe?

Safety and supervision are very important to us. GEAR UP U will have a full staff, which includes the following:

- Professional staff members from West Virginia GEAR UP
- Camp supervisors who also work in West Virginia GEAR UP schools (teachers, counselors and principals)
- Camp counselors (college students)
- Resident advisors (college employees)
- Security officers
- Camp nurse

Additionally, medical and liability insurance have been purchased by camp organizers in case of an

emergency.

How much does camp cost?

GEAR UP U is FREE, but parents do have the responsibility of providing or arranging for transportation for their student to and from Marshall University in Huntington, WV (Cabell County). Parents must also help their student prepare for camp and provide them with items such as proper clothing, toiletries, etc.

Will the boys and girls be together or separate?

During day and evening hours, all students will attend classes and sessions together. At night, girls and boys will be housed separately. Students are forbidden to have a member of the opposite gender in their rooms.

How can I contact my student?

If your student has a cell phone, you may talk to him or her during “free time.” Your student will also have access to a phone at the residence hall and on campus if he or she wishes to call home and does not have a phone of his/her own. Emergency phone numbers will be provided for attendees and their parents.

My student takes medication. How/when will this be administered and by whom?

Prior to attending camp, students and parents will be asked to complete a medical release form. By completing this form, you will be granting our camp nurse the permission and instructions to retain and administer medication to your student.

Can I visit my student at camp?

Of course — we would never keep parents away from their student. However, we would like for GEAR UP U to be a learning experience that helps students develop more responsibility and independence and would prefer that parents attend camp only during the designated parent time periods on the first and last days. Arrangements can and will be made for special circumstances.

My student has special dietary needs. What arrangements can you make for this?

Prior to attending camp, students and parents will be asked to complete an enrollment packet which will give you the opportunity to outline any dietary needs. Additionally, meals will be buffet-style and students will be able to choose his or her own food from many options provided.

My student is always hungry. Will he or she get enough to eat?

All three meals are buffet-style, which means your student can eat as much as he or she wants for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We will also provide snacks in the evening.

Will my student have a roommate? Can he or she request to room with a particular student?

Your student will have a roommate. The goal is to room each student with another student that attends school in the same county. Due to logistical arrangements, unless there are special medical circumstances, we cannot take room requests.

FOR STUDENTS

What kind of camp is GEAR UP U?

Well... we don't like to brag, but GEAR UP U might be the best camp EVER. You'll get to...

- learn about and prepare for college
- make new friends from across WV
- hang out on a college campus
- participate in classes you want to take
- develop leadership skills to be even more awesome

What will I do at GEAR UP U?

You will be required to attend classes (some that we choose and some that you choose). You will also participate in several leadership development workshops and some very cool activities. College students will act as your counselors and they will help you get ready for college.

What are my responsibilities?

At GEAR UP U, we will treat you with respect and allow you some freedom — but you have to respect the camp staff and the rules. We expect you to make it to all GEAR UP U activities on time and to participate. We also expect you to follow the code of conduct. Most of all, we expect a good attitude!

Will I need money?

All meals and supplies will be provided by West Virginia GEAR UP. If you would like to have additional "spending money," that is permitted but not required.

Who else will be there?

Students from West Virginia GEAR UP's other schools will attend — around 100-150 students total.

Will I share a room with someone?

Yes, you will have a roommate (just like in college). We will try hard to room you with someone from your county. Since part of the fun is getting to know people, we cannot take room requests in advance.

Can I bring my cell phone and other gadgets?

Yes, there will be certain time periods that you are allowed to use these items. You are responsible for the safety and care of these items.

Will boys and girls be allowed to hang out together?

Yes, but only during supervised activities and NEVER in the residence hall rooms. If you get caught mingling with students of another gender in the residence hall rooms, you'll be kicked out of camp — no excuses, no exceptions.

How can I contact my parents?

If you have a cell phone, you can call them during your free time. If you don't, the counselors can give you access to a phone.



Contact Mallory Carpenter
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2025 GEAR UP U Camp Director
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