



**FALL
2026**

Welcome Cougars

Starting your journey at Kean University begins before your first day of classes. The “**New Student Experience**” at **Kean Union** is designed to guide your transition you from an “accepted student” to “*climbing higher*” as you become an acclimated Cougar who is supported by the Kean community.

This journey includes these key components:

- 1 Pre-Orientation Modules**
- 2 Orientation**
- 3 Residence Hall Move-Ins**
- 4 Welcome Week**
- 5 Freshman Convocation**

Bonus



Receive credit for the **COUGAR CLIMB** challenge by completing the pre-orientation modules, attending orientation, and Freshman Convocation.





1 *Pre-Orientation Modules* The Digital Foundation

Before arriving on campus, your experience begins online. Pre-Orientation Modules are designed to help you prepare at your own pace—so you feel informed, confident, and ready to make the most of your Orientation experience.

WHAT TO EXPECT: You'll explore interactive modules that introduce campus resources, student expectations, and tools designed to support your success—covering areas like campus safety, code of conduct, wellness services, and navigating campus technology.

THE GOAL: By completing these before orientation, you'll arrive on campus feeling informed, confident, and ready to fully engage at your in-person Orientation experience.

BENEFITS: Once the Pre-Orientation Modules are completed, you will receive your exclusive swag bag at Orientation which includes your Kean t-shirt for Freshman Convocation.

*Pro
Tip*

For ultimate NSE involvement, complete all modules before attending orientation.





2 Orientation Finding Your Place

Orientation is the heartbeat of the New Student Experience. This is where your “college experience” comes to life and you begin to see yourself as a Kean Cougar.

CAMPUS IMMERSION: Beyond tours, you’ll participate in sessions that introduce you to our diverse campus culture and the wealth of resources available to support your mental and physical well-being.

SOCIAL CONNECTION: You’ll be placed in small groups led by Orientation Leaders— current Kean students who will be your first connection on campus. They’ll guide you through the day, help you navigate resources, and make sure you feel supported as you start your journey.

THE VIBE: Expect high energy, plenty of icebreakers, and the official start of lifelong friendships.



New Student Orientation

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026

- Hennings College of Science, Mathematics and Technology (HCSMT)
- College of Business and Public Management (CBPM)

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

- College of Education (COE)
- Michael Graves College (MGC)
- College of Liberal Arts (CLA)
- College of Health Professions and Human Services (CHPHS)

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

- Undecided Majors
- Make-Up Session for All Colleges

Transfer Student Orientation

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2026





3 *Residence Hall Move-Ins* Establishing Your Space

For our residence students, the day you move in is a milestone during this special time period of your life. It marks a new level of independence as you navigate living on your own and defining your new environment.

THE MOVE: You'll navigate the ease of check-in with our drive-through process, meet your Resident Assistant (RA), and begin the process of personalizing your room.

NEW FAMILY: This is your first opportunity to meet your hallmates who will become your "Res Life Family." Whether it's helping each other carry boxes or eating your first meal together at Keanu's Kitchen, these small, shared moments build the initial bonds of your community.

Move-In Dates

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026

Bartlett, Cougar & Freshman Halls

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026

Burch, Rogers, Sozio & Upperclassman Halls





4 *Welcome Week* Jump Into KEAN

Once the boxes are unpacked and the orientation sessions are done, Welcome Week truly begins. Jump into Kean is a curated series of intentional social and recreational events designed to help you decompress, explore, and find your tribe.

DIVERSE OPPORTUNITIES: From carnivals, Greek and student organization showcases to meet-ups and socials, there is something for everyone.

RELATIONSHIPS: Welcome Week is intentionally designed to be a “low-stakes” environment. It’s not about the busy semester approaching; it’s about discovery, fun, and identifying the unique clubs and communities that make you feel truly at home.

Jump Into Kean Week

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 -
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026**

Find the complete event list of events on Cougar Link.





5 *Freshman Convocation* The Formal Welcome

The annual Freshman Convocation hosted by the Division of Student Affairs formally welcomes all incoming freshmen students to Kean University. This induction ceremony marks the official beginning of your undergraduate career.

TRADITION: Kean University leadership, faculty, staff, and upperclassmen gather to welcome you. It is a moment of reflection and collective pride.

THE CHARGE: You will hear from inspiring speakers who will challenge you to think critically, take the class pledge, and make the most of the years ahead.

THE FULL CIRCLE: Convocation serves as the “bookend” to your time here—it is the ceremonial entrance that mirrors the Commencement ceremony you will walk through in four years.

Freshman Convocation

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026



+ CARNIVAL, GIVEAWAYS,
PHOTOBOOTH AND MORE

Wear NSO T-shirt



For more
information, go to:
kean.edu/student-affairs
or email nso@kean.edu