

# FALL 2025 New Student Orientation

## Monday, August 18

**BREAKFAST**  
8:30AM-  
9:00AM

We welcome all in person students to join us for breakfast including a variety of pastries, bagels, fresh fruit, coffee and more!

**In person only**

**WELCOME AND  
OPENING SESSION**  
9:05AM-9:55AM

Help us kick off the Fall 2025 new student orientation schedule of events with a warm welcome from Dean Singh and the Academic Affairs staff!

**Thehil Russelliah Singh | Hybrid**

**PREPARING FOR  
SEMINARY**  
10:00AM-10:55AM

This session will introduce students to Garrett Seminary's student expectations, the realities of studying in seminary, and tips for success!

**Dr. Melanie Baffes | Hybrid**

**FINANCIAL  
MATTERS**  
11:00AM-11:55AM

This session will introduce students to the important elements of financial aid, scholarships, student billing, and payment processes.

**Ashley Schreiner and Sunique Charre | Hybrid**

**STORY CIRCLES**  
12:00PM-12:15PM

This session will introduce students to an exciting online student engagement opportunity available to all new students. Come hear more about how to join a story circle this fall!

**Dr. Lisl Paul | Hybrid**

**LUNCH**  
12:15PM - 1:15PM

We welcome in person students to join us for lunch on the Garrett Terrace. A great opportunity to dine and fellowship with your new and continuing students!

**In person only**

**HOUSING AND  
GROUNDS**  
1:30PM - 2:45PM

During this session Building and Grounds and Garrett Housing staff will share all the important things students need to know about living on campus. Resident assistants (RAs) will be available to answer questions and provide support!

**Thehil Russelliah Singh | In person only**

**NORTHWESTERN  
LIBRARY TOUR**  
3:00PM - 4:15PM

Our partners at the Northwestern University main library will be giving us a guided tour of their facility and introduce new Garrett students to key shared resources!

**In person only**

**QUESTIONS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP!**

EMAIL US AT  
[STUDENT.SUPPORT@GARRETT.EDU](mailto:STUDENT.SUPPORT@GARRETT.EDU)

# FALL 2025 New Student Orientation

## Tuesday, August 19

**PREPARING FOR  
SEMINARY  
8:00AM-9:20AM**

We invite all online international students to join us for a uniquely curated session to highlight the important elements of online learning within a US education context. Click **HERE** for this session link!

**Dr. Melanie Baffes | Online international students only**

**BREAKFAST  
8:30AM-9:00AM**

We welcome all in person students to join us for breakfast including a variety of pastries, bagels, fresh fruit, coffee and more!

**In person only**

**WELCOME AND  
OPENING  
DEVOTION  
9:05AM-9:20AM**

Join us as we kick off day two of new student orientation with a welcome from President Viera, a review of today's schedule and a devotional message.

**President Javier Viera and Thehil Russelliah Singh | Hybrid**

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS:  
READING AND  
WRITING IN SEMINARY  
9:25AM-10:40AM**

This session will introduce students to critical study strategies and habits related to reading and writing in seminary!

**Dr. Melanie Baffes | Hybrid**

**DIVERSITY IN  
LEARNING  
PANEL  
10:50AM-11:50 AM**

Join us for an inspiring and dynamic panel where faculty and staff share their unique journeys as diverse learners. You don't want to miss this!

**Facilitated by Thehil Russelliah Singh | Hybrid**

**LUNCH WITH  
DIVERSITY IN  
LEARNING  
PANELISTS  
12:00PM - 1:00PM**

Let's continue the conversation as the diversity in learning panelists join us for lunch today!

**Diversity in Learning Panelists | In person only**

**MOCK CLASSROOM:  
CREATING AND  
MAINTAINING  
HEALTHY  
BOUNDARIES  
1:15PM - 2:15PM**

Want a sneak peek inside the Garrett classroom? You're in luck! Join us as Dr. Kate Ott dives into the essential topic of creating and maintaining healthy boundaries—packed with insight, real-world examples, and the energy of a Garrett classroom experience!

**Dr. Kate Ott | Hybrid**

**GARRETT  
SYSTEMS  
TRAINING  
2:20PM - 3:45PM**

Don't miss this essential and exciting Garrett systems session, where new students will be introduced to, two vital tools for seminary success—Canvas and myGETS—your daily gateways to coursework, communication, and seminary life!

**Academic Affairs Staff | Hybrid**

**ON CAMPUS  
DROP IN  
ADVISING  
4:00PM - 4:30PM**

Have a quick question about your fall schedule? Great - we're here to help! Master's students can visit Melanie Baffes - Main 213 and Doctoral students can visit Emily Rosales - Main 211.

**Dr. Melanie Baffes and Emily Rosales | In person only**

**QUESTIONS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP!**

**EMAIL US AT  
STUDENT.SUPPORT@GARRETT.EDU**



# FALL 2025 New Student Orientation

## Wednesday, August 20

**BREAKFAST**  
9:00AM - 9:30AM

We welcome all in person students to join us for breakfast including a variety of pastries, bagels, fresh fruit, coffee and more!

**In person only**

**WELCOME AND  
OPENING SESSION**  
9:35AM-9:55AM

Join us as we kick off day three of new student orientation with a review of today's schedule and a devotional message

**Vince McGlothlin-Eller | Hybrid**

**STYBERG  
LIBRARY  
RESOURCES AND  
TOUR**  
9:55AM-11:30AM

This session will help students discover the tools, resources, and support available through the Styberg Library to help foster confidence and success in research and writing.

**Emily Stensloff | In person only**

**ONBOARDING  
ACCESS CHECK AND  
DEGREE DIRECTOR  
PREP**  
11:35AM-11:55AM

All on campus students will have an opportunity to take an inventory of what action items they still need to complete. We will also chat about good questions to ask the Garrett degree directors.

**Whitney R. Harris | In person only**

**LUNCH WITH  
DEGREE  
DIRECTORS**  
12:00-1:00

This session will give all on campus students an opportunity to meet their program's degree director and ask questions about what you can expect out of your program.

**Degree Directors | In person only**

**FACULTY PANEL FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS**  
1:15PM-2:00PM

International faculty share their own experiences and insights to support and empower international students as they begin their journey at Garrett.

**Facilitated by Thehil Russelliah Singh  
International students only | Hybrid**

**ON CAMPUS  
ADVISING  
DROP IN**  
1:15PM-1:45PM

Have a quick question about your fall schedule? Great - we're here to help! Master's students can visit Melanie Baffes - Main 213 and Doctoral students can visit Emily Rosales - Main 211.

**Dr. Melanie Baffes and Emily Rosales | In person only**

**US BANK ACCOUNT  
SET UP**  
2:15PM-4:00PM

We welcome any student who needs to set up local bank account to join us! Orientation leaders will accompany new students to the NU Norris Center to set up their account at US Bank.

**Orientation leaders | In person only**

## ONLINE ONLY EVENING SESSIONS

**ONBOARDING ACCESS CHECK AND DEGREE  
DIRECTOR PREP**  
5:45PM-6:00PM

All online students will have an opportunity to take an inventory of what action items they still need to complete. We will also chat about good questions to ask the Garrett degree directors.

**STORY CIRCLES** 6:00PM-6:15PM

This session will introduce students to an exciting online student engagement opportunity available to all new students. Come hear more about how to join a story circle this fall!

**STYBERG LIBRARY E-RESOURCES**  
6:15PM-7:10PM

This session will help online students discover the tools, resources, and support available through the Styberg Library to help foster confidence and success in your research and writing.

**DEGREE DIRECTOR MEET /GREET  
AND OVERVIEW**  
7:15PM-8:15PM

This session will give all online students an opportunity to meet their program degree director and ask questions about what to expect out of their program.

# FALL 2025 New Student Orientation

## Thursday, August 21

**BREAKFAST**  
9:00AM-  
9:30AM

We welcome all in person students to join us for breakfast including a variety of pastries, bagels, fresh fruit, coffee and more!

**In person only**

**WELCOME AND  
OPENING SESSION**  
9:35AM-9:50AM

Join us as we kick off day four of new student orientation with a review of today's schedule and a devotional message.

**Vince McGlothlin-Eller | Hybrid**

**ACADEMIC  
INTEGRITY**  
9:50AM -  
10:45AM

This session will introduce students to Garrett Seminary's student expectations related to academic integrity specifically related to plagiarism and AI.

**Dr. Melanie Baffes | Hybrid**

**THRIVING  
HOLISTICALLY**  
10:50AM-11:50AM

Join the Dean of Students for a conversation on how to thrive —academically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially— throughout your seminary journey.

**Thehil Russelliah Singh | Hybrid**

**LUNCH**  
12:00PM - 1:00PM

We welcome in person students to join us for lunch. A great opportunity to dine and fellowship with your peers!

**In person only**

**VISA OVERVIEW**  
1:05PM-2:15PM

Learn the key guidelines for maintaining your visa status, including enrollment requirements, travel, and options as an international student.

**Thehil Russelliah Singh | In person only**

**EMPLOYMENT FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS**  
2:20PM-3:20PM

Join us as we help you understand your options for on-campus work, CPT, and OPT, and learn the rules for working in the U.S. as an international student.

**Thehil Russelliah Singh and Dr. Lisl Paul | In person only**

**ONLINE DROP IN  
ADVISING**  
3:30PM-4:30PM

Are you an online student with a quick question about your fall schedule? Great - we're here to help! Melanie Baffes will be available to support Master's students and Doctoral students can chat with Emily Rosales.

**Dr. Melanie Baffes and Emily Rosales | Online only**



# FALL 2025 New Student Orientation

## Friday, August 22

**WELCOME AND  
OPENING SESSION**  
10:00AM - 10:15AM

Join us as we kick off day five! Our final day of new student orientation. We will once again review the day's schedule and provide a devotional message.

**Thehil Russelliah Singh | Hybrid**

**TITLE IX AND  
STUDENT  
CONDUCT**  
10:15AM - 11:15AM

Learn about your rights, responsibilities, and resources related to Title IX, community expectations, and the student conduct process at Garrett.

**Whitney R. Harris and Thehil Russelliah Singh | Hybrid**

**PEER PANEL: TIPS  
FOR SUCCESS**  
11:20AM-12:15PM

Hear from current students as they share honest insights, helpful tips, and encouragement for navigating seminary life both in and out of the classroom.

**Academic Affairs Staff and Continuing Students | Hybrid**

**CLOSING  
SESSION AND  
EVALUATIONS**  
12:15-12:45PM

As we near the start of the term, join us for final reminders, time to complete your new student evaluation, and a closing prayer to bless your journey ahead.

**Academic Affairs Staff | Hybrid**

### Optional Afternoon Activities

**ONLINE DROP IN  
FOR ADVISING**  
12:45-1:45

Are you an online student with a quick question about your fall schedule? Great - we're here to help! Melanie Baffes will be available to support Master's students and Doctoral students can chat with Emily Rosales.

**Online only**

**TRIP TO  
DOWNTOWN  
EVANSTON**

2:00PM-4:30PM

Join current students for a casual trip to downtown Evanston—get to know local spots, grab a bite, and connect with your new community!

**In person only**

**GARRETT ART  
EXHIBIT OPEN**

5:00-6:00PM

Celebrate the opening of the Garrett Art Show hosted by the Garrett Collective with featured works from our creative community. Come enjoy art, conversation, light refreshments and a raffle!

**In person only**