of the State System of Higher Education bill. West Chester became
West Chester State achieved another major milestone with passage
of the State System of Higher Education bill. West Chester became
one of the 14 universities in the State System of Higher Education on
July 1, 1983. Along with its new name - West Chester University of
Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education - the institution
acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its
degree programs.

Location of the University
West Chester University is located in West Chester, Pennsylvania, a
town that has been the seat of government in Chester County since
1786. Nestled in the heart of Pennsylvania’s Brandywine Valley, West
Chester is a picturesque community that offers small-town charm with
cosmopolitan flair. The Philadelphia Inquirer called it "one of the world's
most perfect small towns."

West Chester was settled in the early 18th century, principally
by members of the Society of Friends. In the heart of town is its
courthouse, a classical revival building designed in the 1840s by Thomas
U. Walter, one of the architects for the Capitol in Washington, D.C.
Philadelphia is 25 miles to the east and Wilmington 17 miles to the
south, putting the museums, theaters, and other cultural and historical
resources of both cities in easy reach. Valley Forge, the Brandywine
Battlefield, Longwood Gardens and other world-class attractions are
nearby. New York and Washington are easily accessible by car or train.

How to Reach West Chester
The Borough of West Chester can be accessed by car and public
transportation. Route 3, the West Chester Pike, leads directly into
town from Center City Philadelphia. From the Pennsylvania Turnpike,
motorists traveling west should take Route 202 south from the Valley
Forge Interchange or the E-Z Pass-only exit (#320), while those
traveling east can arrive via Route 100 south from the Downingtown
Interchange. From the south, Route 202 from Wilmington and Routes
100 and 52 from U.S. Route 1 all lead to West Chester.

Public transportation is available from Philadelphia and other nearby
communities.

Information on public transportation and carpooling is available in
Sykes Student Union, 610-436-2984.

Communication Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailing Address</th>
<th>West Chester University, West Chester PA 19383</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephones</td>
<td>Dial 610-436 plus number in parentheses. For offices not shown here, call University Information Center: 610-436-1000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wcupa.edu">www.wcupa.edu</a> (<a href="http://www.wcupa.edu">http://www.wcupa.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Success Program</td>
<td>Academic Success Program, 231 Lawrence Center (3274); <a href="mailto:ASP@wcupa.edu">ASP@wcupa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions (Undergraduate)</td>
<td>Office of Admissions, Messikomer Hall (3411); 877-315-2165 (toll free); <a href="mailto:ugradmiss@wcupa.edu">ugradmiss@wcupa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affirmative Action</td>
<td>Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 114 W. Rosedale Ave (2433)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billing/Payments/Refunds</td>
<td>Office of the Bursar, 25 University Ave, Suite 050 (2552); <a href="mailto:bursar@wcupa.edu">bursar@wcupa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore</td>
<td>Student Services, Inc., Sykes Student Union, 110 W. Rosedale Ave (2242); <a href="mailto:ssibookstore@wcupa.edu">ssibookstore@wcupa.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Frederick Douglass Institute

The Frederick Douglass Institute (http://www.wcupa.edu/tdouglass/) at West Chester University is an academic program for advancing multicultural studies across the curriculum and for deepening the intellectual heritage of Frederick Douglass, the former slave, distinguished orator, journalist, author, and statesman. Douglass, who was a frequent visitor to the West Chester area, gave his last public lecture on West Chester’s campus on February 1, 1895; an official historical marker has been placed to denote that location. Thirty years earlier, in October 1865, at the inauguration of a Baltimore, Maryland, institute named for him, Douglass said that the mission was “to be a dispenser of knowledge, a radiator of light. In a word, we dedicate this institution to virtue, temperance, truth, liberty, and justice.”

At West Chester University, the Douglass Institute is primarily involved in five academic areas:

1. Conducting research in multiculturalism and on Frederick Douglass
2. Sponsoring distinguished exhibits and lectures
3. Establishing opportunities for advanced study for public, private, and college-level teachers
4. Collaborating with historical societies and cultural agencies, and pre-college schools
5. Promoting literacy programs and enhancing academic preparations of students.

West Chester University’s Douglass Institute is recognized as the model for other Pennsylvania campuses and is called collectively the Frederick Douglass Institute of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

The activities of the institute take place on and off campus. With undergraduate and graduate students, and West Chester faculty, the institute sponsors seminars and forums on selected topics. The Anna Murray Douglass Circle is a lecture series offering a platform for today’s leading intellectuals. Annually in October, the institute sponsors Douglass Days, a festival of educational activities on Douglass and multiculturalism that involves the entire campus and surrounding communities.

For further information, call the Frederick Douglass Institute at 610-436-2766, or e-mail FDouglass@wcupa.edu. The fax number is 610-436-2769.

The Frederick Douglass Society

The Society of West Chester University (http://www.wcupa.edu/fds/) (formerly known as The Frederick Douglass Society) is a diverse group of predominantly Black and Brown faculty, staff, students, and administrators of West Chester University, who seek to elevate the social consciousness of the campus, and community at large. The organization facilitates the work and service needed to promote an ideal society that encompasses social justice, genuine equity, real reform, the arts, and holistic education. In the spirit of Frederick Douglass’ work as an abolitionist, social justice educator, and civil rights leader, The Society and West Chester University are committed to inclusive excellence by promoting empowerment through education, social justice through civic engagement, and the advancement of human rights through thoughtful public dialogue. Society members provide leadership, support, and guidance to the West Chester University community regarding multicultural education, empowerment, and equality. The organization also raises money annually for scholarship funds to increase the economic options available to the student body. The Society seeks, by the example of Douglass, to promote an intellectual standard that is not only grounded in excellence but profoundly rooted in the public mission of higher education.

Institute for Women

The Institute for Women (http://www.wcupa.edu/instituteForWomen/) was initially designated to serve as the parent organization to represent the interests of women on campus. The
The Institute of Race and Ethnic Studies (formerly named the Ethnic Studies Institute), established in 1974, is designed to organize, support, and encourage interdisciplinary scholarly research, teaching, and service/outreach programs and activities that are directed toward exploring and understanding the social and historical experiences of racial and ethnic groups in the United States. The Institute works with groups and constituencies concentrating on racial, ethnic, and cultural understanding, and fostering the development of a diverse university environment. The Institute encourages and supports faculty and students in their research on race and ethnic studies. The Institute also aims to cultivate relationships with local groups whenever possible.

The Institute of Race and Ethnic Studies offers an interdisciplinary minor in Ethnic Studies which provides students with a critical understanding of the social and historical experiences of racial and ethnic groups in the U.S and the impact of social and cultural systems and structures on these groups. The minor may lead to a multi-ethnic cultural understanding of the social and historical experiences of racial and ethnic groups in the United States. The Institute works with all students, faculty, and staff across the university. Students take courses that are coordinated with the curriculum for the minor in Ethnic Studies which provides students with a critical understanding of the social and historical experiences of racial and ethnic groups in the United States.

For more information about The Institute of Race and Ethnic Studies or the minor, contact Dr. Miguel Ceballos, Director, at mceballos@wcupa.edu (610-436-2308) or Dr. Carla Lee Verderame, Assistant Director, at cverderame@wcupa.edu (610-436-0013).

Poetry Center

The West Chester University Poetry Center (http://www.wcupa.edu/poetry/) hosts the annual West Chester University Poetry and Creative Arts Festival (the nation’s premier all-poetry writing conference), sponsors the University’s Poet-in-Residence program, and presents poetry readings throughout the year. The Center also oversees national poetry awards under the auspices of the Iris N. Spencer Poetry Awards, which include the Myong Cha Son Haiku Award, the Rhina P. Espaillat Award, the Donald Justice Poetry Prize, and the Wil Mills Award. Scholarships to attend the Festival and other events are made possible through the Shirley Geok-lin Lim Fellowship. The Center’s activities are directed by the Poetry Center Director, who is appointed by the dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. An interdisciplinary faculty committee advises and supports the work of the Center. For more information, e-mail the Poetry Center (poetry@wcupa.edu), or call 610-436-2598.

WCU Community Mental Health Services (CMHS)

WCU Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) is affiliated with the West Chester University Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) Program. CMHS serves as a training center for graduate students in the Psy.D. Program in the Psychology Program. As a non-profit training facility, CMHS provides low-cost, high-quality psychotherapy and testing for members of the greater West Chester community, staff and faculty of WCU, as well as WCU students referred from the University Counseling Center. Services include psychotherapy for a wide range of psychological disorders and psychological assessments, including assessments for ADHD, learning disabilities, and other disorders that may require documentation to secure classroom accommodations. CMHS is located on the 8th Floor of Wayne Hall. For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please call 610-436-2510 or go to http://www.wcupa.edu/communityMentalHealth (http://www.wcupa.edu/communityMentalHealth/).

Dub-C Autism Program (D-CAP)

The Dub-C Autism Program (www.wcupa.edu/dcap (http://www.wcupa.edu/dcap/)) is part of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) Autism Initiative. D-CAP is a campus program supporting matriculated students on the autism spectrum at West Chester University. The program provides student supports across the areas of Executive Functioning, Self-Care, Social Competence, Self-Advocacy, and Career Preparation. As a member of D-CAP, students practice self-determination by setting their own goals. Skill development and goal achievement are addressed via individual and group meetings as well as social engagements. Training and support are offered for faculty, staff, and peers on campus, helping West Chester University build an inclusive and accepting campus community. In addition, D-CAP offers transition programs for high school students who intend on pursuing a 2- or 4-year degree. For additional information go to www.wcupa.edu/dcap (http://www.wcupa.edu/dcap/) or call 610-436-3168.

RAM Initiative

Real Achievement Matters (RAM) Initiative is an inclusive post-secondary educational experience for individuals (ages 18-24) with intellectual disabilities at West Chester University of PA. The two-year program provides students the opportunity to learn, live, and interact with all students, faculty, and staff across the university. Students take classes on either an audit or for-credit basis and have a non-traditional application/admissions process. RAM Initiative students are full-time students, have full privileges of the university, and are eligible for Pell Grants and Federal Financial Work Study programs (if financially eligible by filling out a FASFA form).