



LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY

NEW STUDENT GUIDEBOOK



2025



FINANCIAL AID

IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES

- **Dec. 1:** First date student can submit the 2025-2026 FAFSA.
- **May 1:** Priority deadline for La Roche financial aid **and** consideration for PA State Grant Program.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at **studentaid.gov** using your FSA ID as an electronic signature.
- Create an FSA ID for the parent and student and use to sign FAFSA electronically.
- Enter the following school code: **003987**.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirement

- Students are to maintain satisfactory academic progress as established by La Roche in accordance with federal regulations.
- Read this policy at **laroche.edu**.

Adding and/or Dropping a Class

- Always check with the Financial Aid Office **before** adding or dropping a class or changing housing status to determine how it may affect your financial aid.

Withdrawing From a Class

- Financial aid will not be adjusted for students who withdraw from classes after the institution's refund period.
- Students are to maintain satisfactory academic progress according to federal guidelines for financial aid recipients.

Consequences of Total Withdrawal

- If a student completely withdraws from La Roche and they have Federal Title IV aid, including Direct Loans, they will have earned a portion of that aid, based on the date of the withdraw or the date they ceased to attend classes.
- The portion of unearned financial aid must be repaid according to regulations enacted for Federal Title IV aid recipients.
- If a student completely withdraws and has received a refund for textbooks and other expenses, they may have to repay some or all of that refund to be eligible for further Federal Title IV assistance.
- Students should notify the Financial Aid Office **before** withdrawing from classes so that they understand their responsibilities of repaying funds received. Funds will be returned in the following order:

Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loan, Federal Subsidized Direct Loan, Federal PLUS, Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG.

Special Considerations

- Notify the Financial Aid Office and request a Special Consideration form if the student or their family's financial situation changes negatively during 2024 or 2025 due to loss of employment, divorce/separation or loss of benefits.

NEXT STEPS

Review your financial aid offer and keep for your records

- Contact the Financial Aid Office if you have any questions regarding the types, amounts or conditions of your awards.
- If your aid package changes at any time, you will be notified by mail or email.

Complete, sign, date and return the Reply Form before the start of the semester only if you need to make a change.

- All aid listed is assumed to be accepted by the student.
- Do not complete a Reply Form until you have reviewed your award letter.
- A Reply Form is included with your award letter.

You should complete a Reply Form only if:

- You want to decline or reduce your aid.
- To indicate other aid not listed on your award offer that you expect to receive.
- Your housing status has changed.

Complete PA State Grant Status Notice (PA residents only)

- If you are a first-time PA State Grant-eligible recipient who did not complete this form when your FAFSA was filed, you will receive an email directing you to **pheaa.org** to create an account.

Complete Federal Direct Loan Entrance Counseling and a Federal Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN)

- All first-year, first-time borrowers must complete online entrance counseling **one time**.
- All first-year, first-time borrowers must complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) which is good for 10 years.
- Complete both at **studentaid.gov**. You will need your Social Security number, birthdate and FSA ID.
- These steps must be completed before loan funds will be credited to your student account.
- Your maximum loan eligibility for Federal Direct Loans is listed on your aid offer letter.
- If you want to decline or reduce the loans, you need to complete, sign, date and return a Reply Form.

Complete your Federal Work-Study information

- If you are eligible for a Federal Work-Study Award, it will be listed on your award letter.
- If you want to decline the Federal Work-Study Award, you need to complete, sign, date and return a Financial Aid Reply Form.
- All students accepting a work-study award must come to the Financial Aid Office in person to get a work-study contract and payroll forms **during the first two weeks of classes**.
- It is the student's responsibility to secure an on-campus work-study position.



Complete the Balance Calculation Worksheet and keep for your records

- The Balance Calculation Worksheet has estimated direct costs.
- Use the Balance Calculation Worksheet to help anticipate how much you may still owe on your bill.
- **Do not** include Federal Work-Study Awards because they must be earned by the student and will not appear on your student bill.

STILL HAVE A BALANCE DUE?

If you cannot pay your balance in full, consider these options: a Federal Parent PLUS loan or a private loan. **Be sure to request enough funding to cover both the fall and spring semester.**

Apply for the Federal Parent PLUS Loan

- The Parent PLUS Loan is a federal loan for credit-worthy parents of dependent students.
- Parents may borrow up to the cost of education minus any other aid the student receives.
- Parents should visit **studentaid.gov** and log in using the parent's Social Security number, the parent's birthdate and the parent's FSA ID. If you need to create an FSA ID, there is a link under the Log In button.
- If the parent's credit is approved, the parent must also sign a Master Promissory Note (MPN) and complete an Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement.
- If a parent's credit is denied, the Financial Aid Office will process additional Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan funds for the student.

Apply for a private education loan

- Private education loans are non-federal loans to be used for educational expenses.
- The student borrower must be credit-worthy as defined by the individual lender or apply for the loan with a credit-worthy cosigner.
- Students may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus any other aid the student is receiving.
- Visit **laroche.edu** to view a list of La Roche's most common lenders and information on how to apply for a private loan.
- Students are not required to use a lender on this list and are free to choose any lender they desire.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

La Roche is committed to assisting students in formulating a complete financial plan for the payment of their educational experience.

E-BILLS

Student account information is available online. Log in to **My.LaRoche.edu** and go to the Billing and Aid tab. Select Cashnet/Transact. Please check your LRU email for information regarding E-Bill publication.

Paper statements will not be sent. Adjustments to charges and/or aid may occur throughout the semester; checking your student account regularly is important.

PAYMENT PLAN

La Roche offers a payment plan that allows you to divide tuition and other expenses not covered by financial aid into smaller monthly payments. Through this payment plan, you may set up a plan that allows you to spread your payments over four months for each semester.

Payment plans are due the 10th of each month, September to December for fall, and January to April for spring. There is a \$25 enrollment fee, and enrollment in the payment plan is necessary each semester.

If you need help calculating your budget, a representative from the Office of Student Accounts will help you.

Tuition is due Aug. 10 for fall and Dec. 10 for spring.

Contact us at **studentaccounts@laroche.edu** or **412-536-1030** with any questions.

CASH OR CHECK PAYMENTS

Make cash or check payments in person Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You also may drop off documents for Student Accounts, Registrar and Financial Aid at a secure lockbox located to the left of the doors of ZCC204. Please include your name, phone number and student ID on all documents.

Cashnet/Transact is always available. Receipts will be sent to the student's email within two business days. Make an electronic check payment through My.LaRoche.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

Credit card payments are accepted and processed by CASHNet SmartPay. CASHNet SmartPay is a third-party processor, operating under agreement with La Roche to process electronic payments on your behalf.

Visa, Discover, MasterCard and American Express are accepted. Credit cards are not accepted in the office. A service fee applies.

CREDIT BALANCE

Financial aid, including loans, is credited to your student account after the last day to add/drop. Accounts in a credit balance will have refunds issued within 10-15 business days. Credits can be used in the La Roche Bookstore to purchase books and supplies.





THE REGISTRAR

The Registrar's Office publishes the schedule of classes each semester on My.LaRoche.edu, the student portal for registration, grades, financial aid and billing information. After meeting with an academic advisor, students register themselves via My.LaRoche. Any problems with online registration should be directed to the Registrar's Office.

ADVISING WORKSHEET

What is an Advising Worksheet?

An advising worksheet provides students and advisors an analysis of degree requirements for a particular degree, major, minor or concentration.

The advising worksheet matches your coursework against these requirements. It is a tool to assist you and your advisor in planning your schedule and monitoring your progress toward your degree.

As you prepare for your advising appointment for the next semester, we encourage you to print your advising worksheet and take it with you when you meet with your advisor.

What if I need help reading my Advising Worksheet?

The advising worksheet will show which requirements are met. For unmet requirements, you will see a list of courses available to satisfy those requirements. Once met, each section will be marked **with a green checkmark**. If you need assistance interpreting your report, please contact the Registrar's Office.

What if I see an error, or if my transfer credits are not appearing?

Contact the Registrar's Office. If possible, print your advising worksheet and stop by the Registrar's Office for assistance.

What if I have not yet declared a major?

The advising worksheet will track only your core course requirements until you declare a major.

The Advising Worksheet is an internal document for advising purposes only and **does not** replace your La Roche transcript as the official document of your academic record.



STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES



The primary mission of Student Academic Support Services (SASS) is to help students become active, independent and confident learners. SASS offers a variety of resources to promote student success through focused efforts in academic advising, career development, tutoring, Writers' Center support and study-skills development.

ACADEMIC & CAREER ADVISING

Academic and Career Advising is an extension of classroom learning and an ongoing process until the student graduates. This office is here to help students:

- Develop academic and career goals.
- Find or confirm the right major.
- Change their major, add a second major or declare a minor.
- Navigate the University's processes and policies.
- Find resources for success.

Course schedules are built for each student's first semester. Students then will be assigned an academic advisor, meet with that advisor each semester to build their own schedules, and register themselves online via **My.LaRoche.edu**.

- Expect schedules to include three to four core courses and one to two major courses.
- We strive to enroll students in 15-16 credit hours each semester to keep them on track to graduate within four years.
- Students must take 12 credits each semester to be considered full time. Taking fewer credits could extend the time to graduation.

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Career & Professional Development provides students and alumni with guidance, access to tools, information and expertise in support of their professional journey. Our goal is to help each student be Redhawk Ready for life after La Roche. We do this through:

- One-on-one appointments with students
- Classroom presentations
- Professional development workshops
- Employer information and networking events
- Career fairs and hiring events
- On-campus career closet that provides professional clothing to students free of charge

We collaborate across campus with staff, faculty and advisors to deliver and promote professional development for all students. We cover topics such as:

- Career exploration
- Professional development and networking
- Resume and cover letter development
- Internship and job search strategies
- Interview preparation and practice
- Graduate school research and application support

We utilize and assist students to gain proficiency with the following tools:

- Hiration, a versatile and user-friendly online AI driven platform for creating and editing the resume and cover letter, improving the LinkedIn profile, and conducting interview preparation
- Handshake, the top online early career recruiting platform for students, employers and campus partners
- LinkedIn, the largest business and employment-focused social media platform for professional connections





TUTORING AND STUDENT SUCCESS

The office strives to help students achieve academic success, foster strong study skills and habits, and develop as active and empowered learners. The office supports students through a range of free services, including:

- **One-on-One Tutoring:** Students submit an online Tutoring request for a course and a Peer Tutor is assigned as available.
- **Drop-In Tutoring Labs:** A Peer Tutor assists students during regularly scheduled hours for specific disciplines. No appointment is needed.
- **One-on-One Student Success Meetings:** Students meet with the Coordinator to receive individualized assistance with determining their academic strengths and areas for improvement, honing their study skills and monitoring their GPA and course progress.
- **Regular Workshop Series:** Workshops are offered each semester on topics like time management and goal-setting to enhance students' development of skills that translate to both classroom and career.

WRITERS' CENTER

The Writers' Center offers free one-on-one, individualized consultations focused on the questions that students have about their writing, reading, research and presentations.

Consultants in the Center are trained instructors or peer consultants who help students in all majors and at all levels by providing objective analysis and advice on common writing concerns, including:

- Developing ideas.
- Finding, reading, and citing relevant and reputable sources.
- Structuring writing in ways appropriate to audience and purpose.
- Writing clear and direct prose.
- Identifying and correcting errors.
- Assessing writing based on assignment directions and the applicable conventions of a discipline.





STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Life oversees campus life and student support. Student Life includes several offices that encourage involvement, leadership and cultural knowledge to create a vibrant and global community.

HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE

- Rooms are equipped with high-speed wireless Internet and Xfinity Streaming Services, micro-fridges, central air conditioning and heating, and private bathrooms.
- Parking is available for resident students at a cost of \$100.
- Student IDs are needed for residence hall access.
- Individual mailboxes are provided to all residents upon request.
- Residence Life staff and Public Safety are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in case of emergencies occurring outside of office hours.
- Visit laroche.edu to learn more about living on campus and items to bring when you move into your residence hall.

DINING SERVICES

The Cantellops Dining Hall offers a wide variety of foods every day, including specialty made-to-order demo bars offered throughout the week. The Redhawk Café also is open for food, drinks and snacks.

- We require all resident students to be on a meal plan.
- All three meal plans provide options for different lifestyles and run on a Monday through Sunday week.
- You may use Hawk dollars for purchases in the Redhawk Café or additional meal purchases in the dining hall.
- Unused debit funds expire at the end of each semester. Any unused debit funds are forfeited.
- Commuter students may purchase a Talon Meal Plan or Hawk Dollars to purchase meals in the dining hall or to use in the Redhawk Café.

Students can contact the Office of Housing & Residence Life to sign up for the Talon Meal Plan or the Student Accounts Office to add Hawk Dollars to their account.



COUNSELING & HEALTH SERVICES

Mental and emotional well-being affect every aspect of your life, including relationships with other people, academic performance and self-esteem. Sometimes, life is too overwhelming to handle alone. That's why La Roche offers free counseling services to students.

Professional counseling is available to all La Roche students. All appointments are private, confidential and free. Whether you're experiencing difficulty at home or school, we'll help you cope. Some common reasons students seek help:

- Relationship conflicts
- Depression
- Homesickness
- Self-esteem
- Anxiety
- Eating disorders

Health Services

We strive to provide the best care while you are here. La Roche partners with Steel City Internal Medicine Walk-in Clinic to meet your medical needs. Steel City Internal Medicine provides the following services from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday:

- All non-life threatening emergencies
- Laboratory services
- Flu shots

Services are provided under the terms of the La Roche agreement. In order to receive these services, you must have your student identification card and your health insurance card.

CENTER FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Student Development focuses on campus involvement and the growth of student leadership. The Center assists student organizations in achieving their mission and goals, and it also plans many campus events.

Serving as a central point of the campus, it houses the Student Government Association office and the club meeting room.



MAIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Mailbox/Keys/Mail

An individual mailbox and key are provided for each student for their personal use while attending La Roche University. The University strongly urges that each student retain a mailbox.

The mailbox issued to the student will remain theirs the entire time they attend the University. Resident students can obtain their mailbox and key from the mailroom which is located in the lower level of Wright Library, Room 109, during the first week of school. The mailroom is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Resident student mailboxes and lockers are located in the lower level of Wright Library. Mail/packages are placed in the boxes/lockers daily, Monday through Friday, and are accessible 24-hours a day.





INCLUSION & BELONGING

La Roche University's commitment to peace, justice, and inclusion is rooted in the belief that education should transform both individuals and society. Together, we strive to build a community where every person's dignity is honored, justice and peace prevail, and the common good guides our actions.

The Office of Inclusion & Belonging is dedicated to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment where a broad range of backgrounds and experiences are valued, and meaningful dialogue across differences enhances intercultural competence.

The office leads the development of a strategic inclusion plan in collaboration with University departments, addressing key areas such as education, advocacy, and policy.

Additionally, the Office of Inclusion & Belonging engages and supports students through transformative experiences that enrich learning, strengthen retention, and promote peace and justice in an ever-evolving global society.

Programs and Services

- Workshops and Education
- Leadership Conferences and Initiatives
- Student Organization Advising
- Social justice education series
- Cross-cultural and intergroup dialogues
- Inclusion Council

IDENTITY-BASED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Identity-based student groups at La Roche University are open to everyone! Whether you want to connect with your own culture or explore new perspectives, all undergraduate students, full-time or part-time, are welcome to join or start a club.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Active Minds | • Human Rights Club |
| • African Cultures Club | • Italian Club |
| • Asian Club | • MOSAIC |
| • Black Student Achievement | • One Youth |
| • Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) | • Saudi Club |
| • GLOBE | • Spanish Club |

BIAS INCIDENT REPORTING

Bias incident reporting allows for individuals to have an adequate means of reporting if directly or indirectly affected by bias-motivated incidents. The reporting protocol continues the work of ensuring that the campus environment is safe for all members and is free from discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military or veteran status or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

The Office of Accessibility & Inclusion provides reasonable accommodations and appropriate support to students with diagnosed and documented disabilities and/or medical conditions.

- All services are provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and deemed appropriate for the college setting.
- We determine accommodations on an individual, case-by-case basis and within the guidelines of the federal disability laws.
- After we determine a plan for reasonable accommodations, the student and their professors receive an accommodation letter outlining the necessary support.
- We encourage students to communicate with their professors about their specific needs as appropriate.
- Students must communicate with the Assistant Director of Accessibility and Inclusion **every semester** to receive an updated accommodation letter.

For copies of accommodation forms and for more information, visit the Accessibility Services section at laroche.edu.



PROVIDENCE CAMPUS MINISTRY

SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning at La Roche integrates academics and service to our community, both locally and globally. Our programming gives students valuable opportunities to develop useful skills, expand their perspectives on the needs of the marginalized in our society and make a difference.

Some ways we do this:

- Pursuing an antiracist attitude of diversity and inclusion
- Combating hunger through food drives, and supporting the campus food pantry and local food pantries
- Building rehab and neighborhood cleanup
- Planting and caring for trees throughout the community
- Planning and implementing spring break service trips
- Spreading awareness of human trafficking and supporting local organizations working to combat it
- Welcoming and celebrating immigrants
- Supporting health education for women and girls in developing countries

For more information, contact Steve Benson at steven.benson@laroche.edu or 412-536-1256.

PROVIDENCE FOOD PANTRY

An on-campus food pantry, located in Bold Hall, Room 257A, provides food items, toiletries, feminine hygiene products and other donated items to help students in need.

Providence Food Pantry is open Mondays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment. For more information visit intranet.laroche.edu/pantry.



PROVIDENCE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Providence Campus Ministry prayer offerings include:

- Catholicism and Coffee
- Guided Meditation
- Evening prayer offered around the St John's Bible
- Bible Study
- LIFE Christian Fellowship
- Interfaith Prayer services and Racial Justice Prayer Vigils
- Daily Mass as well as Saturday and Sunday Masses
- Reconciliation Services and individual Sacrament of Reconciliation

For more information, contact Father Peter Horton at peter.horton@laroche.edu or 412-536-1050.





BOOKSTORE

Purchase your textbooks or browse the latest Redhawk gear right on campus. Conveniently located in the Huber Academic Center, the La Roche Bookstore has you covered from orientation to graduation.

The Best Place to Get Your Textbooks

We work directly with La Roche faculty to ensure we have the right materials every semester. The Bookstore has every book and supporting material you'll need.

Did you drop or add a class, or change your mind? No problem. Refunds are offered through the Drop/Add period. Please see bookstore for details.

Financial aid can be used to purchase your books.* Visit the bookstore for details. Limited time only for fall and spring terms.

Order online. Free pick-up in the store or have them shipped to your home for a fee.

You Have Textbook Options

Textbooks are available in rental, digital, used and new formats.* Choose the format that best suits your needs and budget.

Rental

Ideal if you want to save some money and don't want to keep the book after the class is over. Rentals not only save you money – you can highlight and write in them too.

Digital

Digital allows you access to your textbooks anytime, anywhere, on any device. This option is convenient and often saves you money.

Used

Same book, better price, previously owned.

New

When you just want a pristine textbook that is all your own.

**Not all textbook formats are available for all courses. Additional information about textbooks can be found at larocheshop.com*

Textbook Low-Price Guarantee

We price-match textbooks against Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Find a cheaper advertised price within seven days of purchase, and we'll give you the difference on a gift card. Restrictions apply. Full details available in-store.

Sell Us Your Books

We buy back your new and used textbooks year-round and give you cash back based on the book's current market value. Please bring a La Roche photo ID when you sell your books.

Huber Academic Center

412-536-1140

larocheshop.com

Check the Bookstore for hours.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Academic & Career Advising

Brandi Stretavski
Director of Advising & Assessment
412-536-1129
brandi.stretavski@laroche.edu

Accessibility Services

Noel Hustwit
*Assistant Director of Accessibility
& Inclusion*
412-536-1177
noel.hustwit@laroche.edu

Athletics

Jim Tinkey
Director of Athletics
412-536-1011
jim.tinkey@laroche.edu

Bookstore

412-536-1140
laroche@bkstr.com

Career Development

Yvonne Hill
*Coordinator of Career & Professional
Development*
412-536-1130
yvonne.hill@laroche.edu

Center for Student Development

Veronica Philip
*Director of the Center for
Student Development*
412-536-1045
veronica.philip@laroche.edu

Counseling & Health Services

Ryan Klingensmith
Director of Counseling & Health Services
412-847- 2506
ryan.klingensmith@laroche.edu

Financial Aid

412-536-1125
finaid@laroche.edu

Housing & Residence Life

Patrick Bussiere
Director of Housing & Residence Life
412-536-1194
patrick.bussiere@laroche.edu

Inclusion & Belonging

Sarah White
Executive Director of Inclusion & Belonging
412-536-1243
sarah.white@laroche.edu

Information Technology

Student Help Desk
412-847-2300
studenthelpdesk@laroche.edu

International Student Services

Natasha Garrett
Director of International Student Services
412-536-1296
natasha.garrett@laroche.edu

Providence Campus Ministry

Father Peter Horton
Director of Providence Campus Ministry
412-536-1050
peter.horton@laroche.edu

Steve Benson
*Assistant Director of
Civic Engagement and Service*
412-536-1256
steven.benson@laroche.edu

Public Safety

Mark Wilcox
Director of Public Safety
412-536-1104
mark.wilcox@laroche.edu

Public Safety Officer on Duty

412-536-1111

Registrar

412-536-1080
registrar@laroche.edu

Student Academic Support Services

Marie Deem
Dean of Academic Support Services
412-536-1128
marie.deem@laroche.edu

Student Accounts

412-536-1030
studentaccounts@laroche.edu

Student Life

Colleen Ruefle
*Vice President for Student Life
& Dean of Students*
412-536-1071
colleen.ruefle@laroche.edu

Tutoring and Student Success

Lauren Villella
*Coordinator of Tutoring &
Student Success*
412-536-1226
lauren.villella@laroche.edu

Wright Library

Alecia Kerr
Director of Wright Library
412-536-1064
alecia.kerr@laroche.edu

Writers' Center

Jessica Ganni, Ph.D.
Writers' Center Director
412-536-1230 (front desk)
412-536-1227 (director's office)
jessica.ganni@laroche.edu



Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.

MISSION STATEMENT

La Roche University, a Catholic institution of higher learning, founded and sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence, fosters global citizenship and creates a community of scholars from the region, the nation and around the world. La Roche integrates liberal arts and professional education in creative ways, empowering all members of our community to become lifelong learners, achieve success in their chosen careers and promote justice and peace in a constantly changing global society.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY La Roche does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion in its programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: *Vice President for Student Life & Dean of Students* - 412-536-1069 | *Assistant Director of Accessibility and Equity* - 412-536-1177 | *Associate Vice President for Human Resources* - 412-536-1115. For further information on notice of non-discrimination, call 1-800-421-3481.