

**Q. When will my rook know his or her barracks and company assignment?**

**A.** Most rooks can see their unit and barracks assignment after March 1st on the NULiving portal after they apply for housing. If your rook does not apply before August 1<sup>st</sup>, they may have to wait until arrival to campus to learn their assignment. Sign up for housing at <https://norwich.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortalX/>

**Q. When will my rook learn who are his or her assigned roommate(s)?**

**A.** On the NULiving portal after they've applied for housing and been assigned to a specific room by staff in July. If your rook does not apply before August 1<sup>st</sup>, they may have to wait until arrival to campus to learn their assigned roommates.

**Q. My rook wants to try out for a fall-season sport. Is there an early arrival date for pre-season tryouts?**

**A.** No. Early arrivals are only for athletes at the invitation of the coach of that team. The coach will inform his or her athletes of the pre-season report date for that specific team. Varsity teams do offer walk-on tryouts: the coaches will announce the date and time of these walk-on tryouts during Rook Orientation Week. Your rook can also correspond directly with a coach to determine the date and time of walk-on tryouts that occur after arrival.

**Q. Will a rook athlete arriving early for a varsity team's pre-season be assigned his or her room?**

**A.** Yes, rook athletes arriving early for the pre-season will move directly into their assigned room.

**Q. Does Norwich's status as a Senior Military College guarantee my rook a commission as an officer in the Armed Forces after graduation?**

**A.** No, it does not. ROTC scholarships and programs leading to a commission are highly competitive and administered by the ROTC units assigned to Norwich University. And while the medical standard for a commission is common to all Services (the DoDMERB physical), the academic and physical fitness requirements are unique to each branch.

**Q. Norwich requires cadets to participate in ROTC for two years. Is there any obligation to serve in the Armed Forces after graduation due to this ROTC requirement?**

**A.** No, there is no obligation to serve. The two years of ROTC experience are an integral element of the leadership development experience common to all cadets irrespective of their desire or ability to commission as an officer and are a substantial benefit derived from Norwich University's status as a senior military college.

**Q. My rook did not receive a four-year ROTC scholarship. Can he or she still pursue a commission through ROTC or another commissioning source?**

**A.** Yes. A small percentage of rooks will report to Norwich with a four-year national ROTC scholarship earned in high school, but most rooks and cadets who earn an ROTC scholarship do so in their first- or second year as an enrolled Norwich student while participating in ROTC. As well, programs leading to a commission outside of ROTC are available to all Norwich students through sources such as the Army National Guard, Marine Corps Platoon Leader's Class (PLC), and others.

**Q. What role does a company mentor perform?**

**A.** Company mentors are members of the Commandant's Staff assigned supervisory responsibility for a cadet company in the Corps of Cadets to provide individual oversight, coaching, mentoring, and counseling to the cadet leaders, cadets, and rooks assigned to that company. Company mentors have an office in the same barracks as the cadets in their company to enable an enduring staff presence in the living environment of our cadets. Company mentors report to an assistant commandant that has supervisory responsibility for one of the three battalions in the Corps. You will learn who your rook's company mentor is upon arrival day or by contacting the Office of the Commandant. Your rook's assigned company mentor is your first and best point of contact for issues concerning your rook.

**Q. What is the cadet chain of command?**

A. The cadet chain of command is the hierarchy of cadet leaders that have supervisory authority over your rook's unit. Your rook will meet and become familiar with these leaders as part of his or her orientation to the military lifestyle. In addition to the cadet chain of command, the Office of the Commandant staff is always available to parents and rooks seeking assistance. Contact us at (802) 485-2135 or [commandant@norwich.edu](mailto:commandant@norwich.edu).

**Q. What is the physical fitness requirement to maintain membership in the Corps of Cadets?**

A. Cadets must annually pass the Norwich University Physical Fitness Test (NUPFT) consisting of two minutes of hand release pushups, timed plank, and a timed two-mile run. The test is age and gender normed. Rooks should arrive to campus prepared to perform pushups, planks, sit ups, and run two miles.

**Q. Will rooks need to have cash on their person?**

A. Rooks may need cash for small incidentals. There is an ATM in the Wise Campus Center. Credit and debit cards are also accepted in most areas on campus.

**Q. My rook needs more money for books and school supplies. How do we get the money to him or her?**

A. The Bursar's Office is a reliable source for financial assistance or information at (802) 485-2055 or [nubursar@norwich.edu](mailto:nubursar@norwich.edu). The bookstore also accepts credit and debit cards or cash.

**Q. How should your rook break in his or her military shoes or combat boots?**

A. Rooks can break in their shoes and boots by wearing them around the house or yard prior to arrival. Rooks should not wear boots in the shower or submerge them completely in water to accelerate the break in process.

**Q. Where can my rook purchase the prescribed military shoes?**

A. Visit: <https://www.norwich.edu/uniform-store/> or contact our Cadet Uniform Store at (802) 485-2206 or email [uniformstore@norwich.edu](mailto:uniformstore@norwich.edu).

**Q. My rook has prescribed medications. Can a rook keep prescribed medications in his or her room and self-administer those meds?**

A. Yes and yes. The prescription information must be provided to the medical staff at the Student Medical Center at (802) 485-2552 or [nuhealthservices@norwich.edu](mailto:nuhealthservices@norwich.edu). The student clinic is supported by the Green Mountain Family Practice located at the base of the Shaw Recreation Center. For prescriptions that require refrigeration, rooks may bring a small, dorm-size fridge, but must contact the Office of the Commandant for prior approval.

**Q. When can parents expect their first phone call, and can rooks send or receive email?**

A. Rooks will have a social media period on the second Sunday night of Rook Orientation Week. During the social media period, rooks can make phone calls, send and receive text messages to family members, and use social media. It is important to note that rooks can send and receive email after the first day or two of Rook Orientation Week once they have established internet connectivity.

**Q. Are rooks allowed to have food or snack items in their room?**

A. Yes, rooks may keep a small amount of non-perishable food in their room inside a plastic, shoebox-sized, sealed container (items that do not require refrigeration).

**Q. What is the policy regarding a rook's use of his or her personal cell phone?**

A. Rooks may not carry a cell phone on their person during orientation week. Once classes begin, rooks are allowed to carry their cell phone and can use the phone for academic and emergency communications purposes. AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon all provide cellular service in the area.

**Q. How do I contact my rook in case of an emergency?**

A. During business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern), you should call the Office of the Commandant at (802) 485-2135. Additionally, NU Public Safety is available 24/7 at (802) 485-2525. Once rooks can carry their cell phones, you can place calls directly to your rook.

**Q. I have not heard from my rook recently. What can I do to confirm my rook's well-being?**

A. Email is the most effective method, either directly to your rook's student email address or the Office of the Commandant at [commandant@norwich.edu](mailto:commandant@norwich.edu). Alternatively, you can call the Office of the Commandant at (802) 485-2135 and a staff member will pass your concern to your rook's company mentor. Keep in mind that rooks have limited personal time, so please be patient when expecting communications.

**Q. When is the first time that parents and family members can interact with their rook?**

A. The first opportunity to personally interact with your rook is Family Weekend, planned for Thursday, October 3 through Sunday, October 6, 2024. Parents and family member can attend the on-campus New Student Oath Ceremony planned for 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 25, 2024, and the Northfield Labor Day Parade that begins at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, September 2, 2024, but only to observe.

**Q. What is the Family Weekend leave policy for rooks?**

A. Rooks may sign out for leave following the Friday afternoon Corps Review with Retreat ending at approximately 5:00 p.m. and must return to campus Saturday morning by 9:00 a.m. Rooks may sign out for leave again following the end of the football game at approximately 4:00 p.m. and must return by 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

**Q. How do I mail or ship items to my rook?**

A. USPS, UPS, FedEx, and DHL deliver mail and parcels to the NU Mail Room in the Wise Campus Center. Rooks can retrieve their mail or package during designated periods. Please address to: RCT First Last, NU Box ####, 158 Harmon Drive, Northfield, VT 05663.

**Q. If I live in the local area and want to drop something off for my rook, how do I get the item to him or her?**

A. During business hours, you may leave the package with a staff member in the Office of the Commandant in Jackman Hall for further delivery. After-hours, the company mentor assigned to your rook's company will coordinate the delivery. The Office of the Commandant can provide contact information for the mentor assigned to your rook's company.

**Q. What is the weekend general leave policy for rooks?**

A. Rooks remain on campus on weekends except for athletic team travel, Family Weekend, and university holidays. Company mentors will approve leave for emergencies and will consider leave requests for special occasions such as weddings and family reunions.

**Q. Aside from first arrival to campus, does Norwich provide transportation to nearby airports, train stations, or bus stops?**

A. No, Norwich does not provide that transportation. Vermont Tour and Charter provides local shuttle service [www.vermonttourandcharter.com/norwich](http://www.vermonttourandcharter.com/norwich). Dartmouth Coach provides shuttle service to Boston and NYC airports at <https://dartmouthcoach.com/>.

**Q. Are rooks required to depart campus during the Thanksgiving vacation?**

A. No. Though most students do depart campus during university holidays, there is an application process for students to request break stay housing on campus. Your rook will learn more about break stay housing and the application process during the fall semester.

**Q. Can rooks keep a vehicle on campus?**

A. No, rooks may not keep a vehicle on campus. The only exception is when a rook must use a vehicle for travel to meet a military obligation such as a weekend drill with a Reserve or National Guard unit. The rook's assistant commandant is the approval authority for that exception. Rooks approved to keep a vehicle on campus must apply for and pay the fee for a parking permit through NU Public Safety ([publicsafety@norwich.edu](mailto:publicsafety@norwich.edu)).

**Q. My rook is in the Federal Reserves or National Guard. Can he or she wear military-issued uniform items?**

A. No, rooks will wear Norwich issued cadet uniforms as prescribed in the NUCC Standing Operating Procedures. However, your rook is authorized to bring their duty uniform that they wear during drill weekends. Rooks are only authorized to wear their Federal Reserve or National Guard Duty Uniform when they depart campus for drill and must change back into their Norwich Uniform when they return from drill.

**Q. How do I find the name and contact information of my rook's academic advisor?**

**A.** Norwich considers a student's academic advisor as non-directory information under FERPA. If your rook has elected to share his or her FERPA protected information with you, then you may contact the Office of the Commandant at (802) 485-2135 or [commandant@norwich.edu](mailto:commandant@norwich.edu) for the academic advisor's name, office phone, and email address. An even better option is to ask your rook directly for that information.

**Q. Can my rook attend off-campus religious services? And if so, is transportation provided?**

**A.** Yes, and yes. The university chaplain or a chaplain's assistant will contact the religious leader, staff, or congregation to **arrange** rides to and from the desired house of worship. If a particular denomination does not provide transportation, a rook may ride with another student going to the same house of worship after gaining approval from the university chaplain. In certain circumstances, the university will assist with arranging transportation for faith groups. For additional information, please contact University Chaplain Bill Wick at [wwick@norwich.edu](mailto:wwick@norwich.edu) or (802) 485-2128.