We are...
BLACK@RICE
To the Black admits of 2024....

On behalf of all Rice’s Black student organizations, we would like to extend a heartfelt welcome and congratulations! As you embark on this new journey, we would like to offer a few words of wisdom...

- Black Rice is a heterogeneous community of students that come from different walks of life: different shades, religions, cultures, nationalities, and academic interests. You can find many of these people lounging, sleeping, or studying in our Multicultural Center, a home for many of us in the Black community.
- Rice is tough. It can be tolling academically, emotionally, and sometimes even physically. Allow yourself to feel things as you navigate the newness of college. Don’t be afraid to reach out for help. We have many human resources in our community such as our Peer Academic Advisors (PAA’s) who dedicate many hours to assisting fellow students with academic planning, Rice Health Advisors (RHA’s) who have committed their time to learning how to better support their peers emotionally and physically, and the Rice Wellbeing and Counselling Center for when you want to improve areas like time management, eating habits, or just talk to a counselor when life gets really tough. Allow the Black community to be a resource to you. Don’t ever question your worth. You got into Rice and you are beyond capable. You belong at Rice University as much as any other student!!
- Rice is not perfect -- no campus is. There will be days that are difficult, but there will also be days that are so beautiful and memorable. We hope that you find the Black community here a family that will support you and lift you up during your time at Rice.

With love and Black excellence,
All Black Clubs (ABC)
Black Student Organizations.
BLACK MALE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (BMLI)
https://bmlirice.edu/
Instagram: @ricebmli

CARIBBEAN STUDENT SOCIETY (CSS)
https://www.facebook.com/ricecss/

DAWA PRE-HEALTH SOCIETY
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2319931631395817/

BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION (BSA)
http://bsa.rice.edu/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/548706498476690/

RICE AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION (RASA)
www.flickr.com/people/153337423@N08/
Instagram: @riceafricansa
Twitter: @RiceUASA

RICE BLACK WOMEN ASSOCIATION (RBWA)
https://www.facebook.com/groups/601674093594483/

THE IMPACT MOVEMENT
https://www.facebook.com/thelimpactmoveme
NT/?ref=br_rs
Instagram: @impact_riceu

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS (NSBE)
https://www.facebook.com/ricensbe/
Instagram: @ricensbe
Connect with us!

AANU JIBODU
Class of 2021, Duncan College
Hometown: Alexandria, VA
Major: Statistics
Phone: 703-338-6824
Email: amj16@rice.edu
LinkedIn: Aanu Jibodu
Ask me about being an engineer, studying abroad, being first gen/low income, academic resources

AMAN EUJAYL
Class of 2023, Baker College
Hometown: Twin Falls, ID
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Phone: 208-404-3156
Email: aie1@rice.edu
Ask me about academics, club involvement, undergraduate research, engineering

AMBER JACKSON
Class of 2022, Duncan College
Hometown: Jackson, MS
Major: Sociology
Phone: 601-503-6142
Email: adj5@rice.edu
Insta/Snap/Twitter: @ambezzay
Ask me about family, culture shock, mental health, identity, relationships/social life, etc.

ASTRID SARFO
Class of 2021, Brown College
Hometown: Kent, OH
Major: Health Sciences, Pre-Med
Phone: 330-389-4834
Email: aas13@rice.edu
Insta: @akua_17
Ask me about African and African American Studies minor, public health, and faith life

AXEL NTAMATUNGIRO
Class of 2021, Duncan College
Hometown: Pine Buff, AR
Major: Neuroscience, Pre-Med
Phone: 870-692-1269
Email: akn6@rice.edu
Ask me about anything academic, biosciences research, Pan-Africanism, Afrofuturism, postcolonial theory, etc.
**CHANEL ERICSSON**
Class of 2023, McMurtry College  
Hometown: Bristow, VA  
Major: Psychology, Pre-Med  
Phone: 702-981-5333 | Email: ce15@rice.edu  
Twitter/Snap: @princess102 | Insta: @chxerx  
Tiktok: @chxerx72  
Ask me about anything! College life, general conversation, advice, entertainment

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**CORDY MCJUNKINS**
Class of 2021, Duncan College  
Hometown: Texarkana, AR  
Major: Psychology, Economics, Social Policy Analysis, Pre-Law & Pre-Grad  
Email: cam18@rice.edu  
Insta: @cmcjunkins  
Ask me about student leadership at Rice, first-gen and low-income resources

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**DAVID IKEJIANI**
Class of 2022, San Antonio, TX  
Major: Bioengineering  
Email: dbi12@rice.edu  
Insta: @ike_acoustics | Twitter: @_david_ike  
Ask me about my major, managing time, schoolwork vs passion/social life

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**DERIN OKUNUBI**
Class of 2023, Sid Richardson College  
Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria  
Major: Civil Engineering  
Phone: 346-715-7393 | Email: mao3@rice.edu  
Snap: @derinsola  
Ask me about academics, social life, freshman year experience/expectations, international student experience, ideas if you’re bored, anything tbh

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**EDEN DESTA**
Class of 2021, Sid Richardson College  
Hometown: Austin, TX  
Major: Health Sciences, Pre-Grad  
Phone: 512-699-9756 | Email: edad@rice.edu  
Insta: @the_garden_of_3den | Snap/Twitter: @thegardenof3den  
Ask me about RASA, my major, Habesha tings, working while being a student, being first-gen/low-income

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**EDESIRI MUSHALE**
Class of 2021, McMurtry College  
Hometown: San Antonio, TX  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Phone: 937-654-6627 | Email: eom2@rice.edu  
Insta/Twitter: @edesirim  
Linkedin: Edesiri Mushale  
Ask me about first year struggles, residential college activities, club sports, academics, etc.

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**EMANI BROWN**
Class of 2021, Jones College  
Hometown: El Paso, TX  
Major: Psychology, Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality, Pre-Law  
Phone: 915-926-9087 | Email: leb9@rice.edu  
Insta/Snap: @emani_leb | Twitter: @EmaniBrownie  
Ask me about anything! Academics, social life, life at residential college

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**ERYKAH PEDRO**
Class of 2022, Jones College  
Hometown: Houston, TX  
Major: Cell Biology and Genetics  
Phone: 281-690-2429 | Email: efpl@rice.edu  
Insta: @perykah  
Ask me about anything honestly- major stuff, clubs, club sports

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**GINNIE OKAFOR**
Class of 2023, Hanchson College  
Hometown: Houston, TX  
Major: Kinesiology, Sports Medicine  
Phone: 832-250-3816 | Email: gmo1@rice.edu  
Insta: @ginnieokafor | Snap: @ygginnie17  
Twitter: @ygginnie555  
Ask me about my major, being a student athlete, clubs, or anything else! I’ll do my best to answer whatever ya’ll got :)
MOJOLA BALOGUN
Class of 2021, Sid Richardson College
Hometown: Houston, TX
Major: Computer Science
Phone: 832-253-7138
Email: balogun.mojola@gmail.com
Insta/Snap/Twitter: @moebee2

Ask me about my major, internships and career development in STEM, academic success tips, non-major music opportunities, residential colleges or anything that comes to mind!

NIA TEAGUE
Class of 2022, Lovett College
Hometown: Montgomery, TX
Major: Psychology, Pre-Law
Phone: 936-689-9150
Insta/Snap/Twitter: @niateague

Ask me about my major, finding your identity, diversity & inclusion at Rice, not being pre-med or STEM lol

TAYLOR CRAIN
Class of 2021, Lovett College
Hometown: Houston, TX
Major: English, Business Minor
Phone: 469-667-8925
Email: tlc13@rice.edu
Insta: @taylor.crain | Twitter: @_TaylorCRain

Ask me about the humanities department, my major/minor, networking, general advice, starting a club, writing a book

OLASINA AWE
Class of 2021, Wiess College
Hometown: Atlanta, GA
Major: Psychology, Pre-Law
Phone: 678-760-6915 | Email: oia1@rice.edu
Insta/Twitter/Snap: @trillashina

Ask me about my major, club sports (especially Ultimate Frisbee), on-campus jobs, work-life balance

ORIA WILSON-IGUADE
Class of 2022, Sid Richardson College
Hometown: Richardson, TX
Major: Psychology and Political Science
Phone: 669-475-1512
Insta: @owilsigu | Snap: @iowa_53
Twitter: @w_oria

Ask me about how to find your place at Rice, my majors, and work study

SARAH ELSAIM
Class of 2022, Will Rice College
Hometown: Pearland, TX
Major: Cognitive Sciences, Pre-Med
Email: sae8@rice.edu
Insta: @sarah.elz

Ask me about being Black at Rice, imposter syndrome, pre-med life, social life, health and wellness, anything else!

TIM HARRISON
Class of 2020, Martel College
Hometown: San Diego, CA
Major: Psychology
Phone: 619-559-9309
Email: tet2@rice.edu
Insta: @tollusu

Ask me about leadership, squeezing the most out of your college experience, athletics, being a Black male on campus, networking opportunities, and advice for your future!

TOLUWANI TAIWO
Class of 2021, Sid Richardson College
Hometown: Allen, TX
Major: Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Pre-Med
Phone: 214-984-2831 | Email: temi.dada01@rice.edu
Insta: @temi.dada | Twitter: @temidada01

Ask me about maintaining faith & spirituality in college, maintaining a healthy lifestyle as a college student, anything else!
FAQ'S

Academics

How collaborative/competitive are classes, both as a black student and generally?

Rice is far more collaborative than it is competitive. Every class is different in terms of intensity but most professors, teaching assistants, and other students want to see you succeed. There are lots of other opportunities to work with other students (e.g., study groups, review sessions, etc.) and we would really recommend tapping into these resources.

How do you balance academics and extracurricular/jobs (and for athletes, your athletic schedule)?

Managing your time is a continual process that will change a lot depending on the workload of that semester. It is important to build other things around your academics because ultimately, we are all here to graduate. Make sure to even schedule in workouts, free time with friends, and/or naps in order to make sure you are making time for yourself and balancing work and play in the midst of a busy schedule. Tools that really helped a lot of students include Google Calendar and Things (https://culturedcode.com/things/)

Since Rice is full of high achievers, do many Black students deal with imposter syndrome and if so, how do you deal with it?

Short answer, yes...especially students in the black community. Some students address this feeling by simply talking to other students. You will find that many students experience imposter syndrome, and the best way to fight it is to connect with those with a similar experience and create a support system! The Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center is also an awesome resource for students to confide in. Counselors and advisors are available to help you through this syndrome and much more to help you recognize that you are as deserving as everyone else!

Social life/black community

How do you originally get involved with clubs for black students on campus?

All black prospective students are invited by the Black Student Association and Rice Student Association to a black new student reception before orientation week even begins. From there, we host club fairs to expose students to all of the clubs Rice has to offer and oftentimes, returning students are eager to get new students involved in their respective organizations. So go to meetings! Attend an event! Join the black chat! And keep an open mind about your involvement in anything you do.
Could you elaborate upon the cultural clubs and how they work to build a sense of diverse community/family?

All cultural clubs, including the Black clubs listed above, host a variety of events at least once a month in addition to regular meetings to facilitate the sense of community and include all of the diverse cultures presented at Rice. Some examples include RASA’s Africaye and BSA’s Soul Night: both large annual cultural shows that showcase the talents and cultures of participating students in different mediums like dancing, singing, fashion, food, art, spoken word, and so much more to the entire Rice community. You can find more info about events that each club holds by following our social media and checking out our websites/joining our Facebook groups!

What is it like being a Black Student at Rice socially?

Everyone’s experience is different! Whether you are into partying or not, we create spaces for us to enjoy if one already doesn’t exist (e.g. movie nights, black crawl, game nights, etc). It is also worth noting that the Black community is always here for you whether you have never been involved or you are the most involved member. At a PWE, there are unavoidable issues that reflect the issues we see Black people go through in the real world. However, the Rice Black community is a family and navigates through issues that concern Black students in unity, not singularity.

How often do students/black students study together?

All the time! You can often find Black students studying together in their Residential College or the Multicultural Center (MCC) on campus. Both places offer areas where students can come together to study or complete homework. Classrooms are typically a collaborative space, so you can expect to form study groups with your fellow classmates.

Living arrangements/Campus Safety

Are there Black fraternities and sororities on campus?

Rice does not have any fraternities or sororities due to the Residential College system. However, it is still possible to find a community/family through the cultural clubs we have offered and at your college!

How many people live in each residential college and how does it work?

Once you decide on Rice, you will be placed into one of the eleven residential colleges on campus. This placement is random and serves to provide a diverse and welcoming space for you to live. In total, there are about 300-400 people in each residential college.

Is it easy to go off campus? How do people do it and what do they do?

It’s super easy to explore Houston while you’re at Rice. All students are provided with a free Houston Metro card and many bus/train stops are right next to campus and can take you anywhere, including downtown! Rice is located in the Museum District, so we are close to a ton of art and history museums, the Houston Zoo, and a short walk or shuttle ride to restaurants and coffee shops in Rice Village or the Med Center. People who have a car in the Black community are also really good about giving rides, whether it is to the airport, getting your hair done/cut, or just wanting to get outside the hedges.
What do you recommend to bring to Rice as a freshman?

Umbrella, clothes to be messy in, rain boots (the long ones), and anything else you need to be active in a climate like Houston. Also recommend bringing some pictures from home to help you when you miss it and it also gives other people a chance to get a sense of who you are just by walking into your room. All in all, collaborate with your roommate when you get them and try not to bring the same items (big lamps, fridge, couch, etc). Most important thing is to bring an open mind and a positive attitude!

How secure is the campus?

The Rice University Police Department ensures that Rice is a safe and secure environment. All residential colleges and many buildings on campus require swipe access with a Rice ID 24/7. At night, all entrances except the one next to the Rice U Police Department close to keep students safe after dark. A campus night shuttle will take you anywhere on campus after 10 PM. Additionally, there are emergency posts located throughout campus to contact RUPD if you feel unsafe or in danger.

-- HOPEFULLY, THIS GUIDE HELPS YOU IN YOUR COLLEGE DECISIONS. DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT AND WE WILL HOPEFULLY SEE YOU NEXT FALL! --