

# Night Sky Viewing at Widener University

## June 2025

### Sunrise & Sunset Times (EDT)

	Sunrise	Sunset
Begin Month	5:35 am	8:24 pm
End Month	5:37 am	8:34 pm

### Lunar Phases



### Naked-Eye Planets in the Evening & Morning Sky this Month

**Jupiter** (*in Taurus*): As June commences, Jupiter, which has been a brilliant fixture in the evening sky since last autumn, can still be spotted as a golden “star” low in the northwest in evening twilight; it sets by 9:30 pm, or just over one hour after sunset, on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Thereafter, Jupiter sinks into the evening twilight, effectively vanishing from sight before midmonth. Jupiter passes behind the Sun (conjunction) on June 24<sup>th</sup>, and will reappear low in the northeast at dawn by mid-July.

**Mars** (*in Leo*): Over the past three months, Mars has drifted eastward from the relatively bright constellation Gemini, with its brightest stars Pollux and Castor, into the dim constellation Cancer, and now into neighboring Leo. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, orangish Mars cozies up to Leo’s brightest star, bluish-white Regulus, making for a beautiful duo of nearly equal brightness but of strikingly contrasted colors. During June, Mars sets by 1:00 am on the 1<sup>st</sup> and around 11:30 pm on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Venus** (*in Pisces-Aries*): Back in March, Venus passed between the Earth and Sun (inferior conjunction), and it has since emerged in the east before sunrise as the brilliant Morning Star. Venus reached greatest morning (western) elongation with the Sun just prior to the start of this month, on May 31<sup>st</sup>, although the orientation of the ecliptic plane to the eastern horizon at dawn was not particularly favorable for this apparition. Venus rises around 3:30 am, or 2 hours before sunrise, at the beginning of June, or 30 minutes earlier, at 3 am, by month’s end.

**Mercury** (*in Taurus-Gemini-Cancer*): Mercury passed behind the Sun (superior conjunction) on May 30<sup>th</sup>, and during June it swings into the evening sky, resembling a bright star hovering very low above the western horizon at dusk. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Mercury passes close to Jupiter, but the pair will stand only a few degrees above the western horizon. Mercury doesn’t get high enough to be easily seen until the second half of June; by month’s end it is setting about 1½ hours after sunset.

**Saturn** (*in Pisces*): Now 3 months past its conjunction with the Sun back in March, Saturn is currently well separated from the dawn glow. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturn rises around 2:30 am, or 3 hours before sunrise. By the 30<sup>th</sup>, Saturn will be rising a full 5 hours before the Sun, at 12:30 am.

**Earth**: Earth reaches the Summer Solstice on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:42 pm EDT, when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted maximally toward the Sun, marking the start of astronomical summer in the Northern Hemisphere and of winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

### Constellations & Bright Stars Visible Around 10 pm EDT in June

**Leo** – halfway up in W, descending

Bright star *Regulus*  
Planet *Mars*

**Virgo** – up in SSW

Bright star *Spica*

**Hydra** – extends below Leo & Virgo

Bright star *Alphard* (“the Solitary One”), setting in SW

**Ursa Major** – high in NNW

Asterism *Big Dipper*, w/ pointer stars *Merak*, *Dubhe*;  
handle stars *Alioth*, *Mizar* (& *Alcor*), *Alkaid*

**Ursa Minor** – halfway up in N, directly above Polaris

Asterism *Little Dipper*, contains *Polaris* (North Star)

**Boötes** – high in S

Bright star *Arcturus*, directly above *Spica*

**Corona Borealis** – high in S, to upper left of Arcturus

Bright star *Gemma* (also called *Alphecca*)

**Libra** – one-third of way up in S

Bright stars *Zubenelgenubi*, *Zubeneschamali*

**Scorpius** – low in SSE

Bright star *Antares*

**Ophiuchus** – halfway up in SE

Bright star *Ras Alhague*

**Sagittarius** – just rising in SE

**Lyra** – getting higher in ENE

Bright star *Vega*

**Aquila** – low in E

Bright star *Altair*

**Cygnus** – getting higher in NE

Bright star *Deneb*

---

For more information on the night sky, visit the Widener Observatory Stargazing website at [www.widener.edu/stargazing/](http://www.widener.edu/stargazing/).  
A set of free sky maps can be obtained at [www.skymaps.com/](http://www.skymaps.com/).