

Night Sky Viewing at Widener University

November 2026

Sunrise & Sunset Times (EST)

	Sunrise	Sunset
Begin Month	6:30 am	4:59 pm
End Month	7:03 am	4:37 pm

Lunar Phases



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

Saturn (*in Cetus*): One month has elapsed since Saturn's opposition with the Sun on October 4th, and the Ringed Planet remains in very favorable position for viewing on November evenings. Saturn resembles a bright, cream-colored star in Cetus, the Whale, near its northern border with Pisces. In mid-November, Saturn is up in the east at nightfall and stands due south, to the upper left of the whitish star Fomalhaut, at around 9 pm EST. Saturn sets in the west around 3 am. Even a small telescope will reveal Saturn's rings and its largest moon Titan.

Jupiter & Mars (*in Leo*): Jupiter and Mars team up this month on November 15th in the constellation Leo to create a stunning, color-contrasting pair. Jupiter mimics a majestic golden star which far outshines any true star, including Leo's nearby lucida Regulus. Orangish Mars also outshines Regulus but is currently only one-twelfth as bright as its housemate Jupiter. In mid-November, the splendid planetary duo rises in the east-northeast at around 11:30 pm EST, and stands high in the south, well above the even more brilliant Venus, at dawn. Jupiter and Mars will continue to brighten, and the best showing for both worlds is still 3 months away in early 2027, when they reach opposition with the Sun, Jupiter on February 10th and Mars on February 19th.

Venus (*in Virgo*): After a lengthy stay in the evening sky from late January through early October, Venus reached inferior conjunction with the Sun on October 23rd, passing between Earth and the Sun. As November opens, Venus has deftly shifted into the morning sky, rising nearly half an hour before the Sun on the 1st. Venus then soars, and by Thanksgiving morning, it is rising 3½ hours before the Sun, at about 3:30 am. There is no mistaking this magnificent beacon, which reaches its maximum brilliance on November 27th, by far outshining all other nighttime objects except for the Moon.

Mercury (*in Libra-Virgo-Libra*): Mercury presents a superb apparition for viewing in the dawn sky this November. After passing between Sun and Earth on November 4th (inferior conjunction) Mercury reaches greatest morning elongation with the Sun on November 20th, when it rises at 5:15 am, or about 1½ hours before sunrise. The littlest planet, resembling a bright star to the lower left of Venus, is best viewed 30-45 minutes before sunrise on that date, plus or minus about a week.

Leonid Meteor Shower: Best visible on night-morning of November 16th-17th, with meteors appearing to emanate from the constellation Leo. Its source: minute particles from Comet 55P/Tempel-Tuttle, whose dust trail the Earth will be passing through at that time. The first-quarter Moon will not interfere with the viewing once it sets around midnight.

Constellations & Bright Stars Visible Around 8 pm EST in November

Ursa Minor

Asterism Little Dipper, w/ North Star *Polaris*, due N

Summer Triangle – halfway up in W, gets lower each night.

Three bright stars: *Vega* (in Lyra, the Harp), *Altair* (in Aquila, the Eagle), & *Deneb* (in Cygnus, the Swan)

Pegasus (Great Square) – high in S

Bright stars *Scheat*, *Markab*, *Algenib*

Andromeda – high in ESE, to left (E) of Pegasus

Bright stars *Alpheratz* (NE corner of Great Square), *Mirach*, *Almach*

Aquarius – midway up in S

Pisces Austrinus – due S

Bright white star *Fomalhaut*

Pisces – high in NE, below Pegasus

Cetus – up in SE, below Pisces

Bright stars *Diphda*, *Menkar*
Planet *Saturn*

Aries – up in ENE, above Cetus & below Andromeda

Bright stars *Hamal*, *Sheratan*

Cassiopeia – “W” high in NNE

Bright stars *Shedar*, *Caph*, *Ruchbah*

Perseus – up in NE, to lower right of Cassiopeia

Bright stars *Mirfak* and *Algol*

Auriga – low in NNE, rising

Bright star *Capella*

Taurus – low in ENE, rising

Bright star *Aldebaran*;
Star clusters *Pleiades* & *Hyades*

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