

# New Student Orientation

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New Student Orientation at Drexel University is an opportunity for new students and families to become connected to the Drexel community. This program is a comprehensive overview of the Drexel student experience and is designed for those who have made the decision to attend Drexel University. Both new students and families are welcome to attend Orientation, as it presents information that responds to each population's unique needs. By attending Orientation, students will meet other new and returning students and develop a clear understanding of what to expect when classes begin. Our family program consists of a variety of workshops that will introduce family members to campus resources and give them opportunities to meet with current students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

Orientation is mandatory for all new students because Drexel University believes that attending Orientation helps students make a successful transition into the collegiate environment. When registration is open in mid-May, all new students will receive an email through their Drexel email account with a link to our website. International students will also receive Orientation information with their I-20 packets.

There are a variety of Orientation programs from which to choose depending on your college or school, summer plans, and ability to travel to Philadelphia during the summer. Orientation sessions run weekly from July through mid-September and offer different tracks for first-time freshman, transfer, international, honors, residential, and commuter students to give each population specialized information.

The most up-to-date information about Orientation, including specific dates, schedules, travel information, and a countdown to registration, is available on our website at [www.drexel.edu/orientation](http://www.drexel.edu/orientation).

## About Orientation

### ***Placement Examinations***

In order to ensure that students are placed into courses for which they are well prepared, there are placement examinations they must take during the summer. Placement exam scores reflect the proficiency that is expected of students to be ready for the curriculum presented in Drexel courses. Depending on the student's major, she or he may be required to take an electronic examination in the following areas: mathematics, English, chemistry, and/or modern language courses. More information will be sent by email at the end of May 2012.

### ***Meet Other Students***

Orientation is the perfect place to meet other new and returning students. The friendships that are developed during Orientation are likely to last throughout a student's experience at Drexel. New students have an opportunity to meet other new students in their Orientation group and work with that group to explore campus and the City of Philadelphia. Current students serve as Orientation Leaders who are trained to answer questions and work with both new students and families to assist them throughout their Orientation experience. Student organization leaders are also involved with Orientation to showcase the endless list of student groups, teams, clubs, and sports that new students can join.

### ***Develop a Clear Understanding of What to Expect***

Attending Orientation is the final step in becoming a Drexel student. The information collected at Orientation gives students a clear understanding of what to expect when classes begin in the fall. For many, Orientation is the first time students experience living in a residence hall, eating in the dining center, or meeting with an academic advisor. For others, this is the first time they do these things at Drexel. Regardless of their path to Drexel, Orientation lays the foundation for students to make a successful transition into their Drexel experience.

### ***Transfer Students***

We know that transfer students are already college savvy; attending Orientation helps them become Drexel savvy. While many aspects of the transfer student experience are similar to that of first-time freshman students, transfer students have unique questions and needs that are best addressed by those with an understanding of the transfer student experience. Orientation is mandatory for all transfer students. Current transfer students and the Office of Commuter, Graduate, and Transfer Student Programs and Services will be on hand to answer questions and give new students and families information about the services available to transfer students.

### ***International Students***

International students should attend the final Orientation sessions in September. The exact dates can be found on the SEVIS form I-20 or DS-2019. Orientation is mandatory for all new international undergraduate students because important information will be communicated about immigration policies, classroom culture in the United States, and how the International Students and Scholars Services (ISSS) office can help you adjust to life at Drexel University. Please apply for housing through the University

Housing office, as on-campus accommodations will not be available during this time.

### ***DragonCard (University ID Card)***

The DragonCard is the official University ID card, which also provides access to many buildings and services on campus. Students will have the opportunity to take their DragonCard picture when they arrive on campus for Orientation. However, this can be done at anytime throughout the summer in room 124 of the Creese Student Center. Students must show a valid, state-issued ID (driver's license or passport) to have a photo taken. DragonCards will be distributed during move-in (for residential students) and during Commuter Connection Day (for commuter students).

### **New Student Days**

New Student Days occurs the week before the fall term begins and includes a variety of events, workshops, and ceremonies that officially kick off the year for all new students. The week is packed with events including residence hall move-in, Commuter Connection Day, trips into the city, academic workshops, and the New Student Induction Ceremony. The last few sessions of Orientation occur during this week for those students unable to make it to earlier sessions. Students from all class levels and staff members from various departments will be present during New Student Days to help welcome the newest members of the Drexel community.

### ***First Day of Classes***

New Student Days helps you prepare for the beginning of the fall term, which is Monday, September 24, 2012. Here are some tips that can help you on your first day:

- Familiarize yourself with Drexel's campus by attending the Class Walk and finding all of your class locations on the Sunday before classes begin.
- Go to the bookstore and purchase the required texts for your courses; you can also find other office supplies such as notebooks and pens.
- Print out a copy of your schedule from DrexelOne (<http://one.drexel.edu>) and pick up a planner from the front desk of your residence hall; using both will help manage your time more efficiently.
- Attend Welcome Back Week events throughout week one. Welcome Back Week is a series of events that welcomes the entire Drexel student population back to campus. Welcome Back Week is an opportunity to learn even more about Drexel University and the City of Philadelphia.

### ***Academic Calendar***

You can view Drexel's academic calendar online at [www.drexel.edu/provost/calendars](http://www.drexel.edu/provost/calendars).