



# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Registration Guide



**New Student Orientation**  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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# WELCOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA!



Welcome to the University of South Carolina! It's now time to start the tradition and prepare for your New Student Orientation. New Student Orientation is the first step in helping you successfully transition into our Gamecock community. Our office understands that while this may be an exciting time, you may also be nervous and have a lot of questions. Our goal is to ensure that you feel as comfortable and confident as possible as a student at South Carolina. **As an incoming freshman or transfer student, you are required to attend New Student Orientation in order to prepare for your first semester at South Carolina.**

During Orientation, you will have the opportunity to connect with peers, university faculty and staff. You will also learn more about the university, our history and the wide array of campus resources available. Your journey at South Carolina will encourage you to grow and reach your goals!

Students beginning classes in summer or fall 2023 can register for a New Student Orientation session beginning **March 27 at Noon ET**. Registration will close on **May 12**.

Continue reading to learn more about New Student and Family and Supporter Orientation, how to prepare and how to register yourself and a family member for a session.



# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION OVERVIEW



## Summer Term Orientation

If you are a freshman or transfer beginning classes in May (Summer Term), you will attend a Summer Term Orientation session. These are in-person, one-day sessions during which you will need to be available from 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m. You will hear from university faculty and staff, meet with an Orientation Leader and peers, attend an academic college visit, learn about university resources and take care of several campus business items. In addition, this is when you will meet with an academic advisor and get registered for summer term courses. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. **Registration costs are \$130 per student and \$50 per family member and/or supporter.** More information regarding Summer Term Orientation will be shared via email and at [sc.edu/orientation](https://sc.edu/orientation).

## Freshman Orientation

If you are a freshman beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will attend a Freshman Orientation session in May, June or July. These are in-person, two-day, overnight sessions during which you will need to be available beginning at 8 a.m. on day one and 7:45 a.m. on day two. **Students are required to stay overnight in one of our designated residence halls on day one. This will not be the same residence hall you are living in during the academic year.** During the two days you will hear from university faculty and staff, meet with an Orientation Leader and peers, attend an academic college visit, learn about university resources and the city of Columbia, tour campus, participate in evening socials and take care of several campus business items. In addition, this is when you will meet with an advisor and get registered for fall courses. A continental breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided on day one of your session and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided on day two. **Registration costs are \$250 per student and \$115 per family member and/or supporter. On-campus overnight accommodations for families and supporters can be added. These will accrue an additional charge that is not included in the Orientation fee. Space is limited.** More information regarding Freshman Orientation and overnight accommodations will be shared to the email address you provide during registration and can also be found at [sc.edu/orientation](https://sc.edu/orientation).

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION OVERVIEW



## Transfer Orientation

If you are a transfer student beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will attend a Transfer Orientation session. These are in-person, one-day sessions during which you will need to be available from 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m. You will hear from university faculty and staff, meet with an Orientation Leader and peers, attend an academic college visit, learn about university resources and take care of several campus business items. In addition, this is when you will meet with an academic advisor and get registered for summer term courses. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. **Registration costs are \$130 per student and \$50 per family member and/or supporter.** More information regarding Transfer Orientation will be shared via email and at [sc.edu/orientation](https://sc.edu/orientation).

# FAMILY & SUPPORTER ORIENTATION OVERVIEW



## Welcome to the Family!

While supporting students throughout their transition to college, our office understands this can be a time full of excitement, but also uncertainty for families. That's why New Student Orientation is not just for students: it's also for families and supporters!

Whether attending Summer Term, Freshman or Transfer Orientation, our Family and Supporter program runs concurrently with New Student Orientation and focuses on a wide variety of topics and subjects that families and supporters should find helpful during their student's first year.

Families and supporters will have the opportunity to connect with administration, faculty and staff to discuss their student's needs and upcoming experiences. They will also have an opportunity to learn more about their student's academic college and major.

Families attending **Freshman Orientation** with their student are invited to stay overnight in the residence halls on day one of their session, but are not required to. More information regarding on- and off-campus overnight accommodations for families and supporters will be shared via email and can also be found at [sc.edu/orientation](http://sc.edu/orientation). **The registration cost for Summer Term and Transfer Orientation is \$50 per family member and/or supporter. The registration cost for Freshman Orientation is \$115 per family member and/or supporter. Overnight accommodations during Freshman Orientation for families and supporters will accrue an additional charge that is not included in the Orientation fee. Space is limited.**



# SPECIAL POPULATIONS OVERVIEW



Our team offers a variety of Orientation programs for specialized academic programs at the university. Find your program below to determine if there is anything you need to prepare for prior to your session.

## South Carolina Honors College

Freshmen enrolled in the South Carolina Honors College will be advised and registered for classes prior to attending Orientation. **Attendance at New Student Orientation is still required, as you will meet with staff members in the Honors College on day one and two of your session.** Additionally, there will be a meeting for families. Students will need to attend **one of eight sessions** specified for this program:

- June 5 - 6
- June 7 - 8
- June 14 - 15
- June 19 - 20
- June 28 - 29
- July 10 - 11
- July 12 - 13
- July 17 - 18

Honors students participating in the **Accelerated Undergraduate to MD program** will attend Orientation on **June 19 - 20**. Please plan travel time accordingly in consideration of the **9 a.m. meeting time on day one**. If you cannot attend on the above dates, please contact Ali Mathwig at [amathwig@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:amathwig@mailbox.sc.edu).

## Capstone Scholars

Freshmen participating in the Capstone Scholars program will meet with their program on day two of New Student Orientation. Students can attend any of the advertised May - July Orientation dates. Please check your email frequently for updates from your program.

## TRIO Opportunity Scholars

Freshmen participating in the TRIO Opportunity Scholars Program will meet with their program on day two of New Student Orientation. Students can attend any of the advertised May - July Orientation dates. Please check your email frequently for updates from your program.

## Palmetto Pathway

Freshmen in Palmetto Pathway will meet on day one and two. **The day one meeting will begin at 9 a.m.** so please plan travel and arrival time accordingly in consideration of check-in. These students will need to attend **one of four** sessions specified for this program:

- July 10 - 11
- July 12 - 13
- July 17 - 18
- July 19 - 20

If you cannot attend on the above dates, please contact Laura Humphrey at [humphrlb@email.sc.edu](mailto:humphrlb@email.sc.edu).

## Gamecock Gateway (2023 Admits)

Freshmen in Gamecock Gateway will meet on day one and two. **The day one meeting will begin at 9 a.m.** so please plan travel and arrival time accordingly in consideration of check-in. These students will need to attend **one of four** sessions specified for this program:

- June 7 - 8
- June 12 -13
- June 14 - 15
- July 24 - 25

If you cannot attend on the above dates, please contact Morgan Ruebusch at [ruebusch@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:ruebusch@mailbox.sc.edu).

## CarolinaLIFE

Freshmen participating in CarolinaLIFE will need to attend New Student Orientation on **June 26 - 27**. At this time, you will meet with staff members from the program on day one and two. If you cannot attend on this date, please contact Rebecca Smith-Hill at [smithrb@email.sc.edu](mailto:smithrb@email.sc.edu).

## Student-Athletes

Gamecock Athletics will be available on select dates to meet with freshman and transfer student-athletes and their families. **These dates will be released on our website soon!** Student-athletes can attend any of the advertised New Student Orientation sessions.

## Military-Affiliated Students

Transfer students utilizing VA benefits are invited to participate in our [Veterans' Orientation program](#) that runs concurrently with each transfer session. Our award-winning Veterans Orientation focuses on veterans, active-duty military personnel and dependents who are interested in learning more about benefits and services available to them as students at the University of South Carolina. You will need to register for a scheduled transfer session in order to participate.

## Gamecock Gateway (2022 Admits)

Students who participated in Gamecock Gateway in 2022 must attend Transfer Orientation in 2023. Please contact Morgan Ruebusch at [ruebusch@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:ruebusch@mailbox.sc.edu) for more information.

## Early-Advised Transfer Students

Transfer students who participate in [early advisement prior to New Student Orientation](#) must attend New Student Orientation on **May 26**, regardless of their starting term. If you are unable to attend on this date, please feel free to contact our office. You will not be guaranteed the opportunity to meet with your advisor during Orientation, so please be sure to collect their contact information during your advising appointment.



# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION DATES



## Summer Term New Student Orientation Dates

**May 4**

Summer Term I

**May 26**

Summer Term II

## Freshman Orientation Dates

**May 22 - May 23**

Session 1

**May 24 - May 25**

Session 2

**June 1 - 2**

Session 3

**June 5 - 6**

Session 4

**June 7 - 8**

Session 5

**June 12 - 13**

Session 6

**June 14 - 15**

Session 7

**June 19 - June 20**

Session 8

**June 21 - June 22**

Session 9

**June 26 - June 27**

Session 10

**June 28 - June 29**

Session 11

**July 6 - July 7**

Session 12

**July 10 - July 11**

Session 13

**July 12 - July 13**

Session 14

**July 17 - July 18**

Session 15

**July 19 - July 20**

Session 16

**July 24 - July 25**

Session 17

## Transfer Orientation Dates

**June 23**

Session 1

**July 27**

Session 2

**July 28**

Session 3

## SAMPLE SCHEDULE: SUMMER TERM



If you are beginning classes in May (Summer Term), you will need to attend a one-day session in May. If you arrive past 8:30 a.m. on the day of your session, you will need to call our office and reschedule. We cannot guarantee accommodations for travel arrangements, so please plan accordingly around the duration of the program.

**Registration is \$130 per student and \$50 per family member and/or supporter.**

### Sample Student Summer Term Schedule

#### 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Morning:

- Program welcome
- Campus resource presentations
- Small groups
- Academic college visits

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Resource Fair
- Academic advisement\*
- Campus business items

### Sample Family Summer Term Schedule

#### 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Morning:

- Program welcome
- Campus resource presentations
- Family programming
- Academic college visits

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Resource Fair
- Family programming
- Campus business items

\*Academic advisement is a student component of New Student Orientation.



## SAMPLE SCHEDULE: FRESHMEN



If you are a freshman beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will need to attend a two-day, overnight session in May, June or July. Students are required to stay overnight in our designated residence hall. More details regarding overnight accommodations will be shared via email. If you arrive past 10:30 a.m. on day one of your session, you will need to call our office to reschedule. We cannot guarantee accommodations for travel arrangements, so please plan accordingly around the duration of the program. **Registration is \$250 per student and \$115 per family member and/or supporter.**

### Sample Freshman Student Schedule

#### Day One (8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.)

##### Morning:

- Breakfast
- Program welcome
- Campus resource presentations
- Small group

##### Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Academic college visits
- Campus resource presentations
- Small group

##### Evening:

- Dinner
- Skits
- Small group
- Evening social

#### Day Two (7:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

##### Morning:

- Breakfast
- Small group
- Campus resource presentations
- Resource Fair

##### Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Academic advising\*
- Campus business items

\*Academic advisement is a student component of New Student Orientation.



## SAMPLE SCHEDULE: FRESHMEN



### Sample Freshman Family Schedule\*

#### Day One (8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.)

##### Morning:

- Breakfast
- Program welcome
- Campus resource presentations

##### Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Academic college visits
- Campus resource presentations
- Family and supporter breakout session

##### Evening:

- Dinner
- Family and supporter socials

#### Day Two (7:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

##### Morning:

- Breakfast
- Campus resource presentations
- Resource Fair

##### Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Family and supporter breakout sessions
- Campus business items

\*While students are required to stay overnight in our designated residence hall, families and supporters are not but can if they would like.

**Overnight accommodations in the residence halls for families and supporters will accrue an additional charge that is not included in the Orientation fee. Space is limited.**

## SAMPLE SCHEDULE: TRANSFER



If you are a transfer beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will need to attend a one-day session in June or July. If you arrive past 8:30 a.m. on the day of your session, you will need to call our office and reschedule. We cannot guarantee accommodations for travel arrangements, so please plan accordingly around the duration of the program.

**Registration is \$130 per student and \$50 per family member and/or supporter.**

### Sample Transfer Student Schedule

#### 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

---

Morning:

- Program welcome
- Campus resource presentations
- Small groups
- Academic college visits

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Resource Fair
- Academic advisement\*
- Campus business items

### Sample Transfer Family Schedule

#### 7:15 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Morning:

- Program welcome
- Campus resource presentations
- Family programming
- Academic college visits

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Resource Fair
- Family programming
- Campus business items

\*Academic advisement is a student component of New Student Orientation.



# HOW TO REGISTER FOR ORIENTATION



Your next step is simple: Register for your session! You can do so beginning on **March 27 at Noon ET**. Registration will close on May 12. In order to begin your Orientation experience, you will need to:

## ① Pay your enrollment deposit (Freshmen only).

Incoming freshman students are required to pay a non-refundable \$200 admissions deposit to confirm enrollment before gaining access to New Student Orientation registration. Please note that electronic check payments will be held for six (6) business days while it clears.

## ② Verify your session.

If you are beginning classes in May (Summer Term), you will need to attend a one-day session in May. If you are beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will need to attend a two-day, overnight session in May, June or July. Visit the [“Find My Orientation”](#) page on our website to learn more about verifying your session.

## ③ Set up your account.

Using your VIP ID and USC ID, you will set up your account and log on to Self Service Carolina. You will be prompted to complete the following steps:

- Add security questions for account verification.
- Access your USC email and set up your email preferences.
- Add emergency contact information.
- Set Up [Multi-factor Authentication](#).

## ④ Make your reservation.

Using a laptop or desktop device, go to [my.sc.edu](http://my.sc.edu) and log in with your VIP ID and password. Click the “Admissions” tab and then the “Orientation Services” link. Select your campus from the drop down menu and follow the instructions on the screen. Only available session dates will appear on your screen. **Please note: Registration is only accessible through Google Chrome or Firefox browsers.**



### 5 Pay for your session.

Your reservation will not be complete until you have paid for your New Student Orientation session. **The registration cost for Summer Term and Transfer Orientation is \$130 per student and \$50 per family member and/or supporter. The registration cost for Freshman Orientation is \$250 per student and \$115 per family member and/or supporter. On-campus overnight accommodations during Freshman Orientation for families and supporters will accrue an additional charge that is not included in the Orientation fee. Space is limited.**

### 6 Prepare for your session.

Once you have registered, read through all of your session information and stay connected to your email for updates from the Office of New Student Orientation. You will receive an email confirmation for your registration. If you do not receive one upon registering for a session, please contact our office to ensure you have completed all steps.

### Refund Policy

Sessions remain open until filled. If the session does not fill, it will close two business days prior to its start. You are able to change your New Student Orientation reservation at anytime, as long as the new desired date is still open. If you need to cancel your reservation, you will need to do so at least two weeks prior to your session in order to request a refund. To request a refund, please email our office at [orientation@sc.edu](mailto:orientation@sc.edu). In your email, please include the following student information:

- First name
- Date of birth
- Contact information
- Reason for refund

There is a \$35 administration fee associated with all refunds. You will receive an email confirmation upon your request being approved.

Please contact the Office of New Student Orientation with questions regarding your reservation.



# PREPARING FOR ORIENTATION



As you begin to prepare for your New Student Orientation, it is important that you complete the items on the checklist below. Several components of your New Student Orientation are guided by your major, as well as advising and registration. **Incompletion of any of these items may impact your ability to register for classes during your session.**

## Complete all items in Your Admissions Portal

Your Admissions Portal contains information that must be completed before you attend your New Student Orientation and enroll for classes at South Carolina. It is essential you complete all items in the Admissions Portal.

Carolina Residency Certification Form. If you have not submitted a FAFSA, you will be required to complete the form.

If your residency has not been verified, complete the S.C. Residency Certification Form through your portal. Visit [sc.edu/registrar](https://sc.edu/registrar) for more information on the residency certification process.

## Submit your Citizenship Verification

Log on to your USC Admissions Portal to check if your status was previously verified based on information provided on your FAFSA. If you have not submitted a FAFSA, you will be required to complete the Citizenship Verification Form.

If your citizenship has not been verified, complete the **Citizenship Verification Form**. Visit [sc.edu/registrar](https://sc.edu/registrar) for more information on the Citizenship Verification Form.

## Submit your Immunization Form

Submit your completed Immunization Record Form **no later than one week prior** to your New Student Orientation. Upload your records to the [sc.edu/myhealthspace](https://sc.edu/myhealthspace) portal under Immunization. Login with your network username and password and your birth date. Forms may also be faxed to 803-777-3955/ 803-777-3960 or mailed to the Allergy, Immunization & Travel Clinic, 1409 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29208.

## Submit your Residency Verification (For SC residents only)

Students claiming South Carolina residency for tuition purposes are required to verify residency. Log on to your USC Admissions Portal to check if your South Carolina residency has been verified. We will use the information provided on your FAFSA to determine whether or not you need to complete the South



# PREPARING FOR ORIENTATION



## Confirm your major

If you are considering a major change prior to attending Orientation, make a “New Student Major Change Interest” appointment to speak with an Exploratory Advisor in the University Advising Center. Your Exploratory Advisor will make sure you have all of the correct information. Make an appointment by visiting [sc.campus.eab.com](http://sc.campus.eab.com). You may also contact the University Advising Center at 803-777-1222 or [advising@sc.edu](mailto:advising@sc.edu). It is critical that you attend Orientation with the correct major.

## Have copies of your unofficial Transcripts and any AP/IB score reports

Have copies of your AP/IB/Cambridge (AICE) scores and dual enrollment transcripts available during your New Student Orientation. If your scores do not arrive before your scheduled advising session, make a list of the test(s) you have taken and share this with your advisor. If official transcripts are not available, you may use an unofficial transcript during your session. Your advisor may also ask you to email copies of these documents prior to your meeting.

## Register for your Math Placement Exam

All students are required to take the online Math Placement Test **no later than one week prior** to your New Student Orientation. You will record your test score on your Pre-Orientation Advising Worksheet. For more information including practice tests and instructions for completing the test online, visit [math.sc.edu/assess](http://math.sc.edu/assess).

## Complete your Pre-Orientation Advising Modules and Worksheet

You will access and view your Pre-Orientation Advising Modules in your Orientation Portal after registration. Please complete all modules, as well as your [Pre-Orientation Advising Worksheet](#) in order to prepare for your advising and registration appointment during New Student Orientation.

## Register for your Foreign Language Placement Exam

Every student at South Carolina has to take the Foreign Language Placement Exam before taking a foreign language course to determine whether or not they meet course prerequisites. For further information, please visit the [Language Placement Testing Website](#). Completing your foreign language exam prior to New Student Orientation is only highly encouraged.

## Request your CarolinaCard Online

Go to [my.carolinacard.sc.edu](http://my.carolinacard.sc.edu) and read and complete the Cardholder Agreement and Account Access Information. Review the list of acceptable photos and upload your photo. If your photo is accepted, you may pick up your card during New Student Orientation.



# STAY CONNECTED



Once again, welcome to the University of South Carolina! Our goal is to make the preparation and transition to college as smooth as possible. If you have questions at any time, we encourage you to contact the Office of New Student Orientation! We also recommend frequently checking your email and our website for updates regarding your Orientation session. Until then, go Gamecocks!

### Office of New Student Orientation

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1400 Greene Street, Suite 345  
Russell House University Union  
Columbia, SC 29208

sc.edu/orientation  
803-777-2780  
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