



# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

## Registration Guide



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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 2024 can register for a New Student Orientation session beginning **March 20 at Noon ET**. Registration will close on **May 10**.

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 student 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 student 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 until 5 p.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 (this includes overnight accommodation) 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 fall 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 Orientation 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.

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**. 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. 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**. More information regarding on- and off-campus overnight accommodations will be shared via email and can also be found at [sc.edu/orientation](https://sc.edu/orientation).

Lastly, we highly encourage families and supporters to join the **New Student Orientation Community in the Gamecock Family Hub**. [The Gamecock Family Hub](#) is the best way to stay in-the-know. When you make an account, you will receive access to important campus news and deadlines, personalized newsletters and email announcements. You are also able to easily share updates with friends and family. As you navigate your transition to South Carolina, we encourage you to search for the "[2024 New Student Orientation Community](#)" to connect with other families of incoming Gamecocks!

# 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, as well as with those from your academic college.** There will also be a meeting for families. Students will need to attend **one of nine sessions**:

- June 10 - 11
- June 17 - 18
- June 24 - 25
- June 26 - 27
- July 8 - 9
- July 10 - 11
- July 15 - 16
- July 24 - 25
- July 31 - Aug. 1

Please plan travel time accordingly in consideration of the **9 a.m. meeting time on day one**. Honors students participating in the **Accelerated Undergraduate to MD program** will attend Orientation on **June 26 - 27**. 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 15 - 16
- July 17 - 18
- July 22 - 23
- July 24 - 25

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

## Gamecock Gateway

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 10 - 11
- June 12 - 13
- June 17 - 18
- June 20 - 21

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 24 - 25**. 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

Incoming fall student-athletes will need to attend one of the following New Student Orientation sessions:

- |                |                |                    |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| • May 24       | • June 17 - 18 | • July 15 - 16     |
| • May 28 - 29  | • June 20 - 21 | • July 22 - 23     |
| • May 30 - 31  | • June 26 - 27 | • July 26          |
| • June 12 - 13 | • July 1 - 2   | • July 29 - 30     |
| • June 14      | • July 10 - 11 | • July 31 - Aug. 1 |

## Military-Affiliated Students

Transfer students utilizing VA benefits can participate in our Veterans' Orientation running during each transfer session. It focuses on benefits and services available to veterans, active-duty military personnel and dependents. You will need to register for a scheduled transfer session in order to participate.

## Early-Advised Transfer Students

Transfer students who participate in early advisement prior to New Student Orientation are **highly encouraged** to attend their session on **May 24**, regardless of their starting term. If you are unable to attend on this date, please register for the next available Orientation. Space is limited, so we recommend attending the earliest session available. 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. For specific questions regarding early advisement, please email [transferadvising@sc.edu](mailto:transferadvising@sc.edu).

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION DATES



## Freshman Dates

**May 28 - 29**

Session 1

**June 20 - 21**

Session 8

**July 17 - 18**

Session 15

**May 30 - 31**

Session 2

**June 24 - 25**

Session 9

**July 22 - 23**

Session 16

**June 3 - 4**

Session 3

**June 26 - 27**

Session 10

**July 24 - 25**

Session 17

**June 5 - 6**

Session 4

**July 1 - 2**

Session 11

**July 24 - 25**

Session 18

**June 10 - 11**

Session 5

**July 8 - 9**

Session 12

**July 29 - 30**

Session 19

**June 12 - 13**

Session 6

**July 10 - 11**

Session 13

**July 31 - Aug. 1**

Session 20

**June 17 - 18**

Session 7

**July 15 - 16**

Session 14

## Summer Term Dates

**May 2**

Summer Term I

**May 24**

Summer Term II

## Transfer Sessions

**June 14**

Transfer I

**June 28**

Transfer II

**July 26**

Transfer III

## 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 (see times listed below).

**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.

Morning:

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

Afternoon:

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

### Sample Family Summer Term Schedule

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

Morning:

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

Afternoon:

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

\*Academic advisement is a student-only 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 (see times listed below). **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
- Reader's Theatre
- Small groups
- 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-only component of New Student Orientation.

## SAMPLE SCHEDULE: FRESHMEN



### Sample Freshman Family Schedule\*

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

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##### 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.)

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##### 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 (see times listed below). **Registration is \$130 per student and \$50 per family member and/or supporter.**

### Sample Student Transfer 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
- Off-Campus Living Fair

### Sample Family Transfer Schedule

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

##### Morning:

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

##### Afternoon:

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

\*Academic advisement is a student-only 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 20 at Noon ET**. Registration will close on May 10. 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 the IDs you recorded from your Admissions Portal, 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 USC 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. Refunds will not be considered unless received in writing.

Please contact the Office of New Student Orientation with questions regarding your reservation. All other policies and procedures regarding registration, fee deferments, mandatory attendance, accommodations, advising and refunds can be found [here](#).



# 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.** Student-athletes, CarolinaLIFE, Gamecock Gateway and Palmetto Pathway students will receive separate communication regarding their specific checklist.

## ☐ 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.

## ☐ 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 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 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 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.

# PREPARING FOR ORIENTATION



## ☐ Confirm your major

If you are considering a major change prior to attending Orientation, and you know what you would like change it to, you can do so in your Admissions Portal. If you would like to explore potential options, please 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](https://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.

## ☐ Register for your Math Placement Exam

The Math Assessment of Prerequisites, or MAP, is required for all students. The placement exam can be taken online, or in-person with prior registration. Please plan to take the MAP **at least a week prior to Orientation**. For more information on either online or in-person testing options and to register, please visit [go.sc.edu/mathplacement](https://go.sc.edu/mathplacement).

## ☐ Register for your Foreign Language Placement Exam

Students must register to take the foreign language placement exam online. Please plan to take this exam **at least a week prior to New Student Orientation**. For more information regarding online testing and to register for your exam, please visit our [Placement Testing website](#).

## ☐ 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.

## ☐ 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.

## ☐ Request your CarolinaCard Online

**All meals during New Student Orientation will be accessed using your official CarolinaCard**, so be sure to visit [my.carolinacard.sc.edu](https://my.carolinacard.sc.edu), read and complete the Cardholder Agreement and Account Access Information and upload an approved photo at least two weeks before your session.

# STAY CONNECTED



## Office of New Student Orientation

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

[sc.edu/orientation](https://sc.edu/orientation)  
803-777-2780  
[orientation@sc.edu](mailto:orientation@sc.edu)

**f** /UofSCOrientation

**@** X @UofSC\_ONSO

## Upcoming Q&A Webinars

How to Register for Orientation  
March 18 | Noon ET

Freshman Orientation Q&A  
April 8 | 5:30 p.m. ET

Transfer Orientation Q&A  
April 24 | 5:30 p.m. ET

Undergraduate Admissions will email  
webinar access to all admitted students.

Check out our podcast!

