



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

**PARENT & FAMILY
ORIENTATION RESOURCE GUIDE
& SCHEDULE**

FALL 2019

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to Connecticut College! This guide provides a brief overview of Orientation resources and information for parents and families.

Making Connections: How We Learn, How We Live

Central to your student's Connecticut College experience will be your student learning to make the connections among the choices they make, the communities they will inhabit and the work they will do in the classroom, on campus and in the world. The Orientation program, scheduled for Aug. 22 to 26, will introduce your student to the core principles that define how we, at Connecticut College, learn and live together as a community.

As a result of participating in Orientation, parents and families of new students will:

- Discover the depth of Connecticut College resources for student success, while developing a realistic perspective about the types of challenges students may face during the first year of college;
- Recognize their role as partners with Connecticut College in an effort to help students achieve the best possible education;
- Learn about expectations for behavior related to a student's academic and social development.

As a result of participating in Orientation, new students will:

- Understand the mission and core values of Connecticut College;
- Learn about academic and co-curricular campus resources and ways to become an involved citizen and campus leader;
- Understand the educational and social benefits of engaging with diversity;

- Design a balanced academic schedule for the fall semester in conjunction with their advising team and dive deeply into the Connections Curriculum
- Embrace the importance of the Connecticut College Honor Code and articulate the expectations entailed with signing the Honor Code;
- Recognize the connection between wellbeing and academic success;
- Learn how to live in a community with their peers and how their behaviors and actions have an impact on their community;
- Understand what it means to be an active bystander; and
- Forge new friendships through fun and enjoyable social interactions.

Orientation sessions are mandatory for all new students.

Student at Conn take an active role in their education, which comes with both freedoms and responsibilities. Taking advantage of all the Orientation program has to offer is the first step.

In this guide, you will find the following information:

Expectations of Connecticut College Students

Communications to Parents/Guardians

Support for New Students

Conversations About Alcohol and Other Drugs

Important Dates and Phone Numbers

Parent/Family Orientation Schedule

We welcome you to Connecticut College!

-Emily Morash, Associate Dean of the College and Dean of First-Year Students

-Geoff Norbert, Assistant Dean for Student Engagement and New Student Programs

Expectations of Connecticut College Students

The relationship between students and the College (and between parents/guardians of students and the College) is different from when your student was in high school. While we are here to give support to students, we see them as emerging adults who will take responsibility for the conduct of their academic and personal lives. Students will have the guidance of faculty advisers and the deans' staff, but they will make the primary decisions about the courses they take, their academic path and their co-curricular activities.

The Connecticut College Honor Code sets the tone for campus life and acts as a philosophy to live by and through which students demonstrate a personal commitment to participation in improving the quality of life in our community.

The Honor Code

"I accept membership into Connecticut College, a community committed to cultural and intellectual diversity. I understand my obligation to this community under the Honor Code and pledge to uphold standards of behavior governed by honor. I pledge to take responsibility for my beliefs, and to conduct myself with integrity, civility, and the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings. I pledge that my actions will be thoughtful and ethical and that I will do my best to instill a sense of responsibility in those among us who falter."

All Connecticut College students sign this pledge during Orientation to demonstrate their commitment to the campus community.

What do these ideals mean on our campus?

Integrity: Our students exemplify honesty, honor and respect for the truth in all of their conduct.

Civility: Our students are just and equitable in their treatment of all members of the community and act to discourage and/or intervene to prevent unjust and inequitable behaviors.

Respect: Our students show positive regard for each other, for property and for the community.

Among the questions you and your student may want to consider before arriving are:

- What is the purpose of an Honor Code?
- How will your student take responsibility should they violate the Honor Code?
- How will your student address their peers if they are violating the Honor Code?
- As a parent, what do you want to know about when your student has a conduct violation?

The Honor Code places a good deal of responsibility for both social and academic life on our students. During Orientation, we discuss with students our code of conduct in the Student Handbook to ensure they understand their responsibilities in this community. If a student violates our code of conduct, we expect the student to own the mistake and take responsibility for it. As a College, we recognize students make mistakes, we expect them to own their choices, and we want them to reflect on how their choices do — or do not — align with their goals as a Connecticut College student. When evaluating a student's conduct at the College, we consider both the academic and social choices made by the student. We want to be certain that all of our students and families understand our holistic approach to the student experience about their progress and difficulties and encourage students to communicate routinely with their parents/guardians about both.

Communications to Parents and Guardians

College staff communicate openly and candidly with students, understanding when they may be failing to meet the College's academic and social expectations. The College balances this consideration not only against our legal obligations but also with our educational philosophy.

The following principles inform the relationships between faculty and staff and students with whom they work:

- The College is committed to assisting students to become effective agents for lifelong learning and to enhance their capacity for self-reflection, self-reliance and self-direction.
- The College respects students' capacity to make decisions on their own behalf and to take responsibility for their successes and failures.
- Students' capacities for self-reflection and self-reliance are fostered in strong and supportive networks of family, friends, teachers, counselors and advisers. The College seeks to reinforce existing friendships and familial networks and to help forge additional connections upon which students may draw for advice, counsel and support.

In practical terms, that means that students are responsible for informing family members about their accomplishments, disciplinary issues and health or mental health concerns. In general, College officials will share that information with parents/guardians only with the student's knowledge and consent. However, as permitted by FERPA, the College will notify parents and guardians in the following circumstances:

- **Conduct:** a dependent student's violation of the Honor Code and/or Student Code of Conduct results in disciplinary probation level 2, loss of housing, suspension or expulsion.
- **Academic Progress:** when a student is placed on very serious academic warning, advised to withdraw or directed to withdraw status at the completion of a semester.

- **Academic Achievement:** parents of first-year students will be notified if their student achieves Dean's Honors or Dean's High Honors. Please note that the College will not release individual grades to parents or guardians. For more information about our Academic Review Procedures please visit: <https://www.conncoll.edu/academics/dean-of-the-college/academic-standing-and-promotion/>

A few tips:

- Encourage your student to check their email regularly. Email is the primary means of communication used at the College and they will receive important information regularly in their email.
- Email or call the Dean of First-Year Students if you are concerned about how your student is doing at the College. We do not recommend that parents or family contact advisers or faculty members directly with concerns, but instead reach out to the dean's office first.

Communications to Parents and Guardians

Contact Information

When students are admitted to Connecticut College and set up their account for the first time, they are prompted to fill out the “My Contact Info” form as part of that process. This form collects the following information from the student:

Permanent Mailing Address - This is not the student’s local campus address, but the one used for any official campus mailing to the student’s home.

Emergency Phone Number - The student specifies the phone number that they want contacted in the event of a campus emergency, and they can also choose to receive a text message if desired.

Parent/Guardian Information - Students list parent/guardian contacts. Only one parent is required in this section, but students are encouraged to enter as many parents/guardians as they have so that parents are able to receive communications from the college. The student uses a Yes/No slider to designate a given parent as an Emergency Contact. It is required for at least one parent to be an emergency contact unless the student is granted an exception from the Dean of The College.

Emergency Contacts - Students must have at least one emergency contact. Emergency contacts will be contacted in the order the student specifies. Parent/Guardian contacts designated as Emergency Contacts in step 3 will appear automatically in this section. The student may also add additional contacts.

The information is collected from students as they are admitted, but they are prompted twice a year to review the information they entered and make updates to it if needed. They are prompted in mid-August and again in January. Students may also update this information at any time by logging into CamelWeb and selecting “My Contact Info” from the drop down menu in the upper right corner.

You should talk with your student about what they have submitted in “My Contact Info.” If you aren’t receiving emails from Connecticut College, at a given time, you should ask your student about it, but know that it is up to the student to decide who they list as their parents/guardians and emergency contacts.

Support for New Students

The First-Year Program

<https://www.conncoll.edu/academics/dean-of-the-college/class-deans/dean-of-first-year-students/>

Connecticut College thinks about our students' first year in an integrated way. By intertwining their work with the dean of first-year students, the Orientation program, the first-year seminar program and the team advising structure, we assist in their transition and provide support throughout the year.

Students can seek out support and guidance from a number of offices on campus, which work together to support student well-being and academic and social success.

Office of the Dean of the College

<https://www.conncoll.edu/academics/dean-of-the-college>

The dean of the College and the class deans—dean of first-year students, the dean of sophomores, and the dean of juniors and seniors—oversee the academic progress of students and coordinate academic advising. The dean of juniors and seniors initially assists with transfer students as well. The deans are available to meet with students throughout the year about any issue related to their college experience.

Academic Support Services

<https://www.conncoll.edu/academic-resource-center/>

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is for the entire College community and provides academic support services for all students so that they may reach their maximum academic potential. Although the primary goal is to assist students in becoming more efficient and effective learners, the ARC is available to all who wish to improve their academic skills and ability to learn. ARC staff will come to each First-Year Seminar this fall to talk to students about time management and study skills. Distinct support services offered by ARC staff include individual and small group tutoring, individual academic coaching, referral to Student Counseling Services, and academic interventions for students on academic probation.

Division of Student Life

<https://www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/dean-of-student-life/>

The dean of students, the senior associate dean of Student Life, and the staffs in Student Counseling and Health Services; Residential Education and Living; Student Engagement; Athletics; Campus Safety; and Wellbeing and Health Promotion work together in myriad ways to advance and support students' educational experiences.

Residential Education and Living (REAL) (860-439-2834)

<https://www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/residential-life/>

The office of Residential Education and Living's mission is to foster responsible citizenship by cultivating safe, inclusive communities that advance learning in and outside of the classroom. A wide variety of opportunities are offered which complement the needs of the students and their communities. These programs and activities, as well as our staffs' daily interactions with students, are intended to provide opportunities for growth and development.

The Residential Education and Living staff consists of the Assistant Dean for Residential Education, an Associate Director, two Assistant Directors, 17 paraprofessional Housefellows (HFs), 42 paraprofessional Floor Governors (FGs), and 6 paraprofessional Independent Living Coordinators (ILCs). Housefellows, Floor Governors and Independent Living Coordinators are student leaders who live in the residential houses and apartments to provide programming and support in the development of vibrant communities.

Support for New Students

Student Engagement (860-439-2108)

<https://www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/clubs-and-leadership/>

The Office of Student Engagement and New Student Programs aims to strengthen the student experience and foster a culture of campus of engagement by cultivating student leadership, creating opportunities for students to connect with their peers, and developing dynamic social and learning experiences.

Conn has something for every student, with more than **80 active clubs and club sports** on campus, and numerous opportunities to **develop leadership skills**. Whether it's a cappella, Rugby, improv comedy, student government—you craft the community you want by getting involved in what really matters to you. Grab some chai with friends in Coffee Grounds or find a cozy spot to study in one of our many other **student spaces**. Yearly **campus traditions**, like the Floralia music festival and Fall Weekend, bring the entire College community together.

Questions? Contact the Office of Student Engagement and New Student Programs, 860-439-2108, or email studentengagement@conncoll.edu.

Student Health Services (860-439-2275)

<https://www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/student-health-services/>

Student Health Services is a licensed, outpatient clinic attending to the immediate primary health needs of all matriculated Connecticut College students. The medical staff are board certified and credentialed health care providers. All professional services are delivered with attention to confidentiality.

Student Health Services appointments are typically available Monday-Friday, 8:30a.m.-5p.m. Students have the ability to schedule appointments online 24/7 through the Connecticut College Student Health Services electronic health records system called PyraMed. Students may also make an appointment by phone.

Urgent Care Off Campus

If students believe they need medical care when Student Health Services is closed, students have access to two local urgent care centers. GoHealth Urgent Care Center is located a mile from campus and PhysicianOne Health Care is located in Groton, CT.

- Currently published hours are Monday-Friday from 8am-8pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9am-5pm.
- *Students will need to bring their insurance card and identification.*
- Please know that GoHealth is for urgent care and generally does not accept appointments for physicals or other preventative health care needs. Student Health Services can assist with these needs.
- If students meet with urgent care at GoHealth, they should give permission for GoHealth to contact Student Health Services so that we can follow up on their care.

If a student believes they are experiencing an emergency, they should call Campus Safety or 911.

Support for New Students

Student Counseling Services (860-439-4587)

<https://www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/student-counseling-services/>

Student Counseling Services goal is to enhance each individual's ability to learn, to create and to be fully participating members of the College community by utilizing safe, culturally sensitive and inclusive approaches to mental health treatment. Care is provided in a safe and compassionate atmosphere at no cost to the student.

Appointments are typically available Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5p.m. Students can schedule appointments by contacting the Student Counseling Services in person, by calling or by emailing SCS@conncoll.edu. Students are assigned to a counselor for an initial evaluation. If ongoing counseling seems appropriate after the initial evaluation, the staff may recommend individual or group psychotherapy or both. Some students may be referred to the consulting psychiatrist for medication evaluation. In some cases, students may be referred to off-campus service providers for more intensive or specialized treatment.

Division of Institutional Equity and Inclusion (DIEI)

<https://www.conncoll.edu/equity-inclusion/>

The Division of Institutional Equity and Inclusion is responsible for integrating equity and inclusion in every aspect of the educational, residential, and professional life of the College. The Deans and offices in this division work collaboratively with colleagues across campus to promote a culture of inclusion; implement policies in support of full and equitable participation; offer programs that advance social justice awareness; and foster conversations to enhance intergroup dialogue and

cross-cultural engagement. The division consists of several student-focused offices, including Equity and Compliance Programs, Gender and Sexuality Programs, Race and Ethnicity Programs, Religious and Spiritual Programs, Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy, and Student Accessibility Services. Each of these offices provides direct advising and support to students as well as educational and social programming for the broader campus community. There are also several safe spaces on campus for people who share identities, beliefs, and common interests to gather. These include the LGBTQIA and Womxn's Centers (both in Smith-Burdick Residence Hall), Unity House (our historic multicultural center), Harkness Chapel, and the Zachs Hillel House (a center for Jewish life and culture).

Student Accessibility Services

<https://www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/accessibility-services/>

The Office of Student Accessibility Services seeks to create an environment in which students with documented conditions or disorders that rise to the level of a disability participate fully in the range of experiences available to all students at Connecticut College including curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) supports students with any type of documented disability. SAS has an extensive website and we encourage you to review it if your student might benefit from the resources offered by SAS.

If your student was diagnosed with a learning disability, received accommodations, or had an I.E.P. in high school, we strongly encourage your student to connect with Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible (if they haven't already) so that they can submit

Support for New Students

documentation and have it reviewed to see if they qualify for accommodations.

If your student has a temporary injury or condition (ex. concussion, broken bone) that arises during their time at Conn, they should contact Student Health Services or the Athletic trainers if they are a varsity athlete.

If your student has any dietary needs related to a disability, they should contact Chris Manfredi from Dining Services who will consult with them about their needs.

CARE Team

<http://www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/dean-of-student-life/care-team/>

The CARE (Concern, Assessment, Response, Evaluation) Team provides coordinated support for students in distress and addresses concerns about student behavior, academic progress and personal issues, including mental health concerns. The class deans, staff from Student Life, and the dean of Academic Support Services meet regularly to discuss students of concern.

Conversations About Alcohol and Other Drugs

The health and wellbeing of our students is paramount to us as we know student wellbeing plays an integral part to student success. Prevention research informs our conversations and work with students and families. We know from the research the vital importance of parents engaging their student in an ongoing dialogue about substance use and the decisions they will make in college. We need you to make your expectations of your student clear and create an ongoing conversation to support them in their decision making.

We know that you may have concerns about issues including alcohol use and how your student may respond to having greater responsibility for their own behavior. Please be assured that Connecticut College abides by all state and federal law for alcohol and drug use. Below we have listed a sampling of questions and conversation starters for you and your student to consider as it relates to alcohol and other drugs:

- Why might a student choose to delay the use of alcohol? (e.g. academics, athletics, personal choice)
- What will they do if they find themselves at a party where people are drinking?
- What if their roommate likes to drink and party?
- Will they feel comfortable stepping in if a friend has too much to drink?

Beyond the conversations you have with your student, Connecticut College has a comprehensive prevention program for students. We know from the research that alcohol and other drug use can adversely affect student health and wellbeing including GPA, brain development and relationships. Earlier this month, new students were prompted to complete AlcoholWise and MarijuanaWise. AlcoholWise uses the latest prevention techniques and research to educate students about the impact of alcohol on the mind and body and introduces our policies and resources on campus. AlcoholWise is designed to empower your student to think critically about decisions about alcohol.

We also recognize there are numerous conversations at the state and national level around cannabis (marijuana) use. It is important to note that cannabis (including medical marijuana) continues to be illegal on campus. Through the MarijuanaWise program, students can benefit from a full understanding of marijuana, its impact on the brain and learning, and become familiar with campus policy that aligns with Federal law.

We know that a student's arrival at college may also be the first time they are responsible for managing their own prescription medications. For a variety of reasons, it is essential that you talk with your student about managing and securing their prescription medications. We recommend students secure their medications in a lockbox to help mitigate misuse and keep our community safe. Lockboxes are available at no cost in Student Health Services.

Throughout the year, we provide a variety of opportunities to support students in making responsible decisions. If you have questions or concerns about your student's substance use, we encourage you to have your student speak with our director of Wellbeing and Health Promotion, who can be reached at 860-439-2286.

Parental Notification: The College retains the right to notify parents about alcohol or other drug incidents involving students under age 21. Our practice is as follows for violations of campus policy:

- **First violation:** the College will work solely and directly with student
- **Second violation:** the College may choose to notify the parent/guardian
- **Third violation:** the College will notify the parent/guardian

Parent and Family Schedule — Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019

Family Headquarters—The College Center at Crozier Williams

**schedule subject to change*

8-11 A.M.

Residence Hall Move-in

Students will be greeted by their Housefellow and Floor Governor, who will help them check in and get their room key and swipe card.

8 A.M.

Information desk open @ Crozier Williams

- The College Bookshop will be open from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- The Post Office will be open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

9 A.M.-4 P.M.

Resources

Campus Offices will be open from 9am-4 p.m. and available to answer questions you may have.

- Financial Aid Office - located in Larrabee House
- Accounting Office - located in Facilities
- Student Health & Counseling Services - located in Warnshuis Health Center
- Dean of the College Office - located on the 2nd floor of Fanning Hall (Room 206)
- Residential Education & Living Office - Warnshuis Health Center (entrance located under the overpass on Chapel Way)

9:30-10:30 A.M.

Welcome to Varsity Athletics & New Student Medical Clearance Meetings (For all new students who anticipate being varsity athletes - fall, winter and spring - and their families),

Evans Hall, Cummings Arts Center

9:30-10 A.M.

Welcome Session For Students & Families

10-10:30 A.M.

Family Q & A

10 A.M.-1:15 P.M.

New Student Medical Screening For Fall Varsity Athletes Only

11 A.M.-1:15 P.M.

Community Resources, Larrabee Green (Rain location: Second floor, College Center)

- Local banks will be available to help with savings and checking accounts
- Crystal Mall
- AT&T

11:30 A.M.-1 P.M.

Lunch for Incoming Transfer Students and Their Families with Marina Melendez, dean for juniors, seniors and transfers, Cro's Nest, College Center

11:30 A.M.-12:45 P.M.

Buffet lunch, Harris Refectory

Families may attend lunch, free of charge, in the dining hall.

1:30 P.M.

Parent and Family Welcome by the Dean of Students, Dean of the College and the Dean of Institutional Equity & Inclusion, 1962 Room, College Center

Parent and Family Schedule — Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019

Family Headquarters—The College Center at Crozier Williams

**schedule subject to change*

2:15-4:05 P.M.

Information Sessions for Parents and Families:

The following sessions for parents and families will take place in *Crozier-Williams* at these times: 2:15-2:50 p.m.; 2:55-3:30 p.m.; and 3:35-4:10 p.m.

1. **Academic Success Workshop:** The Dean of the College and the Dean of Academic Support Services will focus on the students' academic responsibilities and the ways students can partner with our academic support services to successfully navigate their first academic year at Connecticut College. *1941 Room, College Center*

2. **Community of Care: Student Health and Wellness:**

The Director of Student Health & Counseling Services, the Director of Wellbeing and Health Promotion, and the Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy will provide an overview of Connecticut College's health and mental health services and campus wellbeing resources available to students. *Cro's Nest, College Center*

3. **Leaving Home and Changing Relationships:**

The Dean of Students, the Dean of First-year Students, and the Assistant Dean for Student Engagement & New Student Programs will discuss common experiences of students in transition, campus support services available to new students and strategies for empowering students to manage their transition to Connecticut College. *1961 Room, College Center*

4. **Identity and Community in College:**

The Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion will share research-based information about student identity development and the benefits of engagement with social diversity while in college. *Martha Myers Studio, Third floor, College Center*

5. **Supporting your Transfer Student's Transition:**

The Dean for Juniors, Seniors and Transfers and the Hale Family Director of Career and Professional Development will share their advice for supporting your student's transition from another institution to Connecticut College. They will also discuss common transition experiences, resources on campus, introduce you to our academic curriculum, Connections, and our Career program. *Alice Johnson Room, College Center. Please note: This session will only be offered once from 2:15-2:50 p.m.*

4:30 P.M.

President's Assembly, Palmer Auditorium

Katherine Bergeron, President of the College; Jefferson Singer, Dean of the College, and the Student Government Association President extend a welcome to all new students and their families

5:30 P.M.

President's Reception, Castle Court

This is an opportunity for families and their students to meet with the president and members of the College staff before families depart.

6 P.M.

Parents and Families Goodbye to Students

Best wishes for a safe trip!

Important Dates

AUGUST 22
Arrival Day

AUGUST 27
First day of classes

SEPTEMBER 27
Fall Break begins at 5:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 11-13
Fall Weekend

NOVEMBER 7
All-College Symposium

NOVEMBER 26-1
Thanksgiving break

DECEMBER 16
Semester ends; housing closes at 5:00 p.m.*

JANUARY 19
Spring semester housing re-opens

MARCH 6-22
Spring break

MAY 13
Semester ends; housing closes at 5:00 p.m.*

**Please note: Students should plan to stay on campus through the end of finals period and not make travel plans to leave early. While your student will primarily take self-scheduled examinations and final papers/projects, many classes due have scheduled final examinations that can be scheduled through the final morning of exam period.*

Important Phone Numbers

■ ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER
860-439-5294 | ARC@CONNCOLL.EDU

■ CAMPUS SAFETY
860-439-2222 | CAMPUS.SAFETY@CONNCOLL.EDU

■ DEAN OF THE COLLEGE
860-439-2050 | DOC@CONNCOLL.EDU

■ DEAN OF FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS
860-439-2050 | EMORASH@CONNCOLL.EDU

■ FINANCIAL AID
860-439-2058 | FINAID@CONNCOLL.EDU

■ RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION AND LIVING
860-439-2834 | HOUSING@CONNCOLL.EDU

■ STUDENT LIFE
860-439-2825 | NSARGENT@CONNCOLL.EDU

■ DIVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY
AND INCLUSION
860-439-2035 | LEMCC@CONNCOLL.EDU