



Parent & Family Orientation Resource Guide | Fall 2018

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

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. 23 to 27, 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 your 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 your peers and how your behaviors and actions have an impact on your community;
- Understand what it means to be an active bystander;
- Forge new friendships through fun and enjoyable social interactions.

Events 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. We encourage you to discuss this with your student in advance of their arrival on Aug. 23.

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**, dean of first-year students, and **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 your student will 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 he/she violate the Honor Code?
- How will your student address his/her peers if they are violating the Honor Code?
- As a parent, what do you want to know about when your son/daughter 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 those choices, and we are committed to supporting students in taking responsibility for the choices they make. 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.

Communications to Parents and Guardians

College staff communicate openly and candidly with students about their progress and difficulties and encourage students to communicate routinely with their parents/guardians about both. The College recognizes that parents and guardians have a legitimate and abiding interest in their student's progress, especially in 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 enhancing 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 friendship 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, suspension or dismissal.
- **Academic Achievement:** parents of new students will be notified if their student achieves Dean's Honors or Dean's High Honors. Please note that the College will not release grades to parents or guardians.

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 academically 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.

Support for New Students

The First-Year Program

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

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.

Office of Student Life

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

Academic Support Services

Academic Support Services encompasses the Academic Resource Center (ARC), the Writing Center, Student Accessibility Services and the Office of Career and Professional Development. These programs are available to all students so that they may reach their maximum academic potential. 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 Institutional Equity and Inclusion (DIEI)

The Division of Institutional Equity and Inclusion contributes to the educational mission of the College by providing leadership and support for advancing the College's commitment to diversity and inclusion. The division has three student-focused branches: Gender and Sexuality Programs, Race and Ethnicity Programs, and Religious and Spiritual Programs, each of which offers 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 Center (both in Smith-Burdick Hall), Unity House (a multicultural center), Harkness Chapel and the Zachs Hillel House.

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.

Additional information about the CARE Team may be found online at: <http://www.conncoll.edu/campus-life/dean-of-student-life/care-team/>

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. Based on the national trends and current research in the field of prevention, we know the vital importance of having ongoing dialogue about substance use. As parents/guardians, you will, of course, continue to play a critical role in your student's decisions about alcohol and other drugs in college and issues of misuse and abuse.

We know from the research that alcohol and other drug use can adversely affect student health and wellbeing including GPA, brain development and relationships. Prevention research informs our conversations and work with students and families. We encourage you to make clear your expectations of your student 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. 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?

Our comprehensive Alcohol.Edu for College program, which launches in August, is a required online course for students that includes resources for parents and guardians. Your student can expect to see additional information about Alcohol.Edu in August via email.

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. Given the nature of how this drug impacts the developing brain, we talk with students about the negative impact of this drug on learning, motivation and relationships.

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.

While students will need to make their own decisions about alcohol and other drug use, we have found that the majority do so responsibly. 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 Student Wellness, Alcohol and Other Drug Education, 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, but 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

Important Dates

AUG. 23

Arrival Day

DEC. 17

Semester ends; housing closes at 5 p.m.

AUG. 28

First day of classes

JAN. 20

Spring semester housing reopens

SEPT. 28-30

Fall Weekend

MARCH 8-24

Spring break

OCT. 12

Fall Break begins at 5 p.m.

MAY 15

Semester ends; housing closes at 5 p.m.

NOV. 20-25

Thanksgiving break

Important Phone Numbers

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

860-439-5294

RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION AND LIVING

860-439-2834

CAMPUS SAFETY

860-439-2222

STUDENT LIFE

860-439-2825

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE

860-439-2050

UNITY HOUSE

860-439-2628

View a map of campus at www.conncoll.edu/map

Parent and Family Arrival Day Schedule — August 23, 2018

Family Headquarters—The College Center at Crozier Williams

**schedule subject to change*

9-11 A.M.

Residence hall move-in

9 A.M.

Information desk open at Crozier-Williams

11-1:15 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
- Microfridge representatives

11:15-11:45 A.M.

Transfer student family meeting with Marina Melendez, dean for juniors and seniors

11:30 A.M.-1:15 P.M.

Buffet deli lunch

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

1:30 P.M.

Parent and family welcome by the dean of the College and the dean of students

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 3:35-4:05 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.

- (2) **Community of Care: Student Health and Wellness:**

The director of Student Health Services and the director of Student Counseling Services will provide an overview of Connecticut College's health and mental health services and campus resources available to students.

- (3) **Leaving Home and Changing Relationships:**

The dean of students, the dean of first-year students, and the dean of juniors and seniors 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.

- (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*

4:30 P.M.

President's Assembly

Palmer Auditorium

5:30 P.M.

President's Reception

Castle Court

6 P.M.

Parents and families goodbye to students