



COLLEGE ORIENTATION – WHAT TO EXPECT?

You can certainly attend orientation expecting to learn what you need to know there, but it's helpful to do some research beforehand. Read all of the information the college sends you, read their online publications and information, especially the details of freshman orientation. You should bring any documentation or paperwork you will need such as vaccination records. Many colleges also have you register for classes while at orientation. Look at the course catalog as it pertains to your major and get an idea of which classes you need to take and which you will choose as electives. Advisors will be available to help but if you aren't going into the process blindly, it will make registration easier.

The most important task you want to complete at orientation is to get acquainted with college life. You will attend “getting to know you” sessions, informational sessions, and advising sessions. You will learn about school policies, general rules, the honor code and more. You will be given a wealth of information in a short period of time. The college's goal is for you to immerse yourself in college life so that when you arrive on campus in the fall you can hit the ground running. Colleges provide incoming freshmen with information about the different clubs and organization available on campus. It's a great opportunity to investigate and learn about each one and determine what you would like to be involved in. Sign up for email of any club/organization you're remotely interested in, ask for contact information from representatives, ask about the organization's social media presence as well. Doing this helps you stay in the loop and make a decision once you arrive on campus.



TEXTBOOKS – TIPS ON HOW MUCH AND WHEN TO BUY

With a fresh crop of college classes comes another round of wallet-crushing textbook shopping. The high price of the textbooks is news to no one. For years, students and parents have been shocked by their price tags, with a single book for one course routinely topping \$200. Before you even start shopping, check with your professors to make sure they're really going to use all the books on the class syllabus. Often, they may plan to use only a few chapters of a text, and that can make your decision about whether to buy the book or look for a copy at the library much simpler. Several websites can help you compare the prices at multiple sellers with one quick search. For example, Campusbooks.com, will provide a side-by-side analysis of prices and buyback history to help you decide whether to rent or buy, based on how much the book is forecast to be worth in six months. The website will also search local library listings by zip code for free options.

Consider searching on Chegg.com or Amazon.com as well. When you're shopping online, use the ISBN number on the book to be sure you're getting the same edition as you would in a bookstore. If you're buying used, check to make sure there are no online access codes that you'll be forfeiting. And if you're buying a digital book, bear in mind that it may be available for only a set number of days and could have restrictions on the number of pages you can print. Finally, check the return policy. Most campus bookstores allow full returns up until the end of the college's drop/add period. But you may lose that flexibility with a title purchased from a less expensive online seller.