



Parent & Family Orientation Resource Guide Fall 2016



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to Connecticut College! As you and your student prepare over the summer for this new journey, we too are preparing for your student's immersion into the Connecticut College experience. We believe parents and families are a critical support system for students. We have developed this guide to provide a brief overview of resources and information to assist you in this transition as well.

In this guide, you will find information about expectations of Connecticut College students, communications to parents/guardians, support for new students, conversations about alcohol and other drugs, important dates and phone numbers, and an overview of parent/family orientation schedule.

We hope you find this information helpful. On arrival day (August 25), sessions specifically for parents and families will provide us with an opportunity to meet you and answer any lingering questions you may have. We look forward to meeting you.

Emily Morash, dean of first-year students
Sarah Cardwell, senior associate dean of student life

The Connecticut College Experience and Orientation

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 class and in the world. The orientation program will introduce your student to the core principles that define how we, at Connecticut College, learn and live together as a community. To be a successful Connecticut College student, your student will need to:

- Take ownership of their learning and responsibility for their choices
- Engage constructively with each other and the larger world
- Make reflective choices that balance their career, commitments and personal wellbeing

The orientation program will help students connect the expectations, opportunities and resources available so they can begin to build their Connecticut College experience. During

orientation, new students will:

- Meet with their advising team (a faculty adviser, a student adviser, and a staff adviser) to become familiar with our academic program
- Identify courses of interest to them and register for classes. The regular class routine begins on Tuesday, August 30.
- Get acquainted with their roommates and housemates.
- Learn about campus traditions and begin their transition to life as a camel.

Events are mandatory for all new students.

Part of students' new found freedoms and responsibilities is the responsibility to take an active role in their education. Taking advantage of all the orientation program has to offer is that first step. We encourage you to discuss this with your student in advance of their arrival on August 25.

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 they were 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 dean's 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 through demonstrating a personal commitment to personal 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 student has a conduct violation?

The Honor Code places a good deal of responsibility for both social and academic life on our students, and the correctness of some of the decisions they may have to make will not always be immediately obvious. 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 communicates 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 he or she 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 advisors. The College seeks to reinforce existing friendship and familial networks and to help forge additional ones 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, or 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.

Support for New Students

The First Year Program

Connecticut College thinks about our students' first year in an integrated way. Working with the Dean of First Year Students, our orientation program, first year seminar program, and team advising structure are intertwined to assist in their transition and provide support to new students throughout the year.

Students can seek out support and guidance from a number of offices on campus. Our offices 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 junior 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, Campus Safety, Student Wellness, Alcohol and Other Drug Education, and Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy work together in a myriad of 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 our Office of Career and Professional Development. The 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, dean's alert counseling and referral, and academic interventions for students on academic probation.

Unity House

Unity House contributes to the educational mission of the College by providing leadership and support in the College's commitment to diversity and multiculturalism. Our goal is to support and empower underrepresented students through workshops, mentor programs and one-

one one advisement sessions. In addition, we strive to educate and collaborate with the campus community by coordinating Cultural Heritage Months, faculty discussions and student leaders' participation. Unity House is welcome to all and we are excited to meet the class of 2020!

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

Although everyone knows that the legal drinking age is 21, and therefore beyond the age of almost all first-year students, the campus is not dry and students will have to make choices about alcohol use as well as other social behaviors. Over the summer, we will prompt your student to begin thinking about these decisions. Your student will receive an email in mid-July to complete an online educational tool to prepare them for managing their own choices.

We know that many of you have concerns, particularly about alcohol use and how your student may respond to the new freedoms and greater responsibility for her or his own behavior. Students may want to think about how they will decide whether or not to drink at college.

- What will they do if they find themselves at a party with only alcohol to drink?
- What if their roommate likes to drink and party?

- Will they feel comfortable stepping in if a friend has too much to drink?

We have found that the majority of students make responsible decisions about alcohol use, but if you do have concerns about your student's use, we encourage you to have your student talk with our Director of Student Wellness, Alcohol or Other Drug Education (860-439-2286).

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

1st violation: the College will work solely and directly with student

2nd violation: the College may choose to notify the parent/guardian

3rd violation: the College will notify the parent/guardian

Parent and Family Schedule — Thursday, August 25, 2016

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 @ Crozier Williams

10:30-11:30 A.M.

Refreshments & Conversation Please join Jefferson Singer, Dean of the College; John McKnight, Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion; Noel Garrett, Dean for Academic Support; Claudia Highbaugh, Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life; Emily Morash, Dean for First-Year Students; and Carmela Patton, Dean for Sophomores & International Student Adviser; and Marina Melendez, Dean for Juniors and Seniors.

11-2 P.M.

Resource Tables These offices will have staff available in Crozier Williams to answer any questions you may have:

- Residential Education and Living
- Student Health Insurance (a Gallagher Koster representative)
- Office of Volunteer and Community Services
- Student Engagement and Leadership Education
- Sustainability
- Camel Card Office

11:15-11:45 A.M.

Transfer Student Family Meeting with Marina Melendez, Dean for Juniors and Seniors

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

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

1 P.M. **Parent & Family Welcome by the Dean of the College and the Dean of Students**

1:30-3:45 P.M.

Information Sessions for Parents and Families:

The following sessions for parents and families will take place in *Crozier Williams*. These sessions will each be offered during the following times: **1:30-2:05 p.m.; 2:15-2:50 p.m.; 3:00-3:35p.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 & 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 for First Year Students, and the Dean for Juniors/Seniors will discuss common experiences of students in transition, campus support services available to new students, and strategies for empowering your student to manage their transition to Connecticut College.

4 P.M.

President's Assembly *Palmer Auditorium*

5:15 P.M.

President's Reception *Castle Court*

6 P.M.

Say Goodbye to your students

Important Dates

AUGUST 25

Arrival Day

AUGUST 30

First day of classes

SEPTEMBER 30

Fall Break begins at 5:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 14-16

Fall Weekend

NOVEMBER 23-27

Thanksgiving break

DECEMBER 19

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

JANUARY 22

Spring semester housing re-opens

MARCH 10-26

Spring break

MAY 17

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

Important Phone Numbers

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

860-439-5294

CAMPUS SAFETY

860-439-2222

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE

860-439-2050

RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION & LIVING

860-439-2834

STUDENT LIFE

860-439-2825

UNITY HOUSE

860-439-2628

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