Office of Orientation and First-Year Programs

University of Rochester 2020 Orientation
Sent on May 29, 2020

Welcome to the Rochester Family! We are excited to welcome you and your student to the Rochester community. It is our goal that as a member of the University of Rochester parent/family community, you feel informed, valued, and respected. This is the first of many communications you will receive throughout the summer to help prepare you and your student for the Fall semester. Your student will receive all communications throughout the summer at their Rochester email account.

Incoming Student Checklist
Your student should have received an electronic enrollment packet from the Office of Admissions. This packet contained directions on accessing the Incoming Student Checklist your student will need to complete prior to the Fall semester. All items can be completed electronically except the University Health History form. The form will be mailed to your home address and mailed back in paper form. Please ask your student to take a moment to review the checklist as there are deadlines as early as June 5th.

Your student will need to activate their NetID and Rochester email prior to completing the Incoming Student Checklist. Upon enrollment, your student received an email requesting they activate both of these items. The NetID and Rochester email are unique to your student and will allow them to access many of the University systems.

Online Student and Family Orientation
Online Orientation will begin Wednesday, June 3. Along with the Incoming Student Checklist, there will be a series of mandatory and optional webinars for students and families to attend. These webinars are meant to onboard you and your student and provide important information you will need to be a part of the Rochester community. The full schedule is available on the Orientation website. Please note that some additional webinars will be added in the coming weeks. Students will be required to attend and/or watch all mandatory sessions prior to the fall semester. In addition, some webinars will have modules in our learning management system, Blackboard, that they will also need to complete in conjunction with the webinar. Full instructions on those modules can be found within Blackboard, which they will be given access to on June 4.

In the event that you or your student are unable to access our Online Orientation due to connectivity or access issues, please let us know as soon as possible and we will work with you to find a solution.

Advising and Course Registration
Students will be assigned a College advisor by the end of June. Advising will take place throughout the summer months, primarily in July. Your student’s advisor will reach out to them directly via email to begin discussing their academic plans and fall schedule. Prior to connecting with their advisor, your student should review the First-Year Guide and complete the Orientation Questionnaire (opening June 1), which will be available on the Orientation website shortly. The guide contains important information about degree requirements, course options and placements as well as an academic planning sheet for your student to use for their advisor meeting. The Orientation Questionnaire gives them the opportunity to provide additional information about themselves, which will assist their advisor in helping them plan their Rochester education.
Departments and programs will be holding open houses throughout the summer to allow students and families to learn more about these disciplines and ask questions. A full schedule of open houses will be available on the Orientation website. Registration for fall classes will be held during the week of August 3. Full instructions and training will be provided prior to registration.

Orientation Leaders
Our team of Orientation Leaders will communicate with your student in the months prior to their arrival at the University, helping to prepare them for course registration and life at Rochester. They will also help your student meet fellow incoming students and serve as their point for any questions your student has as they begin their University of Rochester journey. Your student should receive an email from their designated Orientation Leader shortly.

Rochester Ready Newsletters
You will soon receive the first edition of the Rochester Ready newsletter. This is a weekly email newsletter full of information on important resources, upcoming deadlines and webinars. This newsletter coupled with emails from the Orientation team, Orientation website, and webinars will provide all the information you and your student need to get ready for the Fall.

Fall Welcome Weeks
In preparation for this fall, we are currently evaluating our arrival and move-in procedures in conjunction with the University Health Service and Residential Life. We hope to welcome all new incoming students to campus in mid-August, but are still awaiting official guidance from New York State and our local Monroe County leadership to ensure a safe opening of campus. We are grateful for your patience as we process this information and work to make the transition to Rochester as smooth as possible. We hope to provide you with an update soon, in order to help you make travel plans.

Family Support
Family support is so very important to student success, and we thank you for partnering with us for your student’s success. We encourage you to allow your student to find their own way, beginning with Online Orientation. There are many resources at the University of Rochester – trust that your student and your family has chosen well! We hope that you will encourage your students to use the available resources and let you know when they need help. Even then, as you give words of encouragement, you can still empower them to keep finding their own way and take charge of their college experience. We are a resource for you, as well. We are here to provide support to you during this important time as your family navigates this transition from high school to college. Please visit and bookmark the Parents and Families webpage for your information and convenience https://www.rochester.edu/parents/index.html.

Parents Buzz Newsletter
You will receive your first issue of Parents Buzz in June. Emailed monthly, this newsletter for parents and families is designed to keep you up to date and informed about important information. You will continue to receive the newsletter throughout the academic year.

Contact Us
Although we are currently working remotely, we are available Monday – Friday from 9am-5pm EST to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have. You can reach us via email at orientation@rochester.edu or at dawn.bruner@rochester.edu. For more information and Coronavirus updates visit: https://www.rochester.edu/coronavirus-update/.

Meliora!
Crystal Cusimano-Figueroa ’05, ’09S
Senior Director of Orientation, Summer and Continuing Studies

Dawn Bruner, EdD
Director of Parent and Family Relations