

Summer Orientation

Bridgewater State University



Welcome New Students

Welcome to Bridgewater State University

We are pleased to welcome you to Bridgewater State University. We hope this booklet provides you a thorough overview of the New Student Orientation Program.

While orientation is a required part of every student's career, many years of experience have shown us that this program plays an essential role in your success as a BSU student. We are working hard to offer you a program that is informative, engaging and even FUN.

Orientation is coming soon, so take the time to review the items in this booklet so that you don't miss the important details.



Orientation: The Basics

All first-year, degree-seeking students are required to attend an orientation program. Whether you are planning to take classes during the day or in the evening, this program is the first part of your Bridgewater State University career. Through Orientation, you will be able to understand your roles and responsibilities as a member of our energetic and challenging academic community.

The schedule for the new student program consists of two very full days. Students are expected to arrive no later than 8:30 am and must arrive at the Shea and Durgin Hall with bed linens and other items you will need for a comfortable overnight stay. Please note that the Family Orientation Program check in is at the Moakley Center located on the East Side of campus.

More information about Family Orientation is located in this brochure.

How will Orientation help me?

Our Two-day Orientation Program is designed to get your college career off to a great start. It will prepare you for many new and challenging experiences awaiting you at BSU. No matter what your prior experience has been, we know that your transition to BSU will be easier after attending orientation.

Our goals for the program include providing you with an opportunity to meet with an academic advisor and register for your fall courses. In addition, we hope to help you understand your role and responsibility as a member of our academic community. Finally, we hope to introduce you to campus life and all of the resources that BSU has to offer.



Important Information Inside-

Placement Testing Information Countdown to Orientation Checklist

What are “Orientation Leaders?”

Orientation leaders (OLs) play an integral role in the success of the Orientation Program, and are recognized leaders on campus. They serve as group leaders, key contacts with campus resources, peer academic advisors, educators and positive role models.

Orientation leaders are actively involved in assisting new students with the transition to BSU, whether it be from high school, the work force, the military or another institution of higher education.

Orientation leaders participate in an extensive training program. They are trained and knowledgeable about the institution, course selection and academic advising processes, group dynamics and issues students face in making the transition to college.

If you would like to learn more about the students and administrators who will be working to make your orientation experience a great one, please visit our staff web site at www.bridgew.edu/orientation.



New Student Testing and Placement Program

The new student testing program at Bridgewater State University is designed to assess your skill levels in writing, mathematics, reading and foreign language to help academic advisors identify the appropriate match between the course level and your skills. The testing program utilizes a series of examinations in the basic skills areas. The results of these tests, together with a thorough evaluation of your high school academic record, will enable us to determine your placement in courses. Proper placement will help ensure success in completing the requirements of the Core Curriculum of the college, which in turn will provide a sound foundation in communication skills, mathematics, and critical thinking. This will prepare you with the skills necessary to take full advantage of your studies in your academic major.

All incoming students are **required** to take certain placement tests prior to attending Orientation and selecting courses for the fall. The tests are used to ensure that you begin your studies of certain subjects at the level appropriate to your experience and ability. Students who test well may waive certain requirements, thus allowing a wider choice of elective courses. It is to your benefit to try your best when taking placement tests. The offered placement tests and how results are used are described in greater detail on our website at www.bridgew.edu/Placement.

There are a number of ways you can prepare for the placement tests to ensure that your results will lead to placement in the appropriate level courses at Bridgewater State University.

Visit www.bridgew.edu/Placement to learn more about strategies for best preparation for placement testing.



Do you have a program for my family?

The Family Orientation program provides family members of new incoming Bridgewater State University students the opportunity to learn more about the BSU student experience. Family members will have the opportunity to attend sessions on topics such as academics, community, housing, billing and payment, financial aid, campus safety and support and more. Family Orientation is a great way to learn more about the university and connect with other families.

There are a total of 6 sessions offered in the month of June. Family Orientation takes place on the first day of each new student orientation program. The Family Orientation program begins first thing in the morning and will conclude by 4pm.

If your family members plan on attending please have them sign up online by visiting our website www.bridgew.edu/orientation/Family and register. Payment for Family Orientation can be made online.

We recommend that all family members visit the Parent Resource Page offered through the Office for Student Affairs at www.bridgew.edu/parents.

Do I have to pay a tuition bill at Orientation?

Since you will do your registration at Orientation, the Office of Student Accounts will bill you immediately following the program via mail.

You should be prepared to have to make your payment arrangements in a quick time frame following your registration date.

To add to the convenience of you bill being mailed, your mandatory orientation fee will be added directly to the bill, so no payment is expected the date of your session.

What if I can not attend this program day?

All first-year students are required to start their BSU career through Orientation. You are urged to make your attendance at this program day a priority. If attendance just is not possible, you must contact us at (508) 531-1273 and we will discuss your next steps.



COUNTDOWN TO ORIENTATION CHECKLIST

- Step 1 Register for placement testing.**
Please review the letter that you received inviting you to orientation. You are required to register for a placement testing session before you sign up and attend your session.
- Step 2 Register online for your Orientation program.**
All students should remember to clear both work and personal schedules so that there are no complications with participating in this program. For more detailed information on the program schedule, please visit the following web site: www.bridgew.edu/orientation/.

If you are a student who has been out of High School for more than three years **and** will be a commuter student, you will NOT be required to stay overnight in the residence halls. In addition, we would recommend that you attend Session 1, scheduled for June 6-7 for the OUTREACH program to better meet your needs.

If you need to change your session date you have unlimited access to the orientation session sign-up to make necessary arrangements.

If you were unable to register for the program or if there is a non-negotiable conflict with the scheduled orientation session, call 508.531.1273 as soon as possible.

If you are a person with a disability, be sure to make arrangements for accommodations by contacting the Academic Achievement Center at 508.531.1214 or TTY 508.531.6113 no later than a week prior to your session.

If you are a person who requires special accommodations (Dietary Restrictions, Transgendered, Flight Information, etc...) be sure to make arrangements for accommodations by contacting the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership at 508.531.1373 no later than a week prior to your session.

- Step 3 Get ready to attend!**
Be sure to pack bed linens and pillow, photo ID, towels, an alarm clock, any personal prescriptions, comfortable clothing and shoes. You will be moving around campus and will not have access to the residence hall throughout the program so please be sure to pay attention to the weather report.

If you have attended another college and received college credit, or have Advanced Placement credit, we need you to bring any prior information like course descriptions, syllabus information, official transcripts and any other documentation that describes prior course work.

- Step 4 Have your family sign up for Family Orientation.**
While you are busy registering and meeting new friends, we'd like to invite two of your family members to participate in the Family Orientation program. The day is filled with information sessions including topics such as academics, commuting, housing, billing and payment, financial aid, campus safety and support services as well as lunch will be provided. Although both you and your family might be here on the same day, there will be different schedules for both of you.
- Step 5 Get Excited to have fun!**

IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

General Orientation Program Information

Student Involvement and Leadership
Web: www.bridgew.edu/orientation/
Phone: 508.531.1273

Admissions Questions

Admissions Office
Web: www.bridgew.edu/Admission/
Phone: 508.531.1237

Financial Aid Questions

Financial Aid Office
Web: www.bridgew.edu/Depts/Finaid/
Phone: 508.531.1341

Placement Testing Information and Registration

Academic Achievement Center
Web: www.bridgew.edu/Placement/
Phone: 508.531.1214

On-Campus Housing Information

Residence Life and Housing Office
Web: www.bridgew.edu/RLH/prospective.cfm/
Phone: 508.531.1277

Tuition Bills and Payment Information

Student Accounts Office
Web: www.bridgew.edu/studentaccounts/costsofattending.cfm
Phone: 508.531.1225

Dates to Remember for Fall 2011

September 4: Welcome Week Events Begin

September 7: Classes Start

October 10: Columbus Day - No Classes

October 22: Homecoming and Parent/Family Weekend

November 11: Veteran's Day - No Classes

November 23: Thanksgiving Recess Begins

November 28: Classes Resume

December 14: Last day of Fall Classes

December 16: Final Exams Begin

December 22: Final Exams Ends



Want to get started with involvement in campus clubs and organizations?
Check out the Involvement Network NOW!

www.bridgew.edu/IN