

Summer Orientation

Transfer Transitions



Welcome Transfer Students

Welcome to Bridgewater State University

We are pleased to welcome you to Bridgewater State University. We hope this booklet provides you an 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 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 transfer student program consists of one full day. Students who have received a letter stating that they *require* placement testing are required to test **prior** to attending their Orientation session.

All students must arrive no later than 8:30am at the Moakley Center. Please be prepared to spend the entire day with us.

Be sure you clear your personal and professional commitments and expect to leave the program at approximately **5:00 p.m.** *Unfortunately, due to the compressed nature of the schedule we can not accommodate the involvement of guests or family members for this program. In addition, we regret that we are not able to provide childcare.*

How will Orientation help me?

Our 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 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.



Transfer Transitions Placement Examination

Prior to attending your Transfer Transitions session at Bridgewater State University you may be required to take placement examinations in the following subject areas as a way of providing appropriate course placement.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST:

As part of the Core Curriculum, all students must successfully complete a course in mathematical reasoning (3 credits) and a course in quantitative reasoning (3 credits). Some majors require completion of additional mathematics courses.

If review of your records indicate that you are required to take placement testing for math, it will be noted in your Orientation letter that you will receive upon receipt of your admissions deposit. Should you have further questions regarding the evaluation of your prior credits in math and how they may apply to testing requirements, please consult with the Admissions Office at 508-531-1237.

If review of your records indicates that you are exempt from testing, your academic advisors will review how that prior credit may be applied to the Core Curriculum.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PLACEMENT TEST:

All students are strongly encouraged to gain fluency in one or more foreign languages. If you have studied foreign language in high school and plan to continue study of that same language, you must take the foreign language placement test. The test determines the appropriate course at which your college language study will begin.

For more information on placement testing, please visit our website at www.bridgew.edu/TestingServices/html/placement/placement.cfm.

Questions related to the placement exams or declaring a major will be addressed during the general information meeting at Transfer Transitions. Any additional questions can be directed to the Academic Achievement Center at 508-531-2194.

EDUCATION MAJORS:

Under state certification requirements, all teachers certified after October 1, 1994 are required to have a major in liberal arts or sciences. Anyone who is choosing Early Childhood, Elementary, or Special Education as a major or Secondary Education as a minor will be required to declare, in addition to their education program, a major in the liberal arts and sciences.



Do you have a program for my family?

Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate the involvement of family members and other non-students in this program due to the compressed nature of our schedule.

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

Family members are welcome to attend the First Year Student Family Program. There are six sessions provided in June. For more information and sign-up information please refer to the website <http://www.bridgew.edu/Orientation/family>. There is a required fee for attendance.

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 your 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 new students are required to start their BSU career through Orientation. You are urged to make your attendance at one of the offered program days a priority. If attendance just is not possible, there are later dates available closer to start of the fall semester. If you have questions contact us at (508) 531-1273 and we will discuss your next steps.



Preparing For Transfer Transitions

Step 1 Register online for your Placement Testing

You should have received a letter inviting you to orientation. The letter would have stated if you are required to register for placement testing. If you are required to test be sure to register for your testing session. Placement Testing must be completed prior to attending your Orientation session.

Step 2 Register online for your Orientation program

Now that you have deposited, you should have received a letter directing you to register for your Orientation Session at www.bridgew.edu/orientation. Once you register for your session you will want to check your e-mail for updates and confirmations prior to the day of your program.

Step 3 Make individual arrangements.

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 person with a disability, be sure to make arrangements for accommodations by contacting the **Academic Achievement Center** at 508.531.2194 or TTY 508.531.6113 no later than **a week prior to your session**.

Step 4 Send a final transcript to the Admissions Office. If you have any courses currently in progress, please send a final transcript or grade report to us or bring it with you to your Transfer Transition program. Your attention to this area will enable your course selection and registration process to run more smoothly. If you have any courses that were not awarded transfer credit or want to discuss specifics about any course on your transcript, please be sure to mail all updated transcripts to the Undergraduate Admissions Office prior to attendance. It is also suggested to bring course descriptions and any other supporting materials you believe will aid our Admissions staff in understanding the course content.

Step 5 Complete the online “Transfer Workshop” before you attend Transfer Transitions. The workshop can be found at <http://www.bridgew.edu/TransferWorkshop/>.

Step 6 Print out your Bridgewater State University Degree Evaluation. You will need to bring this degree audit with you to your Transfer Transitions program in order for us to properly advise you for Fall 2011. You should print this right before attending your program so that it is as up to date as possible. **Please note: In order to access your Degree Evaluation you will need to have claimed your user account.**

A Note to our students with disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability, please forward copies of you diagnostic assessment, medical history, and recommendations regarding adjustments/accomodations, (current to within three years) to the Disabilities Resources Office in the Academic Achievement Center. On Transfer Transition Day, you will need to participate in placement testing, use a variety of print and other visual materials, and travel between campus buildings. If you anticipate that you will need accommodations such as readers, scribes, mobility services, oral testing, extended testing time or interpreter services contact the Disability Resources Office at (508) 531-1214 or TTY (508) 531-6113 **no later than** the week prior to your session so that the appropriate assistance may be arranged.

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/TestingServices/htm/placement/placement.cfm
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 5: 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