WELCOME to Orientation

Register for Summer 2020
COFC.EDU
Congrats on your acceptance to the College of Charleston!

In order to help you make a smooth transition to the College, we have scheduled ten, two-day orientation sessions. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ONE OF THESE SESSIONS.** During orientation, you’ll attend important information sessions, meet other new students, meet with an advisor and register for classes.

You may notice there is an orientation registration hold on your student account. This registration hold will remain on your account until you attend orientation and meet with an advisor (it does not prevent you from registering online for orientation). If you do not attend an orientation session, you will have to wait to register for classes until August 24, the day before fall 2020 classes begin.

Once you have met with an advisor at orientation, that hold will be removed and you will be able to register for courses.

We charge everyone a nonrefundable, $100, new-student program fee. It is used to cover the costs of processing your application, orientation materials and lunch on the orientation day of your choice. This fee, plus any family orientation fees ($35.00 per family member), will be due when your tuition bill is due in August.

The Office of New Student Programs staff – and the College of Charleston – look forward to introducing you and your family to our community while you prepare to live the life of a College of Charleston student.

**NOTE: ORIENTATION IS A TWO-DAY EVENT. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ALL SESSIONS ON BOTH DAYS.**
About MyCharleston
MY.COFC.EDU

When you were accepted to the College of Charleston, you created an account in MyCharleston to pay your tuition deposit. Now that you have been accepted and paid your tuition deposit, you must change your status in MyCharleston from "applicant" to "student," and set up access to your permanent College of Charleston account.

You should have received an email through the personal email account that you used on your application to the College. In this email there will be a link, a new username, and password, and instructions for setting up your permanent student account. Click on the link and log in to activate your permanent student account with a new username and password. From this point on, you will use this permanent account for all business you conduct with the College, such as registering for orientation, signing up for a meal plan, changing an address, checking space availability in a class and registering for a class, or reviewing account charges and balance information and viewing your student account. If you have not received an email with instructions on how to set up your permanent MyCharleston account, please contact helpdesk@cofc.edu or 843.953.3375.

ACCESS YOUR COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON EMAIL ACCOUNT

Your new College email account (username@g.cofc.edu) will be used for all college-related business. You must use this email for any correspondence with College of Charleston departments, faculty and staff. We recommend that you check this email several times a week during the summer when you will be receiving important information from the College.

To use your student email account, please log into MyCharleston at my.cofc.edu. Use your Cougars Account username and password. Click on the Mail icon that will appear in the upper right-hand section of the screen. The first time you access your email account, you will use the Cougars account information that you used to log into MyCharleston.
Special Programs

FAMILY ORIENTATION

Are there adults in your family who would be interested in coming to orientation with you? We encourage them to attend family orientation, a two-day program designed especially for them. It will run concurrently with the orientation session that you will be attending. Use the online reservation form to register your family. During these sessions, your adult family members will get an overview of our campus support services and have the opportunity to ask questions of faculty and staff. They will also meet families of other new students in small group settings, talk to currently enrolled students, learn about campus technologies and explore career planning resources. There is a $35, non-refundable fee per family member that covers the costs of orientation materials and lunch during orientation on the day of their choice. The fee is due with your tuition bill in August.

BACHELOR OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (BPS) OR BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES (BGS)

If you have been accepted into either the Bachelor of Professional Studies or Bachelor of General Studies program, you will attend a special orientation program at the College of Charleston North Campus. You do not have to complete the registration form mentioned in this booklet. The BPS program staff will send you information regarding the orientation in the summer.

SUMMER SCHOOL OR SPECTRA PROGRAM

If you will attend College of Charleston summer school, you should choose an orientation session that does not conflict with that schedule. For information on summer school, please go to summer.cofc.edu or call 843.953.4831.

If you will participate in the SPECTRA program, you will need to attend a specific orientation session.

For more information on SPECTRA, call 843.953.5660.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

While we recognize that you have had some college experience, you still must attend an orientation session. It is important for you to learn the ins and outs of the College of Charleston and register for courses.
FIRST-YEAR IMPACT PROGRAM
Prior to orientation, you will receive your first-year impact learning contract from the Center for Academic Performance and Persistence (CAPP). During orientation, you will be required to attend a mandatory session with CAPP staff. During the session, you will sign your contract and discuss which support services will be provided to you during your first year at the College.
Note: Your family members are welcome to attend this session.

What to do before Orientation

AP OR IB TEST SCORES
If you’ve taken any AP or IB tests and want to receive transfer credit, please submit your final test scores to the Office of Admissions for evaluation. You can check what the College accepts at registrar.cofc.edu/transfer/index.php.

PLACEMENT TESTS

FOREIGN LANGUAGE
Freshmen | If you took Spanish, German, French or Latin in high school, but have not taken a foreign language at the college level, then your placement is determined by how many years of a language you completed at the high school level.
Transfer students | If you have taken a foreign language at the college level, you will be placed in the next course in sequence, in order to complete your 12-hour general education requirement. For additional information about placement testing for foreign languages, please go to orientation.cofc.edu/placement-testing.

MATH
For information about placement testing for math, please refer to the Department of Mathematics website math.cofc.edu/placement-testing/index.php.
Register for Orientation

Registration will open on Wednesday, March 11. When you are ready, you’ll type my.cofc.edu into your browser and log into your permanent MyCharleston account to complete the online registration form. It is important to log in using your permanent username. Remember, your permanent username is made up of letters and not numbers. If you are still using your student ID number as your username, please refer to the MyCharleston information at the beginning of this booklet.

There are a limited number of seats available for each orientation session, and the sessions fill up quickly. We will close registration a few days before a session begins, so we ask that you sign up as soon as possible in order to get the session you want. Before you log in, we also recommend that you go through the rest of the booklet and write your answers down in order to quickly finish the online form.

Once we have processed your orientation registration, you will be able to view your session confirmation online in the orientation box under the “academic services” tab in your MyCharleston account. We will mail you additional orientation information describing the orientation experience, what you need to bring and what you need to do before orientation. We will include information for your family members, if you registered them for family orientation. (See the “family orientation” section of this booklet.)

Notes: Individuals who have a disability and need special arrangements for orientation should contact the Office of New Student Programs at 843.953.2017 as soon as possible.

If you have an emergency and must make a change to your online orientation registration form after you have submitted it, you can email your requested change to us at orientat@cofc.edu. Please include your name and student ID. If we can accommodate your request, you will receive an email confirmation.

NOTIFICATION OF CONFIRMATION

Please do not make travel plans and/or lodging reservations until your assigned orientation date has been confirmed. One week after you have submitted your online registration form, you’ll be able to see your confirmation online. (We do not mail or email confirmations.) Log onto my.cofc.edu, select the “academic services” tab, locate the “orientation” box and click on “orientation registration confirmation.”

STEP 1: GETTING STARTED

(Technology note: The registration process is not designed to be completed on your smart phone or touch-screen tablet.)

A. Go to my.cofc.edu, use your Cougars account information to log in, and select the “academic services” tab.

B. Scroll down and locate the “orientation” box.

C. Click on the “orientation registration” link in the “orientation” box.

D. You will automatically be routed to the online registration form.

E. Verify that your name and email address are displayed and continue on to the registration form.

Follow the instructions and complete the entire reservation form. Please answer all the questions as the information you provide will help us plan the best orientation for you.
**STEP 2: SELECT AN ORIENTATION SESSION**

You will be asked to submit a first and second choice, and we will process registration requests on a first-come, first-served basis. You will be able to see the session to which you’ve been assigned on MyCharleston one week after you’ve submitted your request. We do not mail or email confirmations.

Because we cannot accommodate all students who live 700 miles or more from the campus in session 10, we encourage you to attend an earlier orientation session if you possibly can.

**HONORS COLLEGE** prefers that their students attend session 6, 7, or 8. At these Honors College Preferred sessions, Honors College faculty and staff will be available to meet with students for advising.

**TRANSFER STUDENTS** are welcome to attend any session, but we encourage them to attend those that are noted as transfer preferred (sessions 6 or 9). These sessions are designed especially for you.

### SESSION | DAYS OF WEEK | DATE | REQUIREMENT
--- | --- | --- | ---
SESSION 1 | MON/TUES | June 15/16 | As of 4/2, this session is closed as we review our summer orientation plans.
SESSION 2 | THURS/FRI | June 18/19 | As of 4/2, this session is closed as we review our summer orientation plans.
SESSION 3 | MON/TUES | June 22/23 | As of 4/2, this session is closed as we review our summer orientation plans.
SESSION 4 | MON/TUES | June 29/30 | As of 4/2, this session is closed as we review our summer orientation plans.
SESSION 5 | WED/THURS | July 8/9 | Honors College preferred/athlete preferred/transfer preferred/also open to all students
SESSION 6 | MON/TUES | July 13/14 | Honors College preferred/athlete preferred/military preferred/also open to all students
SESSION 7 | THURS/FRI | July 16/17 | Freshmen only
SESSION 8 | MON/TUES | July 20/21 | Freshmen only
SESSION 9* | MON/TUES | August 17/18 | Transfer students only
SESSION 10* | THURS/FRI | August 20/21 | Freshmen only

* Session 9 is for transfer students only. Transfer students are welcome to attend any of the first eight sessions. YOU MAY NOT REGISTER FOR SESSION 10. Please note: There are a limited number of seats available that we will reserve on a first-come, first-served basis.

** Session 10 is for freshmen only who live FARThER than 700 miles away from Charleston. You are welcome to attend any of the first eight sessions. Please note: There are a limited number of seats available that we will reserve on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are participating in sorority recruitment you will not be able to attend Session 10 on August 20 and 21.

**1st choice: session #**  **2nd choice: session #**

Please provide the best phone number at which we can contact you in case we have registration questions.
STEP 3: SIGN UP YOUR FAMILY FOR FAMILY ORIENTATION

If any members of your family want to participate in family orientation, indicate the number of family members (excluding student) who will attend ($35.00 per family member).

STEP 4: SELECT AN ACADEMIC MAJOR IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED

In which major do you have the strongest interest? If you really have no preference, select “undeclared” on the reservation form.

Note: If you choose an intended major at this point, you are not making a commitment — only indicating an interest. At orientation, you’ll learn exactly what’s involved in the declaration-of-a-major process.

Pre-law and pre-meds are not majors at the College, but students who are interested in pre-professional programs do have the benefit of excellent pre-professional program advisors. If you want to pursue a career in either of those fields, there are a variety of majors in related areas (see opposite page for list →).

Indicate your major of interest: ____________________________________________

STEP 5: LIST ANY AP OR IB TESTS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN

Please note that a minimum score of 3 (AP exam) or 4 (IB exam) is required to earn College of Charleston credit; only list exams where you have met (or expect to meet) the minimum score. For more information, please go to: transfer.coc.edu/transfer-credit/credit-by-exam.php.

Note: This information will help your academic advisor prepare for your meeting.

____________________________________________________________________
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6
MAJORS

- accounting
- African American studies
- anthropology
- archaeology
- art history
- arts management
- astronomy
- astrophysics
- biochemistry
- biology
- business administration
- chemistry
- Classics
- commercial real estate finance
- communication
- computer information systems
- computer science
- computing in the arts
- dance
- data science
- early childhood education
- economics
- elementary education
- engineering, systems
- English
- exercise science
- finance
- foreign language education
- French and Francophone studies
- general studies
- geology
- German
- historic preservation and community planning
- history
- hospitality and tourism management
- international business
- international studies
- Jewish studies
- Latin American and Caribbean studies
- marine biology
- marketing
- mathematics
- meteorology
- middle grades education
- music
- philosophy
- physical education
- physics
- political science
- professional studies
- psychology
- public health
- religious studies
- secondary education cognate
- sociology
- Spanish
- special education
- studio art
- supply chain management
- theatre
- urban studies
- women's and gender studies

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
- health professions advising
  (examples: medicine, nursing, dentistry, physician assistant, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy)
- pre-law advising
STEP 6: MAKE YOUR FOREIGN LANGUAGE CHOICES

Note: This information will help your academic advisor prepare for your meeting. Placement tests have been covered in the WHAT TO DO BEFORE ORIENTATION section of this workbook.

What foreign language did you study in high school?

If you took Latin, what was the last grade in which you took a Latin class?

Have you studied a foreign language at the college level? If yes, indicate which language you studied.

Which language do you intend to study at the College of Charleston?

STEP 7: DUAL ENROLLMENT

Freshmen and transfers | Did you take college courses for credit while still in high school? If so, then you were dual enrolled. If you want to receive college credit for those courses you completed successfully while dual enrolled, you must request separate transcripts for each course. Simply listing dual-enrollment courses on a high school transcript is not sufficient.

To assist advisors with your academic plan, please do the following:

List any college courses you have taken while in high school.

To receive credit for the coursework, please send an official transcript from the college where the courses were taken to:

College of Charleston
Office of Admissions
66 George Street
Charleston, S.C. 29424-0001
Orientation Schedule

DAY 1:

- Check in at Cougar Mall between 7:30 and 8:15 a.m. There will be student interns on campus throughout the morning to direct you to the check-in location.
- Meet your orientation intern.
- Official welcome
- College’s tuition payment policy and electronic bill pay
- Campus tour
- Cougar Card (campus ID) pickup
- Meet with faculty from various majors.
- Meet with representatives from the offices of housing, the Center for Student Learning, Center for International Education and many others.
- Academic advising
- Learn about the College’s general academic and specific major requirements.
- Enjoy after-orientation programs in the Stern Student Center.

DAY 2:

- Register for classes
- Student Activities Information Fair
- Sessions on information technology, library services and diversity, campus safety
- Meet your new friends

Note: In June, we will post a more detailed schedule on orientation.cofc.edu.

Go to orientation.cofc.edu and see the calendar (under “quick links”) for a checklist of other business to take care of before orientation.
Where to stay during orientation

Students who will be attending orientation can either stay on campus in one of our residence halls or book a room in one of the many hotels in the Charleston area. Please note that registering for orientation does not automatically reserve an on-campus room for you. Please read on so you can consider the advantages of both options, and get instructions for booking an on-campus room.

Note: Staying on campus during orientation is an option that is only available to students who attend the June and July sessions. However, if you are confirmed for the 10th session, in August, and have been assigned on-campus housing for the 2020-2021 school year, for an additional early move-in fee, you may move into your assigned room on August 19.

ON CAMPUS

If you'd like to reserve a space in a residence hall during orientation, please go to the “Quick Links” section at orientation.cofc.edu and follow the instructions on the orientation housing page. The Office of Campus Housing will assign you to one of our residence halls. There will be an additional fee charged that is not included in your new student program fee. Please check housing.cofc.edu for details.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All reservations must be made at least two weeks before your scheduled orientation. Space is very limited and reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, so please reserve your spot as early as possible after you log on.

Anyone who stays in a residence hall will be expected to abide by all College of Charleston policies and procedures. No smoking and no alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed. All orientation participants are subject to the code of conduct found in the Student Handbook (go.cofc.edu/studenthandbook). If you do not follow the rules, you will be subject to disciplinary action.

Note: Bring linens for an extra-long single bed, a pillow, blanket, towels and toiletries, and shower shoes because the College does not provide these items. Please plan accordingly. You must check out no later than 5:00 p.m. on the second day of orientation. You will be charged a late fee if you check out after 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about on-campus housing during the summer, email housing@cofc.edu or call 843.953.5523. If you have questions about on-campus housing for the academic year, call 843.953.5523.
HOTEL INFORMATION

If you don't make reservations for on-campus housing during orientation, or if no space is available, check out the visitors information website at cofc.edu/visit/placestostay.php for travel information. When you make a reservation at local hotels, be sure to ask if they offer special room rates for people attending orientation at the College.

You can also find airline information and driving directions to the College of Charleston on that same website.

Reminders

- Check your College of Charleston email account several times a week throughout the summer.
- Check out the fall calendar for reminders about things to do before move-in and the beginning of classes at orientation.cofc.edu (under "Quick Links").
- Before you come to orientation, read the next booklet that we will mail you. It will contain additional orientation information.
- Upload your picture for your Cougar Card.
- Submit immunization records online.
Get Connected

Now that you’re about to become a Cougar, we’d like to help you connect with your new friends and family.

Information on orientation is tweeted on @cofcnsp and posted regularly on the New Student Programs Facebook page. Go to orientation.cofc.edu and click on the Facebook link at the bottom of the page. Also check out our Instagram page at cofcorientation.

You’ll probably also want to check out the College of Charleston main Facebook page to get an idea of the cool things that go on here throughout the year, and the Class of 2024 Facebook page as well. It’s a great way to meet people before you even arrive on campus.

As for your family, we suggest that they spend some time on the “family and parent resources” page (cofc.edu/families).

These are all excellent resources that will have you and your family feeling comfortable with the College in no time flat.