

Welcome Week FAQ's: Parents

What is Welcome Week?

Welcome Week is a six-day, on-campus experience prior to the start of the fall semester, required of all first-year students. This new program is part of the University of Minnesota's strategic positioning plan to be one of the top three public research universities in the world.

What is the purpose of Welcome Week?

Welcome Week is designed to engage the campus community in creating a meaningful University experience that will help first-year students:

- Build a sense of community among the Class of 2012
- Adjust to campus environment, life, and diverse culture
- Develop meaningful relationships with faculty, staff, community members and other students
- Discover and access a multitude of resources

What will my student be doing?

In addition to many other activities during the week, the following are some daily highlights of Welcome Week programming:

- Wednesday, August 27: Welcome to the U – Move-In, Commuter Small Group Meeting, Convocation, and Residence Hall Small Group Meeting
- Thursday, August 28: College Day – Activities coordinated by colleges
- Friday, August 29: University & Self-Exploration – Interest sessions, resource sessions, campus exploration
- Saturday, August 30: Community Day – Side trips exploring the Twin Cities
- Sunday, August 31: Community Service Day – Service projects giving back to the community
- Monday, September 1: Prepare for Classes – wrap up activities

Does my student have to attend?

All first-time, first-year, degree-seeking students are required to attend and participate in Welcome Week activities. Your student won't want to miss out on getting a jumpstart on their college experience! If your student is in CEHD, CFANS, or CBS he or she may be enrolled in a class that includes Welcome Week activities, which are required in course content.

My student is commuting from home. Is participation in Welcome Week required?

Welcome Week is required for all new students. Commuter students will participate in a Commuter Student kick-off event in the afternoon of Wednesday, August 27 prior to Convocation. Commuter students are expected to fully participate in Welcome Week activities. Additional information for commuter students will be available at New Student Orientation.

What if my student is in Band?

Orientation & First-Year Programs is working with the University Marching Band to create a schedule specific to those students needing to attend both Welcome Week and marching band practice.

What if my student is an athlete?

Orientation & First-Year Programs is working with Intercollegiate Athletics to create a schedule specific to those students needing to attend both Welcome Week and athletics practices.

What if my student is in Army, Air Force or Navy ROTC?

Though students involved in ROTC programs move on campus early for training, there are no conflicts with ROTC training and Welcome Week 2008.

How should I encourage my student to prepare for Welcome Week?

Encourage your student to mark his/her calendar for Wednesday, August 27 as the start of his/her college experience! Be sure family vacations and work schedules are planned so that he/she will be able to attend Welcome Week activities Wednesday, August 27-Monday, September 1. Look for a mailing in July that will ask your student to create a Welcome Week profile and select individual program options.

Can my student arrive on Tuesday, August 26?

If your student will be residing off-campus, please check with your student's leasing agent as to when your student can move-in. If your student is living on campus, Housing and Residential Life will be inviting some special populations to move-in on Tuesday, August 26. If your student is included in these populations you will be notified at a later date, otherwise you should plan to move in on Wednesday, August 27, 2008.

My student is commuting from home. How will he/she get to campus?

Commuter students are encouraged to start planning their transportation to campus in advance of Welcome Week. For many students, coming to campus for Welcome Week will be much like coming to campus for classes. Students are encouraged to visit [Parking & Transportation](#) for general information about public transportation, biking, and parking options. In addition, commuter students are encouraged to check the Welcome Week website for more specific information and transportation updates. More information will be given at New Student Orientation.

Can my student wait until Thursday or Friday to check in?

Welcome Week programming begins on Wednesday, August 27 and all students are expected to attend. The program is designed to assist your student in making a seamless transition to the University, and missing components of the program that may put your student at a disadvantage. Please see the Welcome Week schedule outline for details on programming.

Can I spend time with my student during Welcome Week?

Welcome Week programming is designed for students. There will be a parent event hosted by the Parent Program on Wednesday, August 27, during move-in. We encourage parents to take this opportunity to hear more about what your student will be doing at Welcome Week, as well as meet with University staff and administrators. From Wednesday on, students will be very busy with Welcome Week activities and building valuable connections on campus.

Should I stay in town to make sure my student has everything they need for their room on-campus?

Students will have ample time during Welcome Week to unpack and arrange their rooms to their liking. Parents are not able to access student rooms if the student is not present. There will be time available on Monday, September 1, 2008 where your student will be available to have more belongings brought to campus. Students will also be able to go on the annual Target Run sponsored by Housing and Residential Life for any additional needs they may have. For more information on what you should consider bringing to campus please go to <http://housing.umn.edu>.

We planned to come back over the weekend with another load of belongings. Is this a problem?

Due to the intensive Welcome Week schedule, your student will not be available to let you into his or her room on Saturday or Sunday of Welcome Week. There will be time available on Monday, September 1, 2008 where your student will be available to have more belongings brought to campus.

Can my student call me if there is a problem during Welcome Week?

Though the Welcome Week schedule is intensive, we do encourage students to communicate with their families during this transition. As a parent, you are encouraged to promote Welcome Week activities to your students and ask questions of their experience when you talk with them. If your students needs immediate help there will be ample staff available to assist them with their needs and you can encourage your students to talk with someone on campus.

My older student did not go to Welcome Week, why are you requiring it now?

Research demonstrates that Welcome Week programs assist student in their transition to college; allow students to build a sense of community among their first-year cohort; foster institutional pride and respect; allow students to make connections to each other, faculty and staff; and learn necessary skills and resources that will make them successful in college. The University of Minnesota's Welcome Week program will be a transformational experience for your student.