

First Year Orientation FAQ's

Am I required to attend an Orientation program?

Orientation is a required program for all incoming students. We believe that Orientation is a time to learn first-hand about all things SUNY Poly and is a great way to prepare for your transition to an official member of our SUNY Poly community. The program spans a 24 hour timeframe. It is expected that you participate in the entire program.

What do we do during Orientation?

During Orientation, you have the opportunity to connect with other incoming students, current students, as well as faculty and staff. While on campus, you will meet with faculty in your program and review your academic plan, register for classes/adjust your schedule, meet students in your major, and learn about how to utilize resources and support services on campus. Orientation sets you up for success for your college experience!

Is there a difference between the 3 available sessions?

Each of the three Orientation sessions is exactly the same. You should pick the session that works best with your schedule. You will not be missing out on something offered in another session.

Will I register for classes during my Orientation session?

Students are pre-registered into courses prior to Orientation, but while on campus you will meet with faculty advisors to review and make adjustments to your schedule. Please send all transcripts to the Admissions Office prior to attending your Orientation program so that your faculty will have your complete record available when meeting with you.

Is there a fee to attend Orientation?

There is a \$150 Orientation fee per student which will appear on your first semester bill.

Should my parents/guardians come to Orientation? Is there a fee for them to attend?

Family members/guests are welcome to attend Orientation. There is a parallel program designed specifically for families/guests only. Guests will also learn about resources and support services as well as the best ways to support their student while at SUNY Poly. There is a \$60 fee per guest attending Orientation to assist with covering the cost of the program.

Program content and the structure of the Orientation Sessions are generally not conducive to children in attendance. We recommend that children under the age of 16 who may not be prepared for sitting in extended sessions or for some of the content discussions around campus resources and college student challenges are not brought to Orientation sessions. All attendees, regardless of age, who attend the Family and Guest Orientation will be charged the guest orientation fee.

Is my parent required to attend every event on the schedule?

Unlike students, parents have the ability to attend the sessions that matter to them or they are available to attend. The Family/Guest program schedule will be available on our website prior to the program so guests can plan accordingly.

Do I have to stay overnight on-campus for orientation? I'm going to be a commuter at SUNY Poly, do I have to stay overnight?

All students are required to stay overnight in our residence halls. Yes, even students who intend to be commuters are required to stay for the one night Orientation program.

What should I bring with me to Orientation?

Please bring any outstanding paperwork you still need to hand in to various offices. This can include but is not limited to: Health and immunization records, documentation for disability services, financial aid paperwork, official transcripts from both high school and/or other colleges and universities, etc.

Since all students are required to stay overnight in Oriskany Hall, you should bring any personal items that you would typically need over the course of a 24 hour period with you to Orientation. We will provide linens for your bed (a pillow, sheets, and a light blanket) but you are responsible for anything else you may need (including towels, washcloths, shampoo, soap, etc). The building is air conditioned so you may want to bring a heavier blanket if you tend to be cold.

Where and what time do we check-in to Orientation?

Check-in will be in Oriskany Hall from 11am-12:45pm.

Can I see the Orientation schedule ahead of time?

Orientation is a mix of academically focused sessions, social activities, and some informational topics. No need to plan out exactly what you will be doing, let us do that for you. Bring a positive attitude and an open mind and it will be a great experience!

How can I arrange for the shuttle to pick me up from the train/bus station?

If you are taking the bus/train to Utica and would like transportation to campus, please fill out this form (insert Request for Transportation From Train Station form on word press)

Will I receive a confirmation that I registered for Orientation?

You will receive a confirmation email to advise you of your Orientation session dates to your SUNY Poly email account. We will not be emailing your personal email account.

Can I change my Orientation session after I have registered?

Availability of Orientation sessions are on a first come first served basis. We will maintain a waiting list as sessions fill up and offer changes as available, but changes are not guaranteed.

What happens if I can't attend my Orientation session?

Orientation is a required program for all incoming students. If there is a conflict and you cannot attend Orientation, you will need to email orientation@sunypoly.edu to discuss an exemption. Exemptions are not guaranteed and are handled on a case by case basis.

If I need special accommodations during Orientation, who should I contact?

You should include any special accommodations on your RSVP form and you can also contact the Student Activities Office at 315.792.7530 or at orientation@sunypoly.edu.

Are accommodations available for the night before Orientation?

If traveling a great distance and there are concerns about arrival time, please contact the Student Activities Office to discuss possible arrangements. We can only accommodate students on campus, guests will have to secure their own accommodations.

Will I receive my student ID at Orientation?

Students will receive their student ID at Orientation and will be responsible for bringing them to campus when they return in August.