June 8, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

On behalf of the Orientation team, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth family. UMass Dartmouth distinguishes itself as a vibrant, public research university dedicated to engaged learning and innovative research resulting in personal and lifelong student success. But you already know all this and that’s why you are so proud that your student has chosen to attend UMass Dartmouth!

This is a year like no other due to the COVID-19 pandemic. UMassD summer orientation has been adapted to allow new students access to their orientation while adhering to social distancing guidelines. Summer orientation sessions for new first-year students will be conducted primarily through virtual sessions, rather than during our typical overnight programs in June. If conditions allow, we also plan to offer a comprehensive orientation program between new student move-in day and the first day of fall semester classes based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Department of Public Health. Right now, here are the steps to help your student (and YOU) prepare:

**Student Preparedness check-list**

1. Send official final high school transcript to Admissions
2. Activate student email account
3. Complete placement testing
4. Complete online orientation

**New Students will achieve their Orientation in four steps:**

1. **ONLINE ORIENTATION**

   After depositing with the university, students received an email with instructions on how to log into their myUMassD portal account and were instructed to complete Online Orientation. The program is an excellent introduction to the university and contains information vital to a successful start here at UMassD. A super-convenient tool, it can be completed on a smartphone, tablet, or computer in multiple sittings or all at once.

   Students can access Online Orientation on the myumassd portal: my.umassd.edu/group/myumassd/orientation

2. **ACADEMIC ADVISING WELCOME**

   Each academic college will email an invitation to their first-year students for a Zoom Webinar to welcome them to their college and review academic aspects of their university experience. Students must attend this one-hour Zoom Webinar for their major:

   June 15  Charlton College of Business
   June 15  College of Visual & Performing Arts
   June 18  College of Nursing
   June 18 or 19  College of Engineering
   June 22  College Now
   June 22 - July 2  College of Arts & Sciences (Student will attend 1 of 18 small group sessions organized by major.)
This will cover a welcome from the dean/director (or designee), an overview of academic advising/COIN course selection, student affairs overview, and a student panel.

3. ORIENTATION LEADER SMALL GROUP MEETINGS
In July, new first-year students will receive a Zoom invitation from their assigned Orientation Leader for a one-hour weekly Zoom Orientation Group meeting. Participation is required, and students will have the chance to meet others in their major as well as talk to upper-class students about their campus experiences. Meetings will occur for six weeks and cover a different topic each week:

- July 13-17: Getting Started
- July 20-24: Academics
- July 27-31: Nuts & Bolts
- August 3-7: Student Life
- August 10-14: Getting Help
- August 17-21: Stay Informed, Master Checklist & Next Steps

Additional optional Zoom sessions will be offered by any departments wishing to have an active session with first year students to review important points and answer questions. Those will be announced in July.

4. FALL ORIENTATION
While plans are still in flux, we are preparing to offer a dynamic three-day orientation experience on campus between move-in and the first day of classes. Students will be notified via their UMassD email accounts and updates will be posted on the orientation website.

FAMILY ORIENTATION for YOU
We appreciate and understand how challenging sending your student to college can be and we want to help. First, you have access to the Online Orientation, which will cover much of what you may want to know. You may access it by going to https://orientation.umassd.edu/

In July, we will be hosting virtual events for family members to touch base with our office and ask questions. Please keep an eye on our website for more information: www.umassd.edu/orientation

If you have questions or concerns about anything related to Orientation, don’t hesitate to contact us at orientation@umassd.edu. We’re here to help.

Once again, welcome to the UMass Dartmouth community!

Sincerely & with Corsair pride,

Shelly Metivier Scott
Director of New Student and Family Programing

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