

Road to Occidental Webinar Q & A for incoming first-year students

Q: Do the kids have to stay in the dorms that first week during orientation?

A: That would be optimal. We want to make sure they have the full Orientation onboarding experience!

Q: Is there any way I can get a residency letter before move in day? I want to arrive in the US early and get my State ID made, but I'll need the letter I think.

A: Hello! I'm the international admission person. By our records, you are a US citizen so you can enter the US at any point. You do not require a student visa, but you'll need to make sure your US passport is valid. If you have further questions, you can email me at jjohnston2@oxy.edu.

Q: If we also applied for the MSI program, can we still apply for the Humanities program as a back-up or how would that work?

A: You are welcome to apply for both! You will only be able to participate in one or the other, because of the dates, but we would love for you to have the option to be part of the HJC course if you are not chosen for the MSI program.

Q: I see registration for fall semester FYS is open June 20 - 23. What if the student is not available during that period? Is there room to register the next week?

A: We can definitely work that out. Just email me at mrodriguez6@oxy.edu.

Q: Do parents attend orientation?

A: There's only a bit of a cross over. More info at <https://www.oxy.edu/parents-families/orientation-information-families>

Q: Hi. How long do parents generally stay in the area during orientation? Thank you.

A: It depends, but we're here to help make sure your student has a soft landing.

Q: What is move in day for those registered for LA Engage. Same as new student?

A: It's a few days earlier. Your student should get those instructions soon. Shoot me an email at mrodriguez6@oxy.edu.

Q: As we need to book our flights, could you please let me know when someone that applied for the MSI program will be notified if they are accepted? Thank you!

A: Students will be notified in June if they have been accepted into the MSI program. We know that this does not always provide a lot of time to book travel. If you are able to find a flight that is transferable or doesn't have any charges to cancel or change, you may want to look into booking travel earlier than later. As a reminder, you can find the MSI details here: <https://www.oxy.edu/about-oxy/equity-justice/multicultural-summer-institute>

Q: Do you know the date of the parent/family orientation?

A: For sure! More info at <https://www.oxy.edu/parents-families/orientation-information-families>

Q: Hello there. What will happen for students who have to defer for a year? Will they be excluded from events and to-do list requirements? Will they lose their financial aid? What are the drawbacks? Thank you.

A: Students who defer will be able to re-engage with the events and to-do lists that will take place in the following summer, so that they can fully engage as members of the Class of 2028. If your gap year is already approved, we will follow-up with you in early 2024 with next steps. Financial Aid will be updated at that time, to make sure that you haven't had any changes in your family situation. But all merit scholarships will carry over.

Q: I am wondering if our daughter is attending LA Engage arriving 8/19, should parents plan to stay the weekend so we can attend Monday Parent Orientation?

A: Most definitely! Beyond <https://www.oxy.edu/parents-families/orientation-information-families> we can help curate your experience.

Q: Hello, I am interested in pre-med, so I'm wondering if there is any pre-med counselor I can contact in order to get advice for my course selection. Also, may I ask you when is the due date for the course selection? Is it in the same day when we register to FYS?

A: Please refer to this page: <https://www.oxy.edu/academics/student-success/pre-health-advising>

Q: Do you have a list of local hotels where parents could stay, that offer an Oxy discount?

A: Yes! <https://www.oxy.edu/contact-us/maps-directions/hotel-information>

Q: Will we need to have a physician sign a student medical exam form (not just vaccinations)? If so, can we get those forms soon? My son will be out of the country most of the summer.

A: Those forms are not due until August 1 and we will send them out as soon as possible.

Q: Is the MSI program only for first-generation students and racially under-represented students?

A: Correct! The goal is to help build community among this cohort and ensure that they are equipped to be successful at Oxy.

Q: What is the deadline for submitting accommodation requests?

A: You can start making requests on June 1 and have until July 1 to submit!

Q: If there was never an official diagnosis can a student still ask to receive support or accommodation for mental health issues?

A: We certainly support students without official documentation, we encourage students to come by our office hours or email us to set up an meeting to discuss their needs and explore support resources.

Q: Regarding disability accommodations, is there someone I can meet with prior to application in order to get a better scope of disability services and how they align with my needs?

A: Absolutely! We're happy to set up a Zoom meeting to walk you through the process and answer more in-depth questions. Please email us at accessibility@oxy.edu to set up a time to meet!

Q: Hello, for the summer program "Humanities For Just Communities Virtual Summer Course," are we able to leave a little early? I wanted to sign up for the course, but the last 5 days conflicts with my plane ticket, so I was wondering if I can still participate in the course.

A: You should reach out to the faculty and ask. I imagine they would be happy to have you for even a portion of the course.

<https://www.oxy.edu/academics/humanities-just-communities/summer-2023-virtual-course>

Q: If considering a gap year for our Oxy student, who will we need to contact/coordinate with for approval?

A: You can fill out this form to start the process:

<https://admission.oxy.edu/apply/form?id=2c33ccd2-0691-4a86-a467-7a7aa27b0210>

Q: June 1st is also the day when you can start applying for residency right?

A: Correct! The housing form opens on June 1.

Q: How much earlier do students generally arrive for the LA Engage program?

A: Usually three days; more info at <https://www.oxy.edu/new-students/la-engage>

Q: Does the vaccine they've already received work, or new vaccines for the fall?

A: The previous vaccine they already received will be fine!

Q: What is the Community Book Program?

A: The Community Book Program is kind of like a campus-wide book club! Everyone will read the same book. More info here: <https://www.oxy.edu/about-oxy/community-book-program>

Q: Can my child request a different ID/username for their Oxy email, or do they have to use the one that was provided?

A: Oxy has to manage so many accounts that everything has to be pre-determined. Therefore, it will not be possible for a student to request a specific ID/username.

Q: Who or what department is the best to contact to get information on the Oxy student health insurance plan, benefit details, timing of coverage, costs, etc for Fall 2023 incoming students?

A: Your best bet is the Emmons Wellness Center. You can see more info in the Incoming Student FAQ, too: <https://www.oxy.edu/new-students/incoming-first-year-faq#billing5>

Q: Once students receive housing assignments, do they get a floor plan with rough measurements so they can plan accordingly?

A: There is not a floor plan but you can see information about what to bring here:

<https://www.oxy.edu/student-life/rehs/amenities-chart-what-bring>

Q: If parents can't be there for the move-in and send-off, can a family friend come for the send-off day?

A: Yes, of course!

Q: I see that move in day for the MSI program is June 8th if we're accepted. Is it ok to move in June 9th?

A: All students will have to move in on June 8th because programming will begin that day. I do not believe it will be possible to move in late.

Q: When do housing plans open?

A: The housing form opens on June 1. Move in is August 21.

Q: If you are playing a winter varsity sport (basketball) - there is no early move-in but regular August 21?

A: Correct!

Q: Medical Records - if a doctor appt is after the deadline date, do we provide the 2022 information and then provide the 2023 information after the appointment?

A: Exactly!

Q: When and where will students be registering for classes?

A: That will happen during the Orientation process more info at <https://www.oxy.edu/new-student-guide>

Q: How can we contact a sports coach? I am planning to join swim, but can't find out how to contact the coach.

A: For sure! Please reach out to Coach Haley at hmitchell@oxy.edu

Q: I was unable to change my Oxy Gmail password when logging in.

A: Please reach out to ITS (helpdesk@oxy.edu) for help with this!

Q: At what point will communications be sent to my Oxy email instead of my personal email, or will it be sent to both addresses?

A: Hello! Official communication will transition to just your oxy.edu email on 8/7.

Q: Is it possible to change a major from Biology with a Global Health minor to Cognitive Science or change it to Diplomacy & World Affairs? I am coming as an international student.

A: Yes! You are officially "undeclared" until you declare a major by the end of your second year. You may have written biology as an area of academic interest on your application, but you are free to take classes in other areas (with the advice of your advisor).

Q: Is there a flag football team established/will be established soon?

A: Not yet, but we love the idea!

Q: When do students register for Fall classes?

A: Hi! Transfer students will register on 8/25 and first-year students will register on 8/26. Registrations times will be determined in August! Stay tuned.

Q: Is the June 20 date for registration for all classes or just the FY seminar?

A: Hi! June 20 is just for FYS courses.

Q: Is there a contact for club level men's rugby?

A: Most definitely. Please have your student email mrodriguez6@oxy.edu.

Q: If a student is previously engaged in a sport that isn't included in existing Oxy athletics, can the school provide support to continue that sport at a competitive level?

A: Potentially! Intramurals or club sports might be available:
<https://www.imleagues.com/spa/intramural/12dbae855cfa441485868fa151f9b3c9/home>

Q: So, students register for classes when they are on campus, sometime during the orientation week (8/22-8/28)?

A: Definitely! We've worked into the orientation schedule.

Q: For registration, is that done directly with an advisor?

A: Yes, all students will register with advisors in the room! Students will also have 1:1 advising sessions prior to registration on 8/25.

Q: Can my son request to live with a water polo teammate, would that request be granted?

A: We can't promise that the request would be granted, but your son can definitely make the request. Just reach out to REHS as soon as possible.

Q: Are there required courses other than FYS?

A: Beyond the FYS, students will complete the Core Program requirements (<https://www.oxy.edu/academics/core-program>) and the Senior Comprehensive project (<https://www.oxy.edu/academics/senior-comps>)

Q: When are students required to declare a major?

A: By the end of their second year!

Q: Is there access to the course options ahead of time to look through potential courses?

A: Yes! You can check out course descriptions in the college catalog:
<https://oxy.smartcatalogiq.com/2022-2023/Catalog/Course-Descriptions>

Q: If a student is not receiving financial aid or academic scholarships year 1, are there opportunities down the line to receive support?

A: Merit scholarships are only offered at the time of admission, but if you have a change in your family's financial situation, you can talk with the Office of Financial Aid about need-based financial aid.

Q: What is O-Team?

A: It's short for "Orientation Team." This team is a group of current Oxy students who can't wait to meet and welcome you onto campus in August.

Q: Will each student have a general advisor as well as a faculty advisor based on major?

Thanks.

A: Each student is initially assigned a faculty advisor based upon their major interests they've indicated. Students are encouraged to fully explore their academic interests within the first two years at Oxy and must declare a major at the end of their second year. Once they declare, they must select a faculty advisor within their selected major. Students with double major will select two faculty advisors (one for each major).

Q: Do you suggest students pick some classes ahead of time?

A: It doesn't hurt to look through the course catalog for fun! You can get a sense of what's offered here: <https://oxy.smartcatalogiq.com/2022-2023/Catalog/Course-Descriptions>

Q: When is the 2023-24 catalogue coming out?

A: Sometime this summer. You can see the draft version here: <https://oxy.smartcatalogiq.com/2023-2024/Catalog/>

Q: Is there Greek life at Oxy? If so, how prevalent?

A: Yes! You can learn more here: <https://www.oxy.edu/student-life/clubs-organizations/greek-life>. It's fairly popular, but it's definitely not the only social outlet on campus.

Q: What is the earliest we would be able to study abroad/study away (ie campaign/UN semester)? Should we worry about that at all yet?

A: Usually, students study abroad/away in their junior year (or senior year, in the case of the UN program). You can learn more here: <https://www.oxy.edu/academics/global-engagement/international-programs/study-abroad>

Q: Can parents track academic progress online?

A: Oxy abides by FERPA, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. You can learn more about that here: <https://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/general-college-policies/family-education-rights-and-privacy-act-ferpa>

Q: Is gender affirming care offered in any form on campus?

A: Definitely! And if we need to connect with resources off-campus, we're prepared to do so.

Q: Around how many classes will 16 units be?

A: Generally, 4 classes.

Q: Is 16 units usually 4 courses?

A: Yes!

Q: What is the date they will find out their specific dorm?

A: Hi, no confirmed date just yet, but these will be assigned early August!

Q: When will housing assignments be revealed? Prior to August?

A: Housing decisions will be assigned in early August!

Q: How many students do you expect for class of 2027?

A: We're aiming for around 535!