Introduction to Orientation

The Nichols College Orientation program is designed to assist you in transitioning to Nichols College.

During the Nichols College Summer Orientation session, you will meet other members of the Class of 2019, register for classes for the fall semester, interact with faculty, staff, and get to know members of the student body. You will also learn about academic life, opportunities for involvement in student organizations and athletics, as well as information on the Nichols College Code of Conduct and expectations of our students regarding bystander awareness, multiculturalism and community standard policies.

It is the College’s expectation that all incoming Bison attend a two-day overnight Orientation program in June; this will be the first of many experiences acclimating you to the Nichols College campus. There are three overnight sessions that you may choose from:

**Session A** – Thursday, June 18th – Friday, June 19th  
**Session B** – Tuesday, June 23rd – Wednesday, June 24th  
**Session C** – Saturday, June 27th – Sunday, June 28th  
**Session D** – Monday, July 13

**Session C** will host an Overnight Experience for Guests. See page five of this brochure for more information.

*An abbreviated session will be offered in July. The abbreviated session is one-day only and is designed for transfer students.*

**OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS**

While attending Orientation in June, you will stay in Shamie Hall (triple occupancy – incoming students will be matched up for the program). **Staying overnight is a requirement of the program.** You must bring a sleeping bag or blanket and sheets, pillow, bath linens, toiletries, comfortable clothes and an alarm clock. This is a great opportunity to experience on-campus living first-hand and to check out where you might be living next year! For those of you who plan to commute in the fall, you will have the chance to meet and spend time with your classmates.

To register for Orientation, please fill out the form at:  
https://nicholscollege2019.eventbrite.com

**Registration for Orientation will begin on Wednesday, May 20th at 3:00pm. The deadline to RSVP is June 5. We look forward to preparing for your stay on campus!**
New Student Orientation Session Information

First-year students, please choose one of the following sessions:

- **Session A**: June 18 – 19
- **Session B**: June 23 – 24
- **Session C**: June 27 – 28

**ORIENTATION CHECK-IN**

When you arrive on campus, please go directly to Shamie Hall (#22 on the campus map), where you will be checking in and receiving your room assignment. There will be signs posted along Center Road to direct vehicles to appropriate parking areas. Students may drive themselves to orientation. **Check-in will be held outside Shamie Hall between 9:00am and 9:45am** (Rain location will be inside Shamie Hall). **The first program of the day will begin at 10:15am in the Fels Student Center.** Late arrivals should go to the Admissions Office to receive assistance (#2 on the campus map). There will be light refreshments served prior to the first session. Be sure to arrive early, as many of the College’s service providers (Information Technology, Academic Advising, Public Safety, etc.) will be available for questions.

**ORIENTATION ROOMMATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All room assignments for Orientation are temporary; they have been randomly arranged for one night only. Unfortunately, no roommate requests will be honored during Orientation; students will be assigned randomly to their rooms. All students will be housed with two other students. In order to receive the full Orientation experience, commuter students are required to stay overnight.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

All members of the Nichols Orientation professional staff will be on duty throughout the sessions. Urgent messages can be relayed to students by calling Public Safety at (508) 949-0737. The officer on duty will locate a member of the Student Life Staff so that he/she can relay the message to the appropriate recipient.

**OUTSIDE COMMITMENTS**

We strongly encourage all incoming Bison to make their best effort to attend the two-day overnight Orientation session. At that time, you will be asked to complete paperwork that is important to your success at Nichols College. You will also be meeting with your professors and academic advisors. These meetings will determine your academic schedule for the fall semester. We require that students remain on campus throughout the entire program; this enables incoming students to have a thorough experience. Please choose the session that allows you stay for the entire day and a half program. If this is impossible, please contact Brian Quinlan, Director of Student Involvement or Beth Gionfriddo, Assistant Director of Student Involvement, at Involvement@Nichols.edu to make necessary accommodations before Orientation.
BISON ORIENTATION LEADER TEAM

The Nichols College Bison Orientation Leader Team (BOLT19) is excited to work with you during your time here on campus. The staff consists of upper-class Student Orientation Leaders, Family & Guest Orientation Leaders, a Logistics Coordinator and a Photographer. The Orientation Leaders (OLs) will be able to answer your questions and serve as a great resource. You will meet your OL when you arrive on campus.

ITEMS TO BRING TO ORIENTATION

✓ Comfortable, casual clothing including a sweatshirt or jacket for evening activities or air conditioned rooms
✓ Bath towel
✓ Alarm clock
✓ Sleeping bag and/or sheets, a blanket and a pillow
✓ Toiletries (shower shoes!)
✓ Umbrella
✓ Sneakers

*Please leave all valuables at home*

Questions?
The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) is happy to answer any and all questions you may have about the Orientation Program. Feel free to contact us anytime!

Director of CSI Brian Quinlan at (508) 213-2112 or Assistant Director of CSI Beth Gionfriddo at (508) 213-2113, or email Involvement@nichols.edu.

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### Tentative Student Schedule

#### DAY ONE

- Check-In
- Welcome Address
- Group Activities
- College Speakers
- Lunch
- Academic & Social Programs
- Dinner
- Entertainment

#### DAY TWO

- Breakfast
- Academics & Registration
- Group Activities/Programs
- Closing Ceremony
Transfer Student Orientation Session Information

Transfer students, please choose one of the following sessions:

Session A: June 18 – 19   Session B: June 23 – 24   Session C: June 27 – 28
Session D: July 13 (Abbreviated one day session, designed for transfer students)

TRANSFER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

While we strongly encourage and hope that all new students will attend one of the overnight orientation sessions in June, we recognize the unique needs of our transfer student population and have designed a one-day Orientation program for you. This program will be held on Monday, July 13 and will provide sessions for both students and guests. This is a full day program and lunch will be provided.

ORIENTATION REGISTRATION

To register for Orientation, please fill out the form at: https://nicholscollege2019.eventbrite.com

Space is limited, so it is important for students and families/guests to register with us as soon as possible. Your prompt response will ensure that we adequately prepare for your arrival.

Remember, transfer students are welcome at any of the June overnight Orientation sessions! To sign up for a June overnight simply indicate this choice on the registration form.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The Transfer Orientation program runs from approximately 10:00am until 5:00pm. Signs indicating parking lot locations will be visible along Center Road. Check-in for the day will begin at 9:00am in the Fels Student Center (#13 on the campus map).

Students and families will be separated for the majority of programs throughout the day. Details about the Family and Guest Orientation program can be found on the next page of this brochure.

Topics to be covered in the student session include:

- Meeting your classmates and learning about the Nichols College community
- Academic Life
- Housing/Residence Life
- Financial Aid
- Student ID Cards & Institutional Paperwork
Attention Families and Guests
One-Day Orientation Program

Dates of the Program (choose one):
- Thursday, June 18
- Tuesday, June 23
- Saturday, June 27
- Monday, July 13 (Transfer specific session)

FAMILY AND GUEST ORIENTATION PROGRAM

To help make the transition to college easy for everyone involved, a special one-day program has been designed for families and guests. You will have the choice of attending one of four sessions: Session A: June 18, Session B: June 23, Session C: June 27, or Session D (Transfer Session): July 13. We encourage you to review the Student Orientation information to see how the programs differ.

In order to best serve all families/guests, we ask that you limit participation in the Family and Guest Orientation program to three individuals per family. The nature of the program is not conducive to small children, and child-care services will not be available.

This program is different from our Admissions Open House program. Information distributed at Summer Orientation is presented in greater detail to prepare you for your experience at Nichols College. Family and Guest Orientation is also a unique program, in which families and guests will learn about college policies, initiatives and programs. The two orientation programs run independent of each other. The Family and Guest program concludes at approximately 4:30 p.m. on the first day. Families and Guests can return on the second day at 1:00 p.m. to pick up their student. Students may also drive themselves. Lunch will be provided at the Family and Guest Orientation program.

Family & Guest Overnight!
We offer an extended Family and Guest Orientation with overnight accommodations during Session C (Saturday, June 27 – Sunday, June 28). You may sign up for the extended program and overnight when registering your student for Orientation. Overnight accommodations will be provided in apartment-style residence halls, with private bedrooms and shared bathrooms and common spaces.

This program will cost $50.00 per person. Space is limited, so sign up fast!

Included in this program:

- Housing in the Copper Beech Residence Hall (apartment-style housing, with private bedroom and shared bathrooms & common areas)
- Linens (bed sheets, blankets, pillows & towels)
- Lunch, Dinner and snacks on day one and breakfast on day two
- Additional programs regarding community standards and college policies
**REGISTRATION**

We strongly encourage families and guests to attend this program. Registration is included in the online form found here: [https://nicholscollege2019.eventbrite.com](https://nicholscollege2019.eventbrite.com)

Space is limited in each of the programs, so please register with us early!

**Tentative Schedule**

The Family and Guest Orientation check-in will take place outside of Shamie Hall from 9:00am – 9:45am. The Orientation program will begin promptly at 10:15am in the Fels Student Center and will end no later than 5:00pm.

**For Session C**, the Family and Guest Orientation Session will run from 10:15am – 11:00pm and continue for a half-day session on day two.

*Topics will include:*

- Expectations for Nichols College students and their families
- How families can best assist their student in preparing for Nichols College
- Current students’ perspectives on campus life at Nichols College
- Information regarding academic policies and advising
- Information regarding housing and residence life/commuter life
- Understanding financial obligations and billing statements
Local Accommodations & Transportation

Auburn, MA
*Distance from Nichols: Approximately 14 miles*

- **Comfort Inn**
  426 Southbridge Street
  (508) 832-8300
  [www.bestmasshotels.com/auburn](http://www.bestmasshotels.com/auburn)

- **Fairfield Inn by Marriott**
  718 Southbridge Street
  (508) 832-9500
  [www.marriott.com/bosaw](http://www.marriott.com/bosaw)

- **Hampton Inn**
  736 Southbridge Street
  (800) 426-7866
  (774) 221-0055
  [www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)

- **Holiday Inn Express**
  10-12 Johnson Street
  (888) 465-4329
  (508) 832-2500
  [www.hiexpress.com/auburnma](http://www.hiexpress.com/auburnma)

- **La Quinta Inn**
  446 Southbridge Street
  (800) 753-3757
  (508) 832-7000
  [www.lq.com](http://www.lq.com)

Southbridge, MA
*Distance from Nichols: Approximately 8 miles*

- **Vienna Restaurant & Historic Inn**
  14 South Street
  (508) 764-0700
  [www.thevienna.com](http://www.thevienna.com)

- **Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center**
  14 Mechanic Street
  (508) 765-8000
  [www.southbridgehotel.com](http://www.southbridgehotel.com)

Sturbridge, MA
*Distance from Nichols: Approximately 12 miles*

- **Comfort Inn**
  215 Charlton Road
  (508) 347-3306
  (800) 228-5150
  [www.sturbridgecomfortinn.com](http://www.sturbridgecomfortinn.com)

- **Hampton Inn**
  328 Main Street, Route 131
  (508) 347-6466
  (800) Hampton
  [www.myhamptoninn.com](http://www.myhamptoninn.com)

- **Quality Inn at Sturbridge**
  478 Main Street
  (508) 347-5141
  [www.qualityinn.com](http://www.qualityinn.com)

- **Publick House & Country Motor Lodge**
  277 Main Street, Route 131
  (508) 347-3313
  (800) Publick
  [www.publickhouse.com](http://www.publickhouse.com)

- **Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center**
  366 Main Street, Route 20
  (800) 582-3232
  (508) 347-7393
  [www.sturbridgehosthotel.com](http://www.sturbridgehosthotel.com)

- **Super 8 Hotel**
  358 Main Street, Route 20
  (800) 454-3213
  (508) 347-9000
  [www.super8.com](http://www.super8.com)

Worcester, MA
*Distance from Nichols: Approximately 23 miles*

- **The Beachwood Hotel**
  363 Plantation Street
  (800) 344-2589
  (508) 754-5789
  [www.beechwoodhotel.com](http://www.beechwoodhotel.com)

- **Courtyard by Marriott**
  75 Grove Street
  (888) 887-7948
  (508) 363-0300
  [www.worcestercourtyard.com](http://www.worcestercourtyard.com)

- **Hilton Garden Inn**
  35 Major Taylor Blvd.
  (508) 753-5700
  [www.hiltongardeninn.com](http://www.hiltongardeninn.com)
Directions to Nichols College

From Points North
Take I-290 to Auburn, where it connects with I-395 South. Follow I-395 to Exit 4B (Sutton Road/Oxford Center). Turn right off ramp and stay in the right lane. Go straight through the light at Oxford center. Follow straight for 0.8 miles and take a left onto Dudley Road. Follow this road for 3.7 miles, staying straight through a four-way stop sign. Dudley Road becomes Dudley/Oxford Road at the town line. As the road forks, bear right to continue on Dudley/Oxford Road for 2 miles through two stop signs, then straight onto the Nichols campus.

From Points East & West
Take the Mass Pike to Exit 10 in Auburn. Follow signs for I-395 South, and continue directions above.

From Points South
Take I-95 North to I-395 North to Exit 2 (Webster) and turn left off the ramp. After the first set of traffic lights, continue to follow Route 12 South through Webster center, where it will turn left. Continue through Webster center. After the railroad tracks, continue straight into Dudley. At the intersection with Schofield Avenue, Route 12 will bear left. You will stay straight onto Route 197/Main Street. Continue straight until you reach a set of lights near a Cumberland Farms convenience store. Turn right directly after onto Airport Rd. Follow Airport Road and bear right at the Webster-Dudley Golf Course. Take the first left onto Center Road and proceed directly onto the Nichols campus.

From Hartford, CT
Take I-84 East towards Boston. Take Exit 2 (Sturbridge/Southbridge). On the exit ramp, keep right at the fork. Turn left onto Haynes Street. Turn right onto Route 131/Main Street. Continue to the rotary in Southbridge and take the first right onto Route 169/131. You will pass through Dudley, Massachusetts, then enter Thompson, Connecticut, for a short while. Turn left onto Route 197 in Thompson. You will re-enter Dudley on Route 197. Turn left onto Center Road. Follow Center Road up the hill to the Nichols campus.

Transportation Terminals
Worcester Train Station
(508) 755-0356
Worcester Bus Station
(508) 791-9782

Limousine Service
Worcester Airport Limousine
(800) 660-0992
Status Limousine & Rentals
(508) 347-6364

Taxi Services
Yellow Cab (Worcester)
(508) 754-3211
City Cab & Livery Service
(508) 943-3440
Auburn Taxi
(508) 832-6777