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 2020, 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.

We highly recommend 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 for you to choose from:

Session A – Thursday, June 16th – Friday, June 17th  
Session B – Tuesday, June 21st – Wednesday, June 22nd  
Session C – Saturday, June 25th – Sunday, June 26th

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

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://nichols2020.eventbrite.com

Registration for Orientation will begin on Tuesday, May 17th at 3:00pm. The deadline to RSVP is June 3rd. We look forward to preparing for your stay on campus!
New Student Orientation Session Information

Please choose one of the following sessions:

Session A: June 16 – 17    Session B: June 21 – 22    Session C: June 25 – 26

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 and park their cars overnight. **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 in the Fels Student Center. 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 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 to 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 (BOLT20) is excited to work with you during your time here on campus. The staff consists of Student Orientation Leaders, Family & Guest Orientation Leaders, Logistics Coordinators 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 Student Involvement Office is happy to answer any and all questions you may have about the Orientation Program. Feel free to contact us anytime!

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

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
Attention Families and Guests
One-Day Orientation Program

Dates of the Program (choose one):
- Thursday, June 16
- Tuesday, June 21
- Saturday, June 25

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 three sessions: Session A: June 16, Session B: June 21 or Session C: June 25. 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 25 – Sunday, June 26). 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://nichols2020.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)

- 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)
Residence Inn by Marriott
503 Plantation Street
(508) 753-6300
www.residenceinn.com/BOSRI

Connecticut
Distance from Nichols: Approximately 10 miles

The Inn at Woodstock Hill
94 Plain Hill Road
Woodstock, CT
(860) 928-0528
www.woodstockhill.com

The Mansion at Bald Hill
29 Plaine Hill Road
South Woodstock, CT
(860) 974-3456
www.mansionatbaldhill.com

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

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.