FAMILIES
INFORMATION FOR VIRTUAL SPROG ORIENTATION

2020
GREETINGS NEW PIRATE PARENTS!

I’m excited to welcome our new students for fall 2020! While we wish we could be together in person this summer, the safety of your student is paramount to Southwestern. We have reimagined Sprog Orientation as a virtual experience. Students will still participate in curriculum planning, student life programming, advising, and registration during their two-day orientation. Students will also be assigned to an Orientation Leader who will guide and support them during Sprog and throughout the entire summer.

We also have enhanced the registration process to help students enroll in key courses. Students will be pre-registered in two courses prior to Sprog. One course will be the First-Year Seminar (FYS, for first-year students) or Advanced-Entry Seminar (AES, for transfer students). The other course will be an introduction course for their intended major, when possible. If your student is undecided about their major, we will register them for a general education course.

So that we have the most recent and accurate information possible, we are requiring all incoming students to submit a survey to express their interests and provide us with additional information. Your student has received the link to the survey. They must complete the survey before June 10 to ensure enrollment in the courses. During Sprog, they will participate in degree planning and advising sessions that will help them choose the rest of their courses. They will register for the remaining courses during Sprog, with help from their Orientation Leader and University staff.

There will be several sessions for parents to participate in during your student’s Sprog. However, the degree planning, advising, and registration sessions are meant for students only. Attending orientation, whether virtually or on-campus, is structured with an intentional separation between student and parents/families so that students can better immerse themselves academically and socially in their new community. We invite you to review materials (degree plans, university catalog, etc) and discuss potential majors and course options with your student prior to their Sprog sessions. Your partnership is critical to your student’s success at Southwestern. As such, we have created sessions as part of the Virtual Sprog program and during Move-in to prepare you for life as the parent of a Pirate. We hope that you will provide your students with support as they make independent decisions and encourage them to explore new opportunities for growth and development. Know that University faculty and staff are dedicated to helping your student create a rich and meaningful Southwestern Experience.

Jennifer Leach
Director of Advising and Retention
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Instructions for accessing Sprog sessions

Your family has selected a two-day virtual Sprog Orientation session during the week of June 22-27, 2020. Over the course of two days you and your student are invited to view and participate in the scheduled events from home. Some of the sessions are designed for student participation only, while others are open to parents and students.

Prior to your Sprog Orientation date, you will receive an email with several pre-recorded introductory videos, as well as links to participate in the live sessions. Because many of the live sessions for students include individualized advising and connections, we ask that your family “attend” on the days for which you registered.

🔒 [https://www.southwestern.edu/sprog-orientation/](https://www.southwestern.edu/sprog-orientation/)
Welcome from Dr. Laura Skandera Trombley
You are invited to view a pre-recorded message from our incoming president.

Shaping Your Southwestern Experience
Please view this pre-recorded session from Dr. Jennifer Leach, director of advising and retention.

1–2:15 p.m.
Financial Aid and Business Office Session
Tune in for an informative session covering billing and payments, waivers, financial aid, and how to access your student’s financial information.

2:30–3:30 p.m.
Curriculum Review and Pre-Planning
Dr. Jennifer Leach, director of advising and retention, will speak with students about the University’s curriculum in preparation for their course registration process.

3:30–4 p.m.
Small Group Meetings with Orientation Leaders
Your student will be assigned an Orientation Leader, a current Southwestern student, who will connect with a small group of incoming Pirates to start building community among the entering class.

6–7 p.m.
Virtual Parent Happy Hour
Parents are invited to join Grace Josey Pyka ’05, senior associate director of alumni and parent relations, and several members of the Parent Leadership Council for a virtual Q&A.

6–7 p.m.
SU Trivia Night
Presented by Student Activities and SIRA: A night for your student to find out what they know and didn’t know about SU. There will be door prizes for showing up and prizes for the winners. Students, join us for this fun “get to know SU” event!

11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Student Panel Hosted by the Orientation Leaders
Your student will have the opportunity to submit questions to learn more from our current students about life as a Pirate.
**Rated PG (Parental Guidance)**

For excitement, new experiences, challenges, failures, stepping out of comfort zones, success, and for managing the separation as your Pirate morphs into a Professional! Join the Center for Career & Professional Development for an informative session on just what your student can experience as we help prepare them for their post-graduation journey.

**Breakout Sessions**

*Captain's Academy*

This breakout session will review Captain's Academy, which is a program for all incoming First-Generation college students who are the first in their family to attend college. Renee Burrell, academic success coordinator, will provide more information about participation in Captain's Academy and describe the academic and social programs offered to members. This will also be a great opportunity to meet with other First Gen students and participate in a fun activity to help you become better acquainted with your fellow incoming peers.

*Services for Students with Disabilities*

Had an IEP or 504 plan in high school? Think you’ll need some accommodations at Southwestern? Not sure? Join Jen Smull, associate director of academic success, to learn more about services provided to students with disabilities, including how to request accommodations, what documentation to provide, common accommodations at SU, and more! Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, too!

*Transfer Students*

This breakout session will be for all transfer students. Transfer students will have the opportunity to meet with the Transfer Support team including: Scott Sandoval, director of transfer recruitment; Nadia Mahannah, associate registrar; Joe Watkins, director of housing operations; and Renee Burrell, academic success coordinator. This is a great opportunity to meet with key staff on campus that can help you with your transition and answer questions you may have about class registration, degree planning, housing, and the types of academic support offered at Southwestern. After brief introductions, you will also have the opportunity to engage in a fun activity with your fellow transfer students.

*Fine Arts*

Come ask your questions about music ensembles including Chorale, Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band, and auditioning for theatre productions.

**Department Group Advising**

Students will meet with a faculty member in the department that houses their major of interest. The faculty will discuss their degree programs, courses, and experiences students have the opportunity to engage in during their academic journey at Southwestern.

**Registration Support**

Students will register for their fall semester courses with assistance from Orientation Leaders and Southwestern Staff.

**Small Group Meetings with Orientation Leaders**

Students will connect again with their Orientation Leaders, who will continue to stay in touch over the summer!