NEW STUDENT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

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New Student and Family Programs provides new students and their families with resources and programming to support the academic experience, helping students make a smooth transition to university life and connect with meaningful engagement opportunities.

New Student Orientation

VCU offers an orientation program that is required for all incoming first-year and transfer students through New Student and Family Programs. New Student Orientation introduces students and their families to the university, its expectations of them, campus resources, academic programs and engagement opportunities. NSO provides opportunities for new students to interact with faculty, staff, upper-level students and other new students. The program provides a separate orientation for parents and family members designed to help them be a partner in their student’s success. NSO sessions are conducted throughout the summer preceding the fall semester and during the month before classes begin for the spring semester.

Programs for parents and families of VCU students

Parents and family members play an important role in their college students’ education. VCU believes that college is a collaborative experience among students, their families, and the faculty and staff of the university. New Student and Family Programs offers several services for families to support their college students. Family orientation is offered during NSO, with programs geared specifically toward the unique needs of parents and families of college students.

New Student and Family Programs offers a monthly webinar series as well as family events in the Richmond area throughout the academic year. These programs give families an opportunity to stay connected, informed and engaged with the university and their student. One of the most popular events of the year is VCU Family Weekend, which takes place in the fall and is full of activities to help families reconnect with their student and learn more about VCU and the Richmond community.

Families who share their contact information are automatically part of the VCU Family Association and receive regular communications from the university in the form of electronic newsletters and updates. Families are also encouraged to apply for membership in the VCU Family Council, offering them the opportunity to provide input on and assist with family programming and events.