

# Orientation week assignment



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

For parents, it's also a golden opportunity to scout out textbook options, residence life extras and nearby coffeehouses, bakeries and restaurants information they'll need down the road. And even if your child is going to a community college and living at home, going to orientation sends an important message to your child that his college education matters to you. Family Orientation up until a decade ago, most college orientation sessions were directed at students. Now it's a rare school that doesn't offer parent orientation and 10% of sibling programs for families, who don't want to leave younger children at home.

At Boston University and UCLA, for example, younger siblings sport campus T-shirts and do arts and crafts activities. Mount Holyoke does a "how to apply to college" session for teen siblings too. Tip: If your child's college does not have a specific sibling program, leave your younger kids home. They'll find eight hours of lectures on "Academic Success in the University Environment" tedious, to say the least. And if they're distracted, you will be too. Timing Some colleges hold multiple orientation sessions during the summer months. Others use it to launch move-in weekend and Welcome Week.

There are pros and cons to the timing. Pick an early date, and your child may have a better shot at getting the classes he needs. An earlier session also gives your child a chance to meet other freshmen, for example, and find a roommate before he's assigned one. On the other hand, an end of summer orientation means just one trip to college, not two. Your child will have first dibs on dorm room beds. And, because it makes the dropping-off process

more gradual, some parents find the leave-taking easier to bear. Exploration Time Don't expect to spend a lot of time with your child at orientation.

Beginning and ending sessions tend to be done together, but most of the activities and panel discussions are conducted separately. If you've been given a jam-packed schedule and you're trying to rendezvous with your kid, the "information fair" is a good time. These fairs typically consist of a bunch of tables set up in the quad with representatives from Greek life, study abroad, intramural sports, the campus radio station and various clubs. Run through, grab a few flyers and you've bought yourself an hour of free time to explore the bookstore and campus neighborhood, and find answers to all those other questions about college life.

Orientation Week courses help new students gain friends, study skills 10 February 2000 New students need never face writer's block, daunting assignments or difficult research problems alone, thanks to a series of free workshops introduced at US Offered during Orientation Week (February 7-10) for the first time this year, the workshops will help students make new contacts and adjust to university life, learn writing strategies, gain internet research skills ND prepare for assessment.