

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS WEEK OF WELCOME

MCLA'S ORIENTATION AND GREYLOCK L.E.A.D. ACADEMY

**Asterisked activities are high sensory*

Sunday, August 24 – New Student Move-In Day

Commuter students are not required to report until August 25. However, if you would like to join us you are more than welcome! The campus bookstore will be open from 9AM-4PM.

9:00 AM - Centralized Check-In Opens - CSI Atrium

Look for communication through Residence Life & Housing on what process to follow for moving to campus.

11:00 AM - Lunch - Centennial Room

All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***1:00 PM - Fun on Murdock Lawn - Murdock Lawn**

Finished moving in? Join your new classmates on the lawn to play games and get to know each other, Peer Mentors will help you connect with your new classmates.

3:00 PM - MCLA Welcome - Church Street Center Auditorium *(required)

Join President Birge, Spencer Moser, Jenn Labbanace, and peer mentors for an official welcome to MCLA (*large group, lecture-style*).

3:30 PM - Welcome from Residential Life and Housing- Church Street Center Auditorium *(required)

Area Coordinators will introduce Residential Life, followed by small group meetings with RAs (Resident Advisors) in the residence halls (*begins as a large group, then moves to small group sessions*).

4:15 PM - Trailblazer Team Member Q&A - Church Street Center Auditorium

Members of the campus community will be on hand to facilitate and answer any last questions Trailblazer Team Members have before departing campus.

4:45 PM - "Bun Voyage" Farewell Dinner - Academic Quad

Join us for dinner where students say see you soon to their families and Trailblazer Team Members. Peer Mentors and RAs will be available to help students make connections.

Rain Location: Venable Gym

7:30 PM – First Night Fun – Berkshire Towers, The MERC, Sullivan Lounge

Join your new classmates in each of these different areas for some lowkey fun activities! *The MERC (Multicultural Education Resource Center) and Sullivan Lounge are in the Campus Center on the 2nd floor.*

Monday, August 25 – Intro to MCLA Day

8:00 AM – Resident Student Breakfast – Centennial Room

All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students, with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available at every meal. For additional dietary needs, please speak to an Aramark food service staff member during mealtimes.

9:00 AM – Commuter Student Welcome Breakfast – Murdock 218

A special breakfast and welcome for commuter students with President Birge and Jenn Labbance. Allison Williams will also be available to answer commuter services questions. *Welcome Breakfast is covered for commuter students.*

***10:00 AM – Knowledge Summit – Venable Theater (required)**

Official Orientation Welcome with introductions to Disability Resources, the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Provost of Academic Affairs (*large group, lecture-style*).

***10:30 AM – How to Survive and Thrive – Venable Theatre (required)**

Helpful tips on wellness and managing the transition to college (*large group, lecture-style*).

***10:45 AM – Meet Your Color Group – Venable Theater (required)**

Introduction to your official Peer Mentors and color group assignments (*large group → small group*).

11:30 AM – Lunch & Break – Centennial Room

Join other new students in the Centennial Room for lunch and take some much-needed downtime! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***1:00 PM – Leadership Activities – Various Locations (required)**

Engage in different leadership and team-building activities to help you learn more about how you can navigate your MCLA college experience (*challenge by choice*).

4:45 PM – Success Team Meetings – Bowman Classrooms (required)

Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.

5:30 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Join other students in the Centennial Room for dinner! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

7:00 PM – Connection Groups – Murdock 208 & 218

Peer Mentors host casual topic-based events to help you connect through shared interests.

Murdock 208-Anime Enjoyers

Murdock 218-Halftime Hangout (*Sports*)

8:00 PM – Library Chill Night Bracelet & Button Making – Freel Library

Tonight, the library is all yours. Stop by, make a bracelet or a button, enjoy some snacks and chill beats, and hang out with new friends. This is also a great opportunity to wander around and check out all of the different study spaces, collections, and amenities that are available to you at the library.

Tuesday, August 26 – Academics Day

8:00 AM – Breakfast – Centennial Room

All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students, with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available at every meal. For additional dietary needs, please speak to an Aramark food service staff member during mealtimes.

***9:05 AM – Introduction from the Dean of Academics – Venable Theater (*required*)**

Welcome from Academic Affairs (*large group*).

9:30 AM – Intro to MCLA Part 1 – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)

Information session with Faculty Success Coaches and Staff Mentors (*small group*).

***10:15 AM – Resource Fair – Venable Gym (*required*)**

Pick up your W.O.W T-Shirt and Visit the Resource Fair to learn about departments and support services from around campus (*free form*).

11:00 AM – Intro to MCLA Part 2 – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)

Continued discussion with Faculty Success Coaches (*small group*).

11:45 AM – Lunch & Break – Centennial Room

Join other new students in the Centennial Room for lunch and take some much-needed downtime! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

1:45 PM – Time Management Workshop – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)

Small group activities led by Peer Mentors.

2:45 PM – Life Stories from Campus Leaders – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)

Faculty and staff from around campus share personal stories (*small group*).

4:30 PM – Success Team Meeting – Bowman Classrooms *(required)*

Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.

5:00 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Join your peers in the Centennial Room for dinner! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***7:30 PM – Trivia Game Show - Venable gym**

Evening activity hosted by Residence Life & Housing.

Wednesday, August 27 – Self-Care Day

8:00 AM – Breakfast – Centennial Room

All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students, with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available at every meal. For additional dietary needs, please speak to an Aramark food service staff member during mealtimes

***9:30 AM – Walmart Bus Trip – Bus Loop from Murdock Hall**

A bus will loop from campus to Walmart from 9:30 AM–12:00 PM for students to pick up any needed supplies.

11:00 AM – Lunch – Centennial Room

Meet up with your peers in the Centennial Room for Lunch! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

1:00 PM – Ask Me Anything – Bowman Classrooms *(required)*

Peer Mentors lead open discussion sessions with their color groups; this a chance to get all your questions answered by Peer Mentors *(small group)*.

2:00 PM – Success Team Meeting – Bowman Classrooms *(required)*

Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day *(small group)*.

***2:30 PM – Student Engagement Takeover – Campus Center Marketplace**

Come experience some of the types of events that the Office of Student Engagement offers during the school year! *(free form)*

***3:30 PM – Orientation Cup: Drift into MCLA E-Sports – E-Sports Room, Campus Center Athletics Hallway**

Join us for the MCLA Orientation Cup featuring *Mario Kart*! Whether you're a pro gamer, a casual player, or just here to watch the chaos, everyone's welcome to race, laugh, and hang out. Stop by to learn more about MCLA's E-Sports teams — from Smash to Marvel Rivals—

and find your place in our growing gaming community. No sign-up required, just drop in and have fun!

5:00 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Meet up with your peers in the Centennial Room for dinner! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

7:00 PM – PAW Paint & Sip – Campus Center Marketplace

Relaxing creative night hosted by Peer Advocates for Wellness (PAW) (*large group*).

Thursday, August 28 – Student Life Day

8:00 AM – Breakfast – Centennial Room

All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students, with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available at every meal. For additional dietary needs, please speak to an Aramark food service staff member during mealtimes

***10:00 AM – Knowledge Summit – Venable Theater (*required*)**

Presentations from Residence Life & Housing, Aramark Dining, and the Dean of Students, followed by How to Get Involved on Campus. You will also learn more about how to be the best MCLA Community member you can be and how to get engaged (*large group*).

11:00 AM – Adequately Sized Fish – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)

Navigating social life and connections and connections between peers (*small group*).

12:00 PM – Lunch & Break – Centennial Room

Enjoy your lunch with peers in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***2:00 PM – Explore North Adams – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)**

Get familiar with the North Adams community by taking a tour with your Success Team. Van accessible tour available (*off-campus, small group*).

4:00 PM – Success Team Meeting – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)

Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.

5:00 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Enjoy dinner with your peers in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***6:45 PM – Target Takeover – Buses leave From Hoosac Hall**

A bus will depart from campus for Target for students to pick up any needed supplies. *This is not a looping bus trip.*

7:30 PM – Connection Groups – Murdock 208 & 218

Peer Mentors lead interest-based discussions and activities.

Murdock 208-Beat & Greet (Music)

Murdock 218-The Travel Tribe (Non-local)

Friday, August 29 – Personal Wellness Day

8:00 AM – Breakfast – Centennial Room

All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students, with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available at every meal. For additional dietary needs, please speak to an Aramark food service staff member during mealtimes

9:00 AM – Knowledge Summit – Various Locations *(required)

Rotating sessions with Office of Institutional Equity and Belonging (IEB), Disability Resources, Title IX, Public Safety, and Wellness. Ends with “Do Well, Be Well” *(small/large group)*.

11:45 AM – Lunch & Break – Centennial Room

Take a brain break and have some lunch in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

1:30 PM – Step-In Activity – Venable Gym *(required)

“Step into” commonality through a series of questions and statement. A moderator will read statements and students may choose to “step in” if the statement resonates *(large group, reflective)*.

2:45 PM – Identity & Community – Bowman Classrooms *(required)*

Peer Mentors guide small group discussions about identity and community involvement *(small group)*.

3:45 PM – Success Team Meeting – Bowman Classrooms *(required)*

Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.

***4:00 PM – Men’s Soccer Game – Athletic Complex**

Cheer on the Trailblazers and get a snack from the food truck! If you are still hungry after, dinner is still being served in the Centennial Room *(loud, large group event)*.

5:00 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Unwind and enjoy some dinner in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***7:00 PM – Bingo! – Venable Gym**

Hosted by the Office of Student Engagement (*large group*).

Saturday, August 30 – Goal Setting Day

10:00 AM – Individual Success Coach Meetings – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)

15-minute 1:1 session throughout the day with your Faculty Success Coach.

11:00 AM – Brunch – Centennial Room

Breakfast or lunch? The choice is yours in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***2:00 PM – Peer Mentor Fun – Various Locations**

Choose your desired activity from options hosted by your Peer Mentors—students choose their level of participation.

3:00 PM – Scoops of Support – Campus Center Marketplace

Meet other first-generation students and enjoy ice cream and stickers!

5:00 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Enjoy dinner with your peers in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

7:00 PM – Movie Night in the MERC (Campus Center 2nd Floor)

Catch a movie in the Multicultural Education Resource Center with friends!

Sunday, August 31 – Art & Nature Day

11:00 AM – Brunch – Centennial Room

Breakfast or lunch? The choice is yours in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***12:00 PM – Berkshire Adventures – Buses Leave From Hoosac Hall Lot (*required*)**

Choose between cultural and recreational activities around the great North Adams community (*large group, free form*)

4:30 PM – Success Team Meeting – Bowman Classrooms (*required*)

Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.

5:00 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Chat with new friends over dinner in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

***6:00 PM – Staff Mentor Takeover – Various Locations**

Fun evening activities led by Staff Mentors.

- Murdock Lawn - Wiffleball
- Venable Gym - Basketball
- Academic Quad - Tie Dye
- Academic Quad - Chess
- Taconic Lawn - Beach Volleyball
- Marketplace- Potted Plants
- Sullivan Lounge-Board Games
- CSI 209 Fun with Reptiles
- Off Campus - Visit the local animal shelter (10 student max)

**leaving from Hoosac Hall parking lot*

Monday, September 1 – Field Day Fun

8:00 AM – Breakfast – Centennial Room

All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students, with vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options available at every meal. For additional dietary needs, please speak to an Aramark food service staff member during mealtimes.

10:00 AM – Success Team Meeting – Bowman Classrooms *(required)*

Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to start the day.

10:30 AM – Field Day – Taconic Lawn *(required)

Join your Success Team for a day of fun and inclusive games where everyone can participate and shine *(small group, challenge by choice)!*

12:30 PM – Lunch & Break – Centennial Room

Take a break and enjoy some lunch with your new peers in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

5:00 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Relax and chill with some friends over dinner in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

7:00 PM – Connection Groups – Murdock 208 & 218

Peer Mentors host casual topic-based discussions to help students connect with shared interests. Level-Up Lounge *(Video games, M 208)* and Loud & Proud *(LGBTQ+, M 218)*.

***8:00 PM – Peer Mentor Activities – Various Locations**

Join Peer Mentors in fun activities around campus.

Tuesday, September 2 – Convocation Day

8:00 AM – Breakfast – 2nd Floor of The Campus Center

Breakfast will be served on the 2nd floor of the Campus Center.
a location change from all other meals and is just for this meal.

**This is*

10:00 AM – Success Team Meeting – Bowman Classrooms (required)

Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to start the day.

***10:30 AM – Convocation Lineup – CSI Atrium (required)**

Students will convene and then line up in two lines to walk from the CSI building to the Campus Center Gym. *Business casual attire is encouraged (large group).*

***11:00 AM – Convocation Ceremony – Campus Center Gym (required)**

Convocation is a formal gathering that marks the beginning of a new academic journey, bringing together students, faculty, and staff to celebrate the start of the school year with inspiring speeches, shared tradition, and a sense of community *(large group, lecture style).*

***12:00 PM – Convocation Lunch – Academic Quad**

Outdoor meal with faculty, staff, and students. Peer Mentors will be present to support connections *(Large group).*

5:00 PM – Dinner – Centennial Room

Relax and chill with your new peers over dinner in the Centennial Room! All meals during Week of Welcome are covered for both residential and commuter students.

Wednesday, September 3 – First Day of Classes!

9:30-11:00 AM & 1-2:30 PM – First Day of School Photos – Academic Quad

Join Student Engagement and First Year Programs for a chance to take your Fall 2025 first day of classes photo!

You'll begin following your Fall 2025 class schedule.

Role Descriptions

Trailblazer Team- Consists of those who support our students' success; this includes parents, guardians, family members, advocates, or anyone else who helps an MCLA student!

Success Team- Is a group of people dedicated to supporting you during the Week of Welcome and throughout your first year at MCLA. Your Success Team is here to help you thrive — don't hesitate to reach out and get to know them! Your team includes:

Peer Mentor (PM)- An upper-class student who will guide you through the Week of Welcome programs and help you get connected to campus. Each Peer Mentor group is assigned a color group — you'll meet your group early in the week!

Staff Mentor (SM)- A professional staff member at MCLA whose role in your team will be to offer guidance, support, and connection to campus resources.

Faculty Success Coach (FSC)- A faculty member who will support your academic and personal success. FSCs are typically not one of your professors during your first semester (although this cannot be guaranteed based on course schedules).

Bowman Hall Classrooms for Color Groups

Yellow - 119 **Royal Blue** - 201 **Lavender** - 202

Pink - 203 **Light Blue**- 204 **Green**- 205 **Teal** -206

Red - 208 **Orange** - 218 **Purple** - 220 **Magenta** - 222

312- Sensory Friendly Room