Welcome

I am writing to welcome you to the Onward Program. As the director of Onward, one of the University’s College Success Programs, I am looking forward to meeting each of you and getting to know you. Even though you have completed an extensive admission process and have been selected to become a member of the Onward Program, I am sure that you have many, many questions about the Program, the staff, financial aid, academic courses, etc. The Onward Orientation Week is designed to answer your questions and to begin one of the most challenging and exciting experiences of your life — your college career!

Alan Parks
Director, Onward and College Success Programs

Dietary Restrictions

The lunch provided on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday offers many choices, and most people with dietary restrictions are able to find meal selections that meet their needs. Our meals on the camping trip don’t contain as much variety, but there will be vegetarian options as well as gluten-free options.

If you have a dietary restriction other than vegetarian or gluten-free, or if you have a severe food allergy that prevents you from being in proximity to a certain food type (like a peanut allergy, for example) please call us at (207) 581-2320 as soon as possible to discuss your dietary needs.

Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require some accommodation or assistance during your time at the University please contact Ann Smith or Sara Henry at 581-2319 so that they can meet with you and set up arrangements before school starts.

Am I Ready? A Checklist

There are a lot of things to do to get ready for college. Orientation week will address a lot of those things, but there are some things you should have done before orientation even begins. Below is a list of things you should have already completed or that you should be actively working on to complete soon:

- Returned your enrollment confirmation and terms of admission agreement.
- Done all paperwork requested by financial aid. This could include an IRS Data Retrieval, an Independent or Dependant Student Verification Form, and more. Check your To Do List on MaineStreet to see if you have any outstanding items.
- Submitted your immunization records.
- Signed up for Direct Deposit.
- Filed a waiver for the Student Health Insurance or Filled out the insurance registration form.
- Signed in to MaineStreet.
- Done everything on your To Do List in MaineStreet.

If you are taking out student loans this year, there may be a few more items on your To Do List on MaineStreet. They might include:

- Completed your Stafford Loan Entrance Interview
- Completed your Stafford Master Promissory Note
- Completed your Perkins Master Promissory Note

If you’ve done everything on this checklist that applies to you, great job! That kind of organization and proactive approach will serve you well in college.

If there are some things on these lists you haven’t done, start working on them right away. If you are stuck or have questions, don’t wait until orientation week. Call us at (207) 581-2320.

Orientation Starts Monday, August 25, at 9:00 am (sharp)
Wooley Room, DTAV Community Center, University of Maine
Call (207) 581-2320 with questions.
Orientation Week Schedule

Orientation week is mandatory for all incoming Onward students. Lunch is provided on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and all meals are provided on the camping trip. A map to the Wooley Room, DTAV is included with the newsletter. You will do a lot of walking during orientation so please wear comfortable shoes. You might also want to bring a water bottle.

**Monday, August 25**  
9:00 - 4:00  Wooley Room, DTAV

**Things to bring:**  
- 2 forms of ID, including a picture ID (to get your MaineCard)  
- $50 for parking decal  
- your license plate number (for parking decal)

**Things you’ll do:**  
- Meet the staff and other students  
- Get your parking decal and MaineCard  
- Take a tour of campus, part 1: Bursar’s office, Financial Aid Office, and Bookstore  
- Have your picture taken  
- Meet with the teachers  
- Learn about the camping trip  
- Ask questions you still have

**Tuesday, August 26**  
9:00 - 4:00 Wooley Room, DTAV

**Things you’ll do:**  
- Meet Lori Watson from Financial Aid  
- Meet with the Onward Counselors and Peer Advisors  
- Learn about academic policies and being a student  
- Take a tour of campus, part 2: classroom buildings

**Wednesday, August 27**  
8:30ish  drop off gear at E. Annex  
9:00  Wooley Room, DTAV  
1:00  Leave for the YMCA

**Camp of Maine**

**Things to bring:**  
- Your camping gear (drop off at East Annex)

**Things you’ll do:**  
- Meet your Academic Advisor and talk about class schedules  
- Leave for The YMCA Camp of Maine

**Thursday, August 28**  
all day  YMCA Camp of Maine

YMCA Camp emergency phone: 395-4200

**Friday, August 29**  
9:30  Depart YMCA Camp for campus

noon  Arrive on campus - students are free to go home

Parking Permits for August 25th

A temporary parking permit is included with this newsletter. Please bring this permit with you on Monday the 25th and display it in your front windshield. Please park in the lot indicated on the included campus map.

Getting Ready for the Camping Trip

We will be camping from Wednesday afternoon until late Friday morning. All new Onward students **must** participate in the whole week of orientation, including the camping trip. We would like to have you bring camping gear if you have it (not tents). Specifically, you will need:

- sleeping bag or bedding for your cot  
- pillow  
- flashlight  
- clothes (make sure to bring warm clothes for nighttime)  
- appropriate shoes for camping/walking  
- toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrush, deodorant, etc...)  
- bath towel  
- mosquito repellent and sunscreen (optional, but encouraged)  
- rain gear (optional, and hopefully unnecessary)  
- swimsuit and beach towel (optional)

The Onward Program will provide meals, snacks, and all other amenities. If you have specific dietary needs, please call us as soon as possible at (207) 581-2320.

This trip is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow students and staff. More information about the camping trip will be available on Monday and Tuesday during orientation.

1st Day of Orientation: A Guide

First, don’t panic. It’s all going to be fine.

**What to wear:** Dress for orientation is casual. You probably want to wear something similar to what you might wear to run errands or go shopping. There will be some walking during orientation, so wear comfortable shoes. There will be air conditioning some of the time, and you will be outside at other times, so plan for a range of temperatures.

**Getting there:** Here are two pieces of advice to help you get to orientation safely and on time. First, **leave early.** With construction, parking, and the general unfamiliarity of the destination, you’ll want a time cushion. Plan to arrive at 8:30 and then if you get delayed you’ll still be here before 9:00. Second, program our **phone number** into your phone. If you get lost or turned around, give us a call and we’ll help you re-orient.

**What to bring:** There are really only four things you will need to bring with you on the first day:

- **2 forms of ID, including a picture ID**—You need these to get your Student ID.  
- **$50, either as cash, check, or credit card**—You need this to purchase your parking permit. If you don’t have a car, you won’t need to bring money.  
- **The parking permit included in this newsletter**—This is for your first day on campus. Hang it from your car’s rear view mirror.  
- **An open mind**—College will be full of new experiences, but we know you are up to the challenge!