



COLUMBIA FAMILY ORIENTATION 2025

SATURDAY, AUG. 23

International First-Year Students Family Orientation Check-in

Alfred Lerner Hall, Broadway Lobby
(enter via Broadway at 115th Street)
3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Check in to receive your name badge, swag and schedule.

Dinner for International First-Year Students and Families

Alfred Lerner Hall, Boone Arledge Auditorium
(enter via Broadway at 115th Street)
4:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

Wear your name badge to enter.

SUNDAY, AUG. 24

Breakfast

Hamilton Lawn
8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Wear your name badge to enter.

First-Year Student Family Orientation Check-In

Butler Plaza
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Check in to receive your name badge, swag and schedule.

Connect & Thrive: Advising, Support and Student Life at Columbia

Alfred Lerner Hall, Boone Arledge Auditorium
10:00 a.m.–10:45 a.m.

Attend this overview of the Center for Student Advising, Student and Family Support, Residential Life, and Student Engagement. Discover how you can make the most of Columbia's diverse resources to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

Columbia Engineering Lecture: From SEAS to SPACE

Alfred Lerner Hall, Boone Arledge Auditorium
11:00 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Get a taste of the academic experience at Columbia Engineering. Columbia professor and former astronaut Michael Massimino SEAS'84 will speak about his undergraduate experience, his career as an astronaut and the new aerospace engineering offerings at Columbia Engineering.

Lunch

Hamilton Lawn
11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Wear your name badge to enter.

Columbia College Lecture: Thinking Together: How the Core Creates a Community of Lifelong Learners

Alfred Lerner Hall, Boone Arledge Auditorium
12:00 p.m.–12:45 p.m.

The Core Curriculum is the heart of the undergraduate experience at Columbia College. Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Director of the Center for the Core Curriculum Larry Jackson will discuss how the Core creates a community of inquiry and helps students develop the habits of mind that they will use during college and throughout their lives. The discussion will feature works studied in the Core, with a focus on the texts and ideas that students will encounter in their first year.

Beyond the Classroom

Alfred Lerner Hall, Boone Arledge Auditorium
1:00 p.m.–1:45 p.m.

Featuring the Center for Career Education, Undergraduate Research & Fellowships, and the Center for Global Engagement, this presentation will focus on how students can extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Campus Health and Safety Panel

Alfred Lerner Hall, Boone Arledge Auditorium
2:00 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

Learn about the well-being and safety resources available for students from panelists from Columbia Health, Public Safety, and Counseling and Psychological Services.

Campus Resources Fair

Butler Lawn
3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Columbia offers countless resources for students! Stop by to learn about the who, what, when, where, and why.

Dinner

Hamilton Lawn
3:45 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
Wear your name badge to enter.

Convocation

Low Plaza
6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Convocation is the formal assembly of the Columbia community that welcomes first-year students and marks the beginning of their undergraduate journey at Columbia College and Columbia Engineering.

Convocation seating is limited to two (2) guests per student. Only guests with a Convocation sticker on their name badge will be allowed entry to the official seating area. All other guests are encouraged to watch from the South Lawns, or via simulcast in Alfred Lerner Hall, Boone Arledge Auditorium.

Families should depart campus after Convocation concludes so students can begin their New Student Orientation Program experience!