You’re Invited!
Northwestern State Freshman Connection

2010
MAY 27-28
JUNE 24-25
JULY 23

New Student Orientation
Northwestern State University • Office of Student Success
P. O. Box 5244 • Natchitoches, LA 71497
318.357.5559 • www.nsula.edu
Welcome to Northwestern State University!

You are about to begin an exciting academic journey that brings with it many new experiences and challenges... and you will want to meet those challenges with success! Becoming a student at Northwestern State University will mean many changes in your life, so the Office of Student Success and Student Programs offers programs to help you make the most of your university experience. Freshman Connection is designed to assist you with the transition to university life.

Early registration, available only through Freshman Connection, will provide you with the best selection of classes. To reserve your place for one of the Freshman Connection sessions, complete the attached reservation form and return it with your form of payment. A space will be reserved for you and your orientation date will be confirmed by mail.

While attending Freshman Connection this summer, plan to meet with an academic advisor, register for your first semester of classes, learn about campus resources, and meet future classmates. Faculty members, student services professionals and NSU Student Orientation Leaders will be available to assist you throughout the program.

Freshman Connection is one of the most important experiences of your college career. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about Northwestern, and see for yourself how much easier college can be after making the initial connection...Freshman Connection.

Congratulations on your decision to attend Northwestern State University! We look forward to your arrival!

Sincerely,

Reatha Cox
Director of Student Success and Student Programs
**Freshman Connection** is a time when the University community comes together to welcome our new students. The Freshman Connection program is designed to ensure that you and your family have the personal support and guidance that you will need to make a successful transition to the university. We are committed to guiding you through your first year on campus and assisting you in reaching your academic and personal goals.

There are two options for Freshman Connection – a two-day or a one-day program. For the two-day programs, you are required to stay overnight in our residential community, University Place, and fully participate in the program. Students should not plan to leave campus until the end of the program, which concludes in the afternoon on day two of Freshman Connection.

### Freshman Connection Dates:

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<td>III</td>
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**Note:** Sessions I & II are two-day programs.

### Orientation Day

Students and parents should plan to arrive for Orientation between 7:30 and 8:30 AM. Detailed check-in information will be provided in the Freshman Connection reservation confirmation brochure, which will be sent upon receipt of your paid Freshman Connection or Parent Connection Registration Form.
A Special Invitation to Parents and Guardians
The transition to college can be an overwhelming experience for both the student and parents. The soon-to-be college student may be prepared to become an independent adult and meet the challenges of college life, however, parents may be experiencing a bit of anxiety or nervousness. At Northwestern, our goal is to assist parents in making the adjustment to college life as well.

Parent Connection is aimed at helping parents become familiar with college life, so that they can successfully manage this time of change, growth, fun, and exploration. The program consists of special presentations designed to help family members assist with their student’s transition to Northwestern by becoming familiar with the University and its many resources.

Parent Connection runs concurrently with the first day of all Freshman Connection sessions. There is a $25 registration fee for the first parent and $10 for each additional parent. This fee covers the cost of lunch in Iberville Dining Hall and program materials. All fees are payable by check, money order, or credit card.

Kid Konnection
Families are important to the Northwestern community. As you prepare yourself and your family for the transition to college, the staff at Northwestern is looking forward to assisting you with the adjustment. The freshman year will be one of the most exciting and memorable times of your college career...however, younger siblings may not know what to expect.

Kid Konnection is aimed at helping younger siblings become familiar with college life. Activities include a tour of the campus and visiting a residence hall, fun arts and crafts, pictures with Northwestern’s mascot “VIC”, and other fun events! Participants will also receive lunch, an afternoon snack, t-shirt, and fun NSU stuff!

Kid Konnection is exclusively for siblings of new NSU students, and is conducted in conjunction with Parent Connection. Check-in is from 7:30 – 8:30 AM and participants will be engaged in activities from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM. The age requirement for Kid Konnection is 5 – 12 years and there is a $30 fee for each participant. All fees are payable by check, money order, or credit card.

Louisiana Scholars’ College Connection
All students who have been admitted to the Louisiana Scholars’ College are encouraged to attend the Scholars’ College Connection. The Scholars’ College session will focus on the specific needs of students attending the state’s designated honors college for the liberal arts.
Reservations and Program Fees
To register for Freshman Connection, complete the attached reservation form and return it along with the $80 registration fee. If you choose the early arrival option please include the $25 early arrival fee along with the $80 Freshman Connection registration fee. All fees are payable by check, money order, or credit card. Please make all checks and money orders payable to NSU Freshman Connection.

If you or your parents require special physical arrangements, please indicate this on your reservation form. You may also call the Office of Disability Support at 318.357.4460.

Pre-registration and payment of program fees are required for all sessions of Freshman Connection. The registration fee of $80 covers everything you will need to participate in one of the three sessions of Freshman Connection held at the Northwestern State University Natchitoches Campus. All reservation forms and fees must be received on the Monday prior to each session. On-site registration for Freshman Connection will only be available on the final session, July 23. The on-site registration fee is $125.

Refund Policy
Since most costs are incurred prior to the beginning of Freshman Connection, all requests for refunds must be in writing and postmarked on or before Friday, July 9, 2010 (NO exceptions). A $30 processing fee will be retained for all cancellations. Please allow four to six weeks for the processing of refund checks.

All new students are responsible for knowing the admission criteria for Northwestern State University effective for the fall 2010 semester. Students not granted full admission status are not entitled to a refund following participation in Freshman Connection or past the established refund deadline of July 9, 2010. (NO exceptions)

To learn more about the admission criteria visit http://admissions.nsula.edu. To check your admission status, contact the Office of Admissions at applications@nsula.edu or call the University Admissions Office at 318.357.4078.
The COMPASS Placement Exam
The ACT or SAT is the required initial test used to place students who attend a Louisiana university into their English and mathematics courses. A student can be placed in classes via the ACT sub-scores for math & English, SAT verbal & math or the ACT COMPASS Exam. The COMPASS Exam is a self-paced exam administered on a computer.

Who needs to take the COMPASS Exam?
- Students whose ACT English sub-score is 17 or below and Math sub-score is 18 or below.
- Students whose SAT Verbal sub-score is 440 or below and Math sub-score is 450 or below.

Options for Taking the COMPASS Exam
Students planning to attend Northwestern State University have several options for taking the COMPASS Exam. The COMPASS Exam is offered at Northwestern State University (Natchitoches Campus) every Friday beginning April 9, 2009 from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM. To reserve a seat for testing students must pre-register with the Office of Testing Services at 318.357.5246.

Students also have the option of taking the COMPASS Exam without traveling to Northwestern State University. The COMPASS Exam is administered at most Louisiana four-year institutions, Louisiana Technical Colleges, and at most out-of-state community colleges and universities.

For those students who choose to take the COMPASS Exam at another location, you need only to contact schools in your region to determine if they offer the COMPASS Exam. All COMPASS Exam scores are transferable to Northwestern State University. A request must be made by the student to have an official copy of their COMPASS Exam scores sent to the following:

Northwestern State University
Office of Admissions
Roy Hall Suite 209
Natchitoches, LA 71497
FAX: 318.357.4660

The COMPASS Exam will not be administered during the Freshman Connection sessions. Students needing a satisfactory score on COMPASS to determine admission eligibility MUST provide test scores prior to attending Freshman Connection.

Additional Documents Required for Course Registration
The following documents must be submitted to the University in order to register for courses during Freshman Connection:

- Selective Service Registration – All MALE applicants between the ages of 18 and 26, by the time of registration for classes, must complete their Selective Service registration. To complete the Selective Service registration, log on to the Selective Service website at www.sss.gov.

- Proof of Immunization – In order to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, students are required to submit documented proof of immunization prior to course registration. To obtain a copy of the Immunization Form you may log on to http://admissions.nsula.edu.

- All students MUST confirm admission status before registering for Freshman Connection.

All documentation can be remitted to the Office of Admissions, 209 Roy Hall, Natchitoches, LA 71497. For more information contact the Office of Admissions at 318.357.4078.
Overnight Accommodations
Students attending Freshman Connection will stay in our residential community, University Place. Freshman Connection participants will enjoy all of the amenities of University Place, which include the pool, beach volleyball, and the clubhouse. Students must provide their own bed linens, pillow, blanket, towels, toiletry items, alarm clock, and all other necessary items for an overnight stay.

Early Arrival Accommodations
Early arrival check-in is available to students who are traveling several hours and choose to arrive on Wednesday evening. There is an additional fee of $25 per person, which must be included with your Freshman Connection registration fee. Check-in for early arrival (Wednesday night only) will be from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at University Place. Overnight and early arrival accommodations are not available for Session III of Freshman Connection, July 23, 2010.

Orientation Reminders
• Plan to arrive no later than 8:30 AM to check-in for Orientation. The opening session begins at 9:00 AM.
• Transportation to and from Freshman Connection is not provided by Northwestern State University.
• Only parents/guardians who register for Parent Connection and siblings who register for the Kid Konnection program are allowed to attend Orientation programs. Guests are not permitted due to the nature of Orientation.
• The registration fee covers everything you will need to participate in Freshman Connection, including one night’s lodging (Sessions I and II only), meals, the services of student orientation leaders, and all program materials.
• Guests are not permitted to stay overnight in the university residential community.

For more information contact:
The Office of Student Success and Student Programs 318.357.5559.
Tentative Schedules

Freshman Connection Two-Day Schedule

DAY ONE
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  Registration and Residence Hall Check-In
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Welcome to Northwestern
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM Group Sessions, Academic Programs, & Activities
12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM Lunch
1:15 PM - 5:30 PM  Group Sessions, Academic Programs, & Activities
5:45 PM - Midnight Dinner and Evening Activities

DAY TWO
8:00 AM - TBA General Assembly, Group Sessions, Academic Programs, & Activities

Freshman Connection One-Day Schedule

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  Registration and Check-In
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Welcome to Northwestern
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM Group Sessions, Academic Programs, & Activities
12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  Group Sessions, Academic Programs, & Activities

Parent Connection Schedule

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM  Registration and Check-In
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Welcome to Northwestern
10:00 AM - 11:45 AM Parent Sessions
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM  Parent Sessions

Orientation and class registration materials enclosed