Northwestern State Freshman Connection
New Student Orientation
May 31-June 1
June 21-22
July 17

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE & FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE
P. O. Box 5244, Natchitoches, LA 71497 • 318.357.5559
StudentLife.nsula.edu/firstyear
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 Life & First Year Experience 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!
**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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**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.

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. In order for a child to participate in Kid Konnection they must have a parent/guardian attending and participating in 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.

Louisiana Scholars’ College Connection

All students who have been admitted to the Louisiana Scholars’ College are encouraged (though not required) 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 online reservation form and payment process ($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.

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 Friday prior to each session. **On-site registration for Freshman Connection will only be available on the final session, July 17.** 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 6, 2012 (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 2012 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 6, 2012. (NO exceptions)

To learn more about the admission criteria visit 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.
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.

Overnight Accommodations

Students attending a two-day session of 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 17, 2012.