



**THE ROAD TO OCCIDENTAL**  
**Q&A Transcript from the webinar with incoming students & families**  
**5:00 PM on June 6, 2022**

**Dates of New Student Retreat? Instructions on how to register?**

New Student orientation dates and info can be found at <https://www.oxy.edu/new-students/new-student-orientation>. There is no registration necessary.

**Is the date for arrival different for international students?**

It will be. Typically, int'l students arrive a few days prior to domestic students. More information will be coming soon. You can also contact [ipo@oxy.edu](mailto:ipo@oxy.edu) for more details.

**Are U.S. based transfer international students supposed to/can join first-year international students on Aug 17?**

Traditionally all new int'l students participate in int'l student orientation. You can double check and will hear more information from the International Programs Office later in the summer.

**Is there a waitlist for the L.A. Engage programs?**

There is unfortunately not a waitlist for LA Engage programs. But there will be many ways for students to engage with Los Angeles during their time at Oxy.

**I thought that L.A. Engage was full? Did you guys add more spots?**

LA Engage is currently full, but Marcus, the director of SLICE, is speaking about a number of other opportunities to explore Los Angeles throughout the fall semester.

**How did students know about signing up for L.A. Engage?**

LA Engage sign-up was on our New Student webpage with a link included in our Next Steps email that went out in mid-May. Unfortunately, this year we did not have enough spots for all students wanting to join us.

**Do students participating in L.A. Engage in August move into their dorm rooms at the time that the program begins, or wait until the rest of students move in?**

LA Engage participants will move in on August 20th. If you are not participating in LA Engage, you will move in on August 22nd. The expectation is that you are living in your residence hall while you participate in the LA Engage program.

**Aug 20 move-in: do we need to arrive before the afternoon? (2pm is the program start for students AND parents?)**

Correct. Move-in begins at 9:00 AM PDT.

**My son is doing L.A. Engage and our flight arrives at 3:00 PM on August 20. Can he still move-in on August 20 if we arrive in campus around 5:00 PM?**

Emailing residential life to let them know of a late arrival would be the best to route, given offices close at 5pm over the summer, but there will likely be some flexibility for students who are arriving late.

**Do L.A. Engage kids come back to campus in the AM or PM on 8/22?**

They'll be back by 5 PM for the Welcome Celebration.

**What is the typical number of students in these orientation groups?**

Orientation groups are quite intimate, usually between 15-20 students with an upper-class student group leader.

**Do out-of-state parents typically stay around during orientation or do they drop off and leave?**

There is some programming for parents and families during the first 24 hours of orientation that students are welcome to stay for. Some parents do and some parents don't. We will talk about family orientation more momentarily.

**Can our adult daughter also attend the family orientation activities (she just graduated from college and wants to be there with us!).**

Yes!

**Thank you! One other family orientation question: a mom of an older student told me that in her first year, there were some trips to LA sights like an observatory... are those happening this year for families?**

This year all events will be happening on campus.

**When are parents expected to go home after dropping off their student?**

While none of the parent-orientation is mandatory, family orientation ends on Tuesday, August 23rd. You can review the full family orientation schedule here: <https://www.oxy.edu/parents-families/orientation-information-families>

**Does “fully vaccinated” for parents include the booster, or just the two shots?**

Two shots!

**Are photos of our vaccines for families attending orientation sufficient?**

Yes! Any sort of proof is what we are looking for.

**What resources will be available for families bringing a student early for fall sports or LA Engage?**

Families are welcome to stay for the larger family orientation on Aug. 22-23 but many families do not stay. For early move-ins, there is some programming available specifically for you.

**As our son will be moving in early on 8.17.22 being a student athlete, will he have access to cafeteria food from that date to the 8.22 official move in date? Also, will he be able to participate in these 8.22 move in festivities?**

Yes and Yes! Students will have meal plan access and both you and him will have access to all orientation events.

**Is the August 18 check-in for athletes for all athletes regardless of when the season starts?**

No. Only for fall athletes.

**My student won't know if he's on a sports team until later this summer. Will that be too late to get the pertinent information from the coach?**

Nope! They should stay in close contact with the coach, especially if they are a fall athlete.

**Is the Housing Application the only way to communicate your personality/housing preferences for purposes of matching? Or is there another, more detailed, survey for matching purposes?**

The housing application is the only form we ask for in terms of student matching.

**When do roommate & dorm assignments come out?**

This summer, these will come out in the first week of August.

**Due to COVID etc., will boarding be limited to 2 people? Or how are you considering the 2-3 in a room?**

Students will still be living in doubles and triples.

**Are all dorm mattresses a uniform size, and if so, what size is that?**

All residence hall mattresses are standardized to a twin size, extra long 36 x 80 in.

**Our son is quite tall (6'4"), are there options for oversized beds, longer than the twin XL?**

Hi there! I am myself a fairly tall guy (6 foot 2 inches), and managed to sleep comfortably throughout my time at Oxy in a twin XL, the provided bed. I do not believe that REHS will provide larger beds for taller people, as they would not be able to make special accommodations for everyone and therefore cannot make an accommodation for just one student. You can feel free to contact REHS about this directly at [resed@oxy.edu](mailto:resed@oxy.edu), or on the phone at 323-259-2531

**Are students allowed to bring things such as hair dryers, hair straighteners, etc.?**

Yes!

**Should students who live in a dorm without A.C. bring their own fans?**

Yes! You can also purchase one when you arrive here in LA.

**We still have not been able to see any dorms? Are you going to send out information?**

You can get a feel for on-campus dorms by watching this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PXQtsKHFmM>

**Are there storage rooms on campus available to students to use during the summers between their academic years at Oxy?**

There typically is not storage available on campus over the summer.

**Understandable the mask mandate...that said, if students can't take masks off indoors while with others, what is happening w/ sleep time? I'm assuming the roommates will be separate all day/not moving in pods.**

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 they will be isolated from their roommates. Otherwise, students are not required to wear a mask in their own room with their roommate.

**Is there a specific dorm where all the transfers land?**

There is not. Depending on availability and a student's housing application, you may be placed in a variety of residence halls.

**Is there a specific dorm for first year athletes? Thank you!**

Nope, student athletes will fill out the same questionnaire and live in various residential buildings across campus!

**If an L.A. Engage kid is letting the school choose their roommate, will the school pair that student with a roommate who is also partaking in L.A. Engage?**

Not necessarily. They may also be participating but it is not a requirement.

**Will L.A. Engage kids live alone from the 20th - 22nd?**

They may, but there are many students moving in for a variety of reasons so they will not feel alone in their residence hall.

**If a dorm you were put in doesn't fit your needs and personality, is it possible to switch dorm halls or rooms?**

It is possible to request a room switch if needed. This would be done through our Residential Education and Housing Services on an as-needed basis.

**Is there a COVID isolation dorm?**

Yes. There are isolation spaces available if needed.

**Who pays for the school testing?**

Students do not have to pay for COVID testing on campus.

**Hi! How accessible would you say parking is for students? If the car happened to be a hybrid or electric, would there be chargers on campus for students to use?**

Parking is free to students with parking permits, which can be obtained once students arrive to campus. Parking is fairly accessible and there are a lot of places to park on campus, but not guaranteed (there are no assigned spots for students). Students should be aware that there are faculty-reserved spots across campus that are not accessible to students. Students can also receive parking tickets if parking in red curb zones on campus, so be aware of that as well. There are chargers for electric cars that students can use on-campus as well.

**Can meal plan \$ be transferred from year to year?**

There are some ways in which you can use unused money from meal plans depending on what plan you purchase, a break-down is found here: <https://www.oxy.edu/student-life/campus-dining/meal-plans>

**I'm wondering if I can change my meal plan after school has started if it seems like I will need more than I thought.**

There is a deadline each semester of when you can make adjustments to your meal plan. You can always add more dollars through our card office and left-over funds up to a certain amount can be rolled over to the next year.

**I emailed the Advising Center last week about this - but how do we sign up for placement exams that are only offered in-person at orientation?**

If you have any emailed the advising office, they should likely get back to you soon with that question. My guess is that you will not sign up until you meet with your advisor during orientation. More placement test information can be found here:

<https://www.oxy.edu/academics/student-success/language-study-placement/placement-test-information>

**Is there some advisor or faculty member I, a transfer student, can meet with over zoom to answer specific, unanswered questions?**

You should be completing your advising form now and after July 1 you will be connected with them directly. In the meantime, you can connect with the advising center at [advising@oxy.edu](mailto:advising@oxy.edu).

**I'll be out of town without internet access during registration for FYS - should I ask a family member to register for me or is there another way I should register?**

Absolutely. You'll want to reach out directly to our core program team at [coreprogram@oxy.edu](mailto:coreprogram@oxy.edu) to make alternate arrangements. More information on navigating the FYS registration is available here: <https://www.oxy.edu/new-students/new-student-guide/advising-course-registration/fys-registration>

**What is the work load like for the CIS? Mainly out of class?**

There will be an information session about this course on July 7 at 5:00 PDT! You can learn about the course in-depth here. The link to this session is here: <https://www.oxy.edu/new-students/new-student-guide/do-checklist-timeline> under "Notable Dates and Deadlines."

**If my student filled out an interest form for one of the special programs, when will she know if she is in or if she should pick a standard first year seminar?**

She will hear back about the special program prior to registration for the first-year seminars on June 20th. Thanks for checking!

**A rising Junior friend of ours told us that he had done some kind of cohort during his first year at Oxy. I thought it was different from FYS. Is there another program as well for first years that extends the entire year?**

I'm not quite sure what it would have been other than the FYS. Nothing comes to mind at the moment. The Campaign Immersive Semester and Humanities for Health Justice immersive course may be something like you are describing, you can learn more about those here:

<https://www.oxy.edu/new-students/new-student-guide/advising-course-registration>

**Do transfer students (as a sophomore) take one of the 'special' program courses? or are those special courses only for 'freshman' first year students?**

These are for first-year students only.

**Do transfer students also register for courses in person during orientation?**

That's correct. Transfer students will not register for a first-year seminar over the summer, so all of your class registration will take place exclusively during orientation.

**Are all immersive first year seminar classes pass/fail?**

That is a great question for our faculty. You can Contact Prof. Morrissey at [cmorrissey@oxy.edu](mailto:cmorrissey@oxy.edu) who can give you more info on the grading procedure for those courses.

**If we plan on doing the MSI program, can we also take the free online course at the same time, or is that not possible since they both occur in July?**

Unfortunately, you will not be able to also take that course if you are participating in MSI.

**I understand students register for First-Year Seminar from June 20th, but when do they register for regular classes?**

Registration for all other classes will take place during orientation.

**When do students declare their major?**

Students are asked to declare their major by the end of their sophomore year.

**Because I believe there is no boys volleyball team, can I start the team myself?**

Absolutely. Students are intramural and club sports at Oxy all the time.

**Are there recording rooms for musicians to record projects and personal music? For example, a room with software to record, instruments, audio paneling etc. I'm interested in recording music while being on campus. Thanks!**

Yes! Our students in music classes/ major have access to a great recording lab and studio with top notch equipment. Here is a list of music production FAQs that might be helpful to answer any more questions: <https://www.oxy.edu/academics/areas-study/music/prospective-students/music-production-faqs>

**Hi! Similar to the question about music production, are there practice rooms with pianos for keyboard musicians? And if there are, would non-music majors be able to access those rooms?**

There are practice rooms available for all students and each includes a piano, mirror, and music stand. Additionally, each residence hall has at least one piano in their common room that students are welcome to use.

**How can students get involved with working in admissions their first year?**

While we typically ask our admission student workers, especially tour guides, to have some on-campus experience before representing the college. However, it's not uncommon for us to begin training first-year students in the spring semester of their first year so that they are able to begin leading tours independently in their sophomore year.

**Do you have to have received federal work-study to work? Or can you get a job on campus outside of federal work study?**

You can have a job on campus without work study.

**What is the difference between work study and just a job on campus? Is it too late to be considered for work study?**

Work study is for students who qualified through federal aid and included in your award letter. Those students are considered for jobs first, then those who would like to apply for jobs can afterwards!

**What are some typical on campus jobs for students?**

Students can find jobs at the library, different offices liked mentioned SLICE, ICC, admissions, res life. We also have students who run our on-campus coffee shop!

**Are reminder emails sent out before final deadlines and do they only go to the student or parent too?**

There are some reminder emails. Those go directly to the student, but you can always stay up to date on deadlines on the new student page and the summer communications page <https://www.oxy.edu/new-students/summer-communications>. This is an important time for our new students to begin taking ownership over their college experience.

**What is the email address format for @oxy.edu? Student first name, last name or first initial and last name, other etc.**

There are a few formats for emails. If you have not received your Oxy email, please contact our admission office at [admission@oxy.edu](mailto:admission@oxy.edu).

**What banks have ATM's on the oxy campus?**

There is one ATM on campus in the mailing room which is accessible to students during mailroom hours. This ATM is affiliated with the Glendale Area Schools Credit Union but can be accessed by all students regardless of their bank (using a debit card) for a small fee. There is also a Bank of America and Chase bank in the neighborhood—more Bank of America's than Chase banks.

**Our son is an International Baccalaureate from an American School overseas. He was born in the U.S. Would it be possible for him to join in Spring or should he consider a GAP year?**

Students who are not planning on attending as first years at the start of Fall will need to consider a gap year. Emailing our office about the gap year process would be the next best steps. First years are not allowed to start in the spring.

**Do arriving international students need hard copies of all online documents we submitted when we arrive? Like the immunization, F120 and finance form?**

That is a great question for our international student programs office. Please contact them at [IPO@oxy.edu](mailto:IPO@oxy.edu)

**Is there a host family program for international kids?**

I'm not sure! That's a great question for the International Programs Office. You can reach them at [ipo@oxy.edu](mailto:ipo@oxy.edu).

**For billing purposes, will parents get an authorized user account?**

Billing details can be found at <https://www.oxy.edu/new-students/new-student-guide/costs-billing>.

**What's the process of paying for student loans given by Oxy? Would it already have been applied by the time we were awarded and accepted the financial award letter, or would we have to complete any extra steps after that?**

You will receive repayment instructions for Oxy loans after a student graduates. If you have accepted loans as part of your Oxy financial aid award that money will be dispersed at the beginning of each semester.

**Does the posted tuition include room and board, or where is the FULL cost listed?**

You will receive a full bill this July but can see the full cost of attendance here <https://www.oxy.edu/admission-aid/costs-financial-aid>.

**When do we accept/reject parts of the financial aid package?**

You can make any adjustments to your financial aid package throughout the summer (i.e. accepting/rejecting certain loans). You can do this by reaching out directly to the financial aid office at [finaid@oxy.edu](mailto:finaid@oxy.edu). For more details, you can explore their aid policy guide on changing your award here: <https://www.oxy.edu/financial-aid/changing-your-award>.

**Do parents need to have religious exemptions to visit their student?**

Specific questions around visiting and vaccines should be directed to Devon at [dsakamoto@oxy.edu](mailto:dsakamoto@oxy.edu).

**Does Oxy provide health insurance?**

Yes! You will receive more information later in the summer.

**If we don't get the Oxy insurance, can the student still use the Oxy health center?**

Yes!

**Does the health form due August 1 require a physician's signature? Should we make an appointment now?**

Yes!

**Do kids who need to take medications get to maintain their own medicine or do they need to have it dispensed daily by an Emmons staff member.**



They can manage their own medications.

**Who can we contact about mental health services both on and off campus?**

On campus you can connect with our Emmons Student Wellness Center at [emmons@oxy.edu](mailto:emmons@oxy.edu).

**How is the college handling the water issues in SoCal? How does a student prepare who's coming from a water-full area?**

Hello! Because of the current drought in Los Angeles and the larger Southern California region, our campus is deciding to use much less water, for example, to keep alive the grass around campus. When your student arrives on campus in August, they may see that usually-green areas are drier and browner, but that is to conserve water and this will not be permanent throughout their time at Oxy. Our water irrigation specialist is also working on testing our pipes and water routes around the entire campus to strategize and improve how to best use the water we can during this time. While your student may have to adjust to the heat, they will have access to our beautiful new pool, as well as the Pacific Ocean. There will also be plenty of clean, cold water for your student to drink on campus.

**Recommended restaurants in the area near Oxy?**

York Blvd has great restaurants! Some of my favorite our Highland Park Cafe, Joy and Delia Restaurant.

**When will the OXY merch re-stock!?! I went to store and most of every size in all merch is sold out! I want to rock the amazing school pride!**

Please hold for a specific date here. We appreciate your patience.

**Is there a way to get a list of students from the region we are from?**

To figure out who all is coming from your region, I recommend connecting with fellow students on our Discord channel:

<https://discord.com/channels/882664949053276171/882666740562153503>.

**Is there a way to connect with other transfer students right now?**

We have a Discord channel! Please email Admission if you can't find it.

**Is there a Parent Facebook group we can join now?**

Yes! [Occidental College Parent and Families](#)