

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS **WEEK OF WELCOME**



MCLA'S ORIENTATION AND GREYLOCK L.E.A.D. ACADEMY

Role Descriptions

Success Team- is a group of people dedicated to supporting you during the **Week of Welcome** and throughout your **first year at MCLA**. Your Success Team is here to help you thrive — don't hesitate to reach out and get to know them! Your team includes:

Peer Mentor- An upper-class student who will guide you through the Week of Welcome programs and help you get connected to campus. Each Peer Mentor group is assigned a **color group** — you'll meet your group early in the week!

Staff Mentor- A professional staff member at MCLA whose role in your team will be to offer guidance, support, and connection to campus resources.

Faculty Success Coach (FSC)- A faculty member who will support your academic and personal success. FSCs are typically **not** one of your professors during your first semester (although this cannot be guaranteed based on course schedules).

Event Descriptions

Only select events that require a description are listed below. A full, final version will be provided at check-in, including breaks and optional programming and locations.

Sunday, August 24 – New Student Move-In Day

**Commuter students are not required to report until August 25. However, if you would like to join us on Sunday, August 24, you are more than welcome to visit!*

- **1:00 PM** – Fun on Murdock Lawn
Finished moving in? Join your new classmates on the lawn to play games and get to know each other, Peer Mentors will help you connect with each other.
- **3:00 PM** – MCLA Welcome
Join President Birge, Spencer Moser, Jenn Labbanace, and a student leader for an official welcome to MCLA (*large group, lecture-style*).

MCLA is committed to making all its events accessible to everyone. If you require any accommodations or services to fully participate in any part of the Week of Welcome, please contact [Disability Resources](#).

- **3:30 PM** – Welcome from Residential Life
Area Coordinators will introduce residential life, followed by small group meetings with Resident Advisors in the residence halls (*begins as a large group, then moves to small group sessions*).
- **4:45 PM** – "Bun Voyage" Goodbye Dinner
Outdoor dinner where students say goodbye to their families and Trailblazer Team Members. Peer Mentors will be available to help students make connections.

Monday, August 25 – Intro to MCLA Day

- **9:00 AM** – Commuter Student Welcome Breakfast
A special breakfast and welcome for commuter students with President Birge and Jenn Labbanace. Allison Williams will also be available to answer commuter services questions.
- **10:00 AM** – Knowledge Summit
Official Orientation Welcome, with introductions to Disability Resources, the Vice President of Student Affairs, and the Provost of Academic Affairs (*large group, lecture-style*).
- **10:30 AM** – How to Survive and Thrive
Helpful tips on wellness and managing the transition to college (*large group, lecture-style*).
- **10:45 AM** – Meet Your Color Group
Introduction to Peer Mentors and color group assignments (*large group → small group*).
- **1:00 PM** – Leadership Activities
Engage in different leadership and team building activities to help you learn more about how you can navigate your MCLA college experience (*challenge by choice*).
- **4:45 PM** – Success Team Meetings
Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.
- **7:00 PM** – Connection Groups
Peer Mentors host casual topic-based discussions to help students connect with shared interests.
- **8:00 PM** – Evening Activity
Event to be determined.

Tuesday, August 26 – Academics Day

- **9:05 AM** – Introduction from the Dean of Academics
Welcome from Academic Affairs (*large group*).
- **9:30 AM** – Intro to MCLA Part 1
Information session with Faculty Success Coaches (*small group*).

- **10:15 AM** – Resource Fair
Color groups visit the Resource Fair to learn about services (*free form*).
- **11:00 AM** – Intro to MCLA Part 2
Continued discussion with Faculty Success Coaches (*small group*).
- **1:45 PM** – Time Management Workshop
Small group activities led by Peer Mentors.
- **2:45 PM** – Life Stories from Campus Leaders
Faculty and staff share personal stories (*small group*).
- **4:30 PM** – Success Team Meeting
Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.
- **7:30 PM** – Trivia Game Show
Evening activity hosted by Residence Life & Housing.

Wednesday, August 27 – Self-Care Day

- **9:30 AM** – Walmart Bus Trip
A bus will loop from campus to Walmart from 9:30 AM–12:00 PM for students to pick up any needed supplies.
- **1:00 PM** – Ask Me Anything
Peer Mentors lead open discussion sessions with their color groups; this a chance to get all your questions answered by other students like yourself (*small group*).
- **2:00 PM** – Success Team Meeting
Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day (*small group*).
- **2:30 PM** – Student Engagement Takeover
Come experience some of the types of events that the Office of Student Engagement offers during the school year! Enjoy snacks, games, prizes, fun and more (*free form*) !!!
- **7:00 PM** – PAW Paint & Sip
Relaxing creative night hosted by Peer Advocates for Wellness (PAW) (*large group*).

Thursday, August 28 – Student Life Day

- **10:00 AM** – Knowledge Summit
Presentations from Residence Life & Housing, Aramark Dining, and the Dean of Students about community standards. You will also learn more about how to be the best MCLA Community member you can be and how to get involved on campus (*large group*).
- **11:00 AM** – Adequately Sized Fish
Peer Mentors lead DEI presentations and discussions (*small group*).
- **2:00 PM** – Explore North Adams
Get familiar with the North Adams community by taking a tour with your Success

Team. Peer Mentors will help coordinate transportation and accessibility needs (*off-campus, small group*).

- **4:00 PM – Success Team Meeting**
Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.
- **6:45 PM – Target Takeover**
A bus will depart campus for Target for students to pick up any needed supplies. *This is not a looping bus trip.*
- **7:30 PM – Connection Groups**
Peer Mentors lead interest-based discussions and activities.

Friday, August 29 – Personal Wellness Day

- **9:00 AM – Knowledge Summit**
Rotating sessions with Office of Institutional Equity and Belonging (IEB), Disability Resources, Title IX, Public Safety, and Wellness. Ends with “Do Well, Be Well” (*small/large group*).
- **1:30 PM – Step-In Activity**
“Step into” commonality through a series of questions and statement. A moderator will read statements and students may choose to “step in” if they relate (*large group, reflective*).
- **2:45 PM – Identity & Community**
Peer Mentors guide small group discussions about identity and community involvement (*small group*).
- **3:45 PM – Success Team Meeting**
Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.
- **4:00 PM – Men’s Soccer Game**
Cheer on the Men’s soccer team and get a snack from the food truck! If you are still hungry after, dinner is still being served in the Centennial Room (*loud, large group event*).
- **7:00 PM – Bingo**
Hosted by Student Engagement (*large group*).

Saturday, August 30 – Goal Setting Day

- **10:00 AM – Individual Success Coach Meetings**
15-minute 1:1 session throughout the day with your Faculty Success Coach.
- **2:00 PM – Peer Mentor Fun**
Activity options led by Peer Mentors—students choose their level of participation.
- **3:00 PM – First-Gen Program**
Meet other first-generation students and enjoy ice cream and stickers!
- **7:00 PM – Evening Activity**
Evening program to be determined.

Sunday, August 31 – Art & Nature Day

- **12:00 PM** – Berkshire Adventures
Choose between cultural and recreational activities around the great North Adams community (*large group, free form*)
- **4:30 PM** – Success Team Meeting
Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to wrap up the day.
- **6:00 PM** – Staff Mentor Takeover
Fun evening activities led by Staff Mentors.

Monday, September 1 – Field Day Fun

- **10:00 AM** – Success Team Meeting
Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to start the day.
- **10:30 AM** – Field Day
Join your Success Team for a day of fun and inclusive games where everyone can participate and shine (*small group, challenge by choice*)!
- **7:00 PM** – Connection Groups
Peer Mentors host casual topic-based discussions to help students connect with shared interests.
- **8:00 PM** – Evening Activity
Evening program to be determined.

Tuesday, September 2 – Convocation Day

- **10:00 AM** – Success Team Meeting
Staff Mentors and Peer Mentors facilitate small group reflections to start the day.
- **10:30 AM** – Convocation Lineup
Students will convene and then line up in two lines to walk from the CSI building to the Campus Center Gym. *Business casual attire is encouraged (large group)*.
- **11:00 AM** – Convocation Ceremony
Convocation is a formal gathering that marks the beginning of a new academic journey, bringing together students, faculty, and staff to celebrate the start of the school year with inspiring speeches, shared tradition, and a sense of community (*large group, lecture style*).
- **12:00 PM** – Convocation Lunch
Outdoor meal with faculty, staff, and students. Peer Mentors will be present to support connections (*Large group*).

Wednesday, September 3 – First Day of Classes!

- You'll begin following your Fall 2025 class schedule.