

Saint Michael's College

New Student Orientation 2026



Welcome to Saint Michael’s College!

After so much preparation and anticipation, you’re finally here, present in this moment. As a new student, you are joined by hundreds of other new students from all over the world: students who possess a wide variety of talents, goals and experiences, all united in the desire to gain skills to live a life of purpose and meaning at Saint Michael’s College.

Our mission during orientation is to welcome you to your new community and to help prepare you to flourish academically and socially. Meeting your roommate, setting up your room, making new friends, learning the campus and meeting with your academic advisor all begin to create the foundation that will allow you to focus on achieving your goals. Orientation leaders, Residential Life staff members, and all of our faculty and staff will be on hand to help foster a smooth transition to college life. Your job is to be fully present, engaged with all those who are here to assist you.

As vice presidents of the two key areas of academics and student life, we, along with all other members of the Saint Michael’s College community, look forward to meeting you and working with you as you discover your purpose and prepare for a lifetime of success in doing well and doing good.

Dawn Ellinwood, Vice President for Student Affairs, dellinwood@smcvt.edu
Gretchen Galbraith, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, ggalbraith@smcvt.edu

Goals for New Student Orientation to Saint Michael’s College

- Orientation is designed to facilitate a successful integration into a new and unfamiliar academic and residential setting by:
- Welcoming you to the Saint Michael’s College community of learners, inspired by the Edmundites’ history and by traditions that foster a strong sense of family among students, faculty and staff.
 - Providing information about, and facilitating familiarity with, resources available that will enable you to make healthy social choices and successful academic plans.
 - Introducing you to the Saint Michael’s College liberal arts curriculum and the many facets of your undergraduate educational experience.
 - Communicating expectations and standards of behaviors that promote a framework for a successful social and academic experience.
 - Assisting you in connecting with your peers and members of the larger campus and local communities.
 - Demonstrating the cultural and recreational offerings provided by Burlington and surrounding areas that will enhance your educational experience.
 - Acknowledging the dignity of all people and endorsing Saint Michael’s values of hospitality, diversity and inclusion.
 - Supporting open, respectful discourse and exchange of ideas from a variety of intellectual, religious, class, cultural and political perspectives.

Thursday, August 27

		LIBRARY HOURS	CAMPUS STORE HOURS
		Thursday & Friday 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.	Thursday & Friday 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.	Check In. Dion Family Student Center Pick up your Orientation folder and other essential items. Become familiar with campus resources, activities and services, and meet members of the Saint Michael’s College community in an informal setting. Your folder will contain your orientation schedule and important information from various campus departments. Make sure to stop by the Residence Life table (just beyond the Dion lobby) to pick up your room key packet, which also contains your SMC KnightCard and your mailbox key. You will then move into your residence hall with the help of orientation leaders and resident assistants. Departments Represented in Dion Family Student Center: Athletics; Bergeron Wellness; Edmundite Campus Ministry; Orientation; Information Technology; Student Employment; Financial Aid; Alumni and Family Engagement Services Represented in Alliot Lobby: Best Western Plus; E&R Laundry Service		
11:30 A.M. – 2:45 P.M.	Complimentary Lunch for All. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall This is a great opportunity to meet other members of the Saint Michael’s community.		
11:30 A.M.	Daily Mass. Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel Join us for a celebration of the liturgy. All are welcome.		
3:15 P.M.	Legacy Photo. Steps of the Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel Photo of Alumni and Their New Students. Saint Michael’s College has a long-standing history of community and family that extends through generations.		
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.	Residence Life Community Meeting. All First-year Students, Transfer Students, and Off-campus Students. Recital Hall, McCarthy Arts Center Meet some members of the Residence Life staff and learn about community guidelines and all of your living and learning opportunities.		
4:00 – 5:00 P.M.	Families Only: Panel Presentation. Cheray 101 Families are invited to learn about multiple areas of campus life. Intro to Academics; Financial Aid & Scholarships; Life on Campus; Integrated Wellness Resources; Athletics. The objective is to provide parents and family members the information and resources needed to best support their first-year students.		
5:00 P.M.	Students Only: BBQ with Orientation Groups. Followed by Class Photo. Durick Library Lawn Connect with other members of your class and your orientation leaders, who are here to help with your transition to campus. Your orientation group number is located on your orientation folder. The barbecue will conclude with a Class of 2030 photo taken on the Durick Library steps.		
5:00 P.M.	Families Only: Reception Hosted by the Society of Saint Edmund. St. Edmunds Hall Lobby, Emmaus Courtyard Families are invited to enjoy appetizers and refreshments hosted by members of the Society of Saint Edmund, the founding religious community of the College. This is an opportunity not only to enjoy their company, but also to get to know other families.		

Thursday, August 27 continued

		LIBRARY HOURS	CAMPUS STORE HOURS
		Thursday & Friday 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.	Thursday & Friday 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
8:00 P.M.	Residence Hall Floor Meetings. Please see your RA for locations. Resident assistants facilitate activities that give you the opportunity to better know the students you’ll be living with this year. Additionally, you’ll learn about floor, building and community living standards. Join the Office of Student Activities and your Residence Life Staffs for Smore’s outside of Alumni Hall after the meetings. <i>Transfer students and off-campus students are invited to meet on the first floor of Alliot Hall by the fireplace.</i>		

Friday, August 28

		LIBRARY HOURS	CAMPUS STORE HOURS
		Thursday & Friday 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.	Thursday & Friday 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
9:00 – 9:45 A.M.	Gathering Breakfast for All New Students. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall You’ll have an opportunity to talk with members of your class and other members of the Saint Michael’s community during breakfast.		
8:30 – 9:45 A.M.	Families Only: Enjoy a Cup of Coffee. Hosted by the Office of Alumni & Family Engagement. Outside of Dion Family Student Center Enjoy a cup of coffee and meet informally with members of our staff and faculty as well as other new student family members.		
10:00 A.M.	New Student Convocation. Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel The Convocation is open to all members of the Saint Michael’s community, families, and friends. The ceremony welcomes our newest members into the academic community of Saint Michael’s College. <i>During Convocation, students will sit together as a class at the front of the Chapel. Families are invited to sit in the back of the Chapel or along either side of the altar. Immediately following Convocation, families will be given some time to say goodbye. Students will then go to the next activity planned for them.</i>		
11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Time to Say Goodbye to Parents/Family. Students Only: Lunch. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall Connect with other members of your class.		
11:30 A.M.	Daily Mass. Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel Join us for a celebration of the liturgy. All are welcome.		
12:30 – 2:00 P.M.	First Year Seminar Panel Discussion. Recital Hall, McCarthy Arts Center The First Year Seminar Panel Discussion will include several faculty members sharing their perspectives on the Common Text, Al Snake Oil.		

Friday, August 28 continued

2:00 – 3:00 P.M.	Academic Program/Advising Meetings. Please see the label on the outside of your orientation folder for meeting locations. *ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT: This is an opportunity to learn more about your academic program, meet with your academic advisor and/or other professors within the program and explore your personal and academic goals.
3:00 – 3:50 P.M. Orientation Groups 1-8 4:00 - 4:50 P.M. Orientation Groups 9-18	The Power of You - A Bystander Intervention Program. Roy Room, Dion Family Student Center The Power of You is designed to foster meaningful discussion around being a better bystander. The session will cover consent, bystander intervention in the contexts of sexual assault prevention, substances and mental health as well as resources. Facilitated by SMC Wellness staff the program is designed to be interactive and engaging while empowering students to realize the power that lies within each of them.
5:00 P.M.	Dinner with Orientation Group. Durick Library Lawn. Reconnect with your orientation group members.
7:00 P.M.	SMC OPEN HOUSE 1st Floor, Dion Family Student Center This is your time to experience some different opportunities for community engagement involvement at SMC. Learn about different student clubs and how you can get involved in your community.
8:30 P.M.	Knight of Fun. Dion Family Student Center, Alliot, Durick Library Bingo, Karaoke, trivia, a dance party and more. Tonight’s all about meeting new people, settling in, and having a great time while you’re at it.

Saturday, August 29

		LIBRARY HOURS	CAMPUS STORE HOURS
		Saturday 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.	Saturday 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
8:45 – 9:30 A.M.	Gathering Breakfast for All New Students. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall You’ll have an opportunity to talk with members of your class and other members of the Saint Michael’s community during breakfast.		
9:30 – 11:00 A.M.	Connections. McCarthy Arts Center Learn more about what “community” means at Saint Michael’s and connect with current students in a different way. You’ll also receive your braid, an orientation tradition.		
11:00 A.M.– 12:00 P.M.	Honors Program Session. Cheray 101 For new students who have accepted invitation into the Honors Program. Meet the Director, your fellow Honors students, and learn more about Honors opportunities.		

Saturday, August 29 *continued*

11:00 A.M.– 12:30 P.M.	Transfer Student Only Session. Vermont Room, Alliot Hall, 2nd Floor A valued Saint Michael’s tradition is to welcome and acknowledge the unique needs and experiences of our new transfer students, allowing you to connect to each other as well as many support systems on campus.
12:00 P.M.	Lunch. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall Connect with other members of your class.
1:00– 3:00 P.M.	Experience St. Mike’s! 300s Field Join us for an afternoon of fun with lawn games and activities sponsored by St. Mike’s clubs and offices.
5:30 P.M.	Dinner with Orientation Group. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall Reconnect with your orientation group members.
8:00 P.M.	Movie Knight. Durick Library Lawn Join your classmates and orientation leaders for a movie under the stars and enjoy ice cream sponsored by SMC Fire & Rescue.
10:00 P.M.	Floor Program. Please see your RA for details.

Sunday, August 30

	LIBRARY HOURS Sunday 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.	CAMPUS STORE HOURS Sunday 11:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
8:00 – 10:00 A.M.	Gathering Breakfast for All New Students. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall You’ll have an opportunity to talk with members of your class and other members of the Saint Michael’s community during breakfast.	
10:00 – 11:30 A.M.	Math and Language Testing if Needed. Various Locations.	
12:00 – 2:00 P.M.	Lunch. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall Connect with other members of your class.	
1:00 – 3:30 P.M.	New Student Athlete Orientation. Recital Hall, McCarthy Arts Center	
4:30 – 7:00 P.M.	Dinner. Green Mountain Dining Room, Alliot Hall Connect with other members of your class.	
7:00 P.M.	Welcome to St. Mike’s from Edmundite Campus Ministry. Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel All are welcome! Please join us for the first student Mass of the year.	

Suggestions for Ways to Spend Free Time on Sunday:

- Decorate your room and settle into your new home.
- Walk campus to ensure you know where your classes are located.
- Introduce yourself to students living on your floor.
- Take the bus with your roommate to spend time exploring the waterfront.
- Familiarize yourself with your classes on Knightvision/Canvas.
- Explore the natural areas around campus.
- Take a nap; read a book; rest before classes begin Monday.

Upcoming Programs and Events for New Students
New Student Orientation Series

Student Life

Friday and Saturday Nights ALL Semester

Social Programming in Dion Family Student Center

Week of September 21

Orientation leaders check-in with their groups.

Friday, September 25–Sunday, September 27

Alumni and Family Weekend: Check the website for details on all events!

Saturday, September 12

Welcome Back Bash: All students welcome a day of lawn games, food trucks, and ways to get involved.

Adventure Sports Center

The Adventure Sports Center has dedicated two days of FREE programming for incoming first-year and transfer students. Come to the Adventure Sports Center office on the ground floor of Alumni North to find out more or to sign up. Preregistration is required; spaces are limited and trips fill on a first-come, first-served basis.

Saturday, September 5

First-Year and Transfer Student Only Sea Kayaking

Saturday, September 6

First-Year and Transfer Student Only Rock Climbing

MOVE (Mobilization of Volunteer Efforts)

Saturday, September 5, 9:00 a.m.

First-Year and Transfer Student Apple Picking at Chapin Orchard

Join us for this annual SMC tradition. Jump on the bus, pick some apples that are donated to local food shelves, experience a bit of Vermont, and make some new friends.

Saturday, September 10, 4:30 p.m.

MOVE Info Session

Learn more about service trips and mentor programs, ask questions, and sign up!

On-Campus Student Employment

Where can I get help finding a job on-campus?

All students have the opportunity to apply to work on campus with the proper authorization in a variety of departments. Visit the SMC Student Employment portal page to find more resources and guides to assist you through the employment process, such as using our student applicant system, Handshake. Students with financial aid tied to student employment (Federal Work-Study awards) have been receiving emails about the program and resources for how to use Handshake to search for jobs. Check the Events section of Handshake and the Daily Digest for information about On-Campus Student Employment Information Sessions to be held during the first two weeks of classes. Have questions? Contact Human Resources On-Campus Student Employment at smchr@smcvt.edu or schedule an appointment using Handshake.
