



COLLEGE RESOURCE HANDBOOK
Minds Matter Boston

SECTION 1: Detailed Resource Guide

ORIENTATION

What day does orientation start?

How do you sign up?

What is the deadline for sign-up?

What are your options for orientation programs/bridge programs?

Link to Orientation info website:

Does your school offer additional orientation for special groups?
Examples: People of color, first generation college students, underrepresented groups in science

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Who is your academic advisor? What is his/her email address?

Link to course catalog:

How and when will you sign up for classes?

Send an email now to arrange a meeting with your advisor for the first or second week of class.

Does your school have a **mentoring program** for first-year students?

How and when do you sign up?

For example, Harvard pairs incoming first generation students with an upperclassmen or alumnus who gives them one-on-one mentoring throughout their first year

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

*Link to the **Writing Workshop** website:*

Do you need an appointment?

"It's important to take advantage your writing workshop because it helps you get better grades on your papers and learn good tips for writing in a college style. The students helping you are really nice and they're just passionate about writing." - MM Mentee Alum

What are the hours?

How many days before your paper's due date do you need to visit the writing workshop?

Link to the **Tutoring** website:

How do you request a tutor?

Does your school hold office hours for tutoring for specific subjects?

Can you join study groups specific to your major?

Find out if your school has **Student Support Service (SSS)**, a federal program that supports low-income, first-generation college students and disabled students enrolled in universities. Eligible students may receive personal and academic career counseling, career guidance, instruction, mentoring, and tutoring.

"I was always reluctant and hesitant to approach resources like my Teaching Assistants, peer-advising fellows, the bureau of study counsel, my academic adviser and the other support groups on campus, but when I finally did I was surprised at how effective and helpful they were. All my pressures, stresses, and worries were minimized by reaching out." - MM Mentee Alum

Link to your school's **SSS** Website:

Does your school have **Learning Communities**? A learning community is a group of people who share common academic goals and attitudes and meet semi-regularly to collaborate on classwork.

Which Learning Community might you be interested in?

How and when do you sign up?

HEALTH SERVICES

Where is the campus health center?

Does your school offer health insurance for a discounted rate?

What is your school's policy on vaccines / what medical records do you need to bring to college?

Does your school have a peer health office? Where is it located? What are their office hours?

What kind of mental health resources does your school offer?

How can you request a psychologist?

Important links:

STUDENT LIFE

What clubs, student groups, or IM sports interest you most?

How can you get involved?

Is there an organization or club fair you can attend?

"There are multiple amazing cultural groups on campus filled with students who come from a similar background as you. It is important to embrace them because not only will you find some of your closest friends there, but you will have a piece of home with you at all times." - MM Mentee Alum

RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Do you need to fill out a dorm preference form before orientation?

Does your dorm have a group chat you can join? *Link:*

Who is your freshman dorm leader? How can they be a good resource for you?

"Meet everyone in your entryway, and hang out with your roommates. Your bond with them could very well last throughout your college years. Sit down with random people at the dining hall, introduce yourself and say hi! You'll meet the wide diversity and incredible talent of the freshman class, and feel inferior. But you shouldn't! Everyone at your school is there for a reason, and academics are only one facet of what makes you, well, you. And it's up to you to explore and find and define what makes up the rest." - MM Mentee Alum

FINANCIAL AID, WORK-STUDY, & EXPENSES

What is your **Financial Aid Officer's** name and email?

Do they host office hours? When?

Where is the Office of Financial Aid located?

Does your college have a **Director of College Access** or similar title? What is their name and email?

What are the best resources for Financial Aid at your school?

Is there a student group for students receiving Financial Aid?

Link to the Financial Aid Office website:

Other links for help completing financial aid / FAFSA application:

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out>

<http://www.collegexpress.com/articles-and-advice/financial-aid/articles/applying-financial-aid/how-fill-out-fafsa-step-step/>

Send an email now to arrange a meeting with your Financial Aid Officer for the first or second week of class. Introducing yourself now will help later on when you have questions or need assistance.

Best websites for current college students to find scholarships:

"I didn't realize that I would need to apply for financial aid every single year, and that my amount granted might change year to year. I kept applying for more scholarships for current college students in order to supplement the aid I received from my school. My financial aid officer was really useful in helping me find those scholarships, and she knew the best ones to recommend because she knows me well."
- MM Mentee Alum

Which scholarships do you plan to apply for during freshman spring?

Does your financial aid package require you to hold a **campus job**?

What campus jobs look interesting to you?

What forms must you complete to set up direct deposit for your salary?

Link to view available jobs and requirements:

How will you pay for **textbooks** (e.g., as part of your Financial Aid package, by special request to the Financial Aid office, free at the bookstore via fin aid, or out of pocket)?

Can you buy books online, and borrow them from the library, or are you required to purchase them from your student store?

Where is your student bookstore located?

Can you return used books at the end of the semester for a credit?

Make sure to read your student bookstore's return policy in case you need to return a book (e.g., if you change your class schedule), and only buy books you know you *need*.

Does your school provide **transportation** to Boston or the local train/bus station or airport on weekends and school breaks?

Is there an option to stay on campus for breaks if you can't travel home? Which services will be open/closed during the breaks (e.g., Dining halls)

Plan ahead to avoid higher ticket prices!

What other **expenses** do you need to budget for?

What tips can you find on your school website or the internet about saving money in college?

SECTION 2: Calendar of Key Dates

Link to the **academic calendar**:

Link to your school's **financial aid deadlines**:

Link to **federal and state** financial aid deadlines: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm>

Or, make your calendar below using this key:

- Financial Aid Deadline (e.g., State deadlines, Federal deadlines)
- x Academic Calendar (e.g. Start of classes, Midterms, Finals, school breaks)
- + Other dates to remember (e.g., family day, homecoming)

SECTION 3: Quick Guide for Campus Resources

College Support Services on My Campus

General Student Support Services	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Multicultural/Diversity Support Services	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Student Life	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Student Financial Services	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Student Activities	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Student Health Services	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Counseling/Psychological Services	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:



Campus Safety Services	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Career Center	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Academic Support	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Registrar	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Residential Life Services	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Student Employment Office	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes:
Financial Aid Office	Name of Office: Phone: Email: Notes: