Welcome to Pitzer College
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION
2014

Welcome new students! Your first days and weeks will be filled with new faces and exciting academic and social opportunities. Participation in New Student Orientation programs and activities will introduce you to the value of scholarship and community living.

On the following pages you will discover important information about academics and student life to help with your transition at Pitzer. If you have additional questions or concerns of any kind, feel free to email orientation@pitzer.edu or call 909.607.2988.

What is NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION?

New Student Orientation is a program designed to introduce you to many aspects of life at Pitzer. You will meet with faculty, staff and other students for discussions, advising and social events. You will register for classes and settle into your new routine. During the week you will also have the opportunity to learn about the following:

- The nature of a Pitzer education and the unique educational opportunities available here.
- Our educational objectives, academic policies, course planning, majors and graduation requirements.
- How to make the most out of your Pitzer experience and how to personalize it through independent study programs, seminars, internships and study abroad opportunities.
- How to actively participate in residential living and campus life.
- Your financial aid options, including grants, loans and part-time employment opportunities.
- The campus environment at Pitzer and how to make safe and well-informed decisions.
- Student involvement in campus organizations, service learning and governance.

Beyond New Student Orientation there are many other opportunities for you to interact with students, staff, faculty and alumni. Be sure to review the New Student Orientation Passport when you arrive on campus to find out about great programs like the On-Campus Job Fair, the Pitzer Activities Fair, open houses, retreats, parties, dinners, and more.
GETTING YOUR STUFF AND YOURSELF HERE

By Plane
If you are flying to California, we recommend scheduling your flight into Ontario International Airport, located six miles east of Claremont, rather than Los Angeles International Airport.

By Automobile
The Claremont Colleges are easily reached from either Interstate 10 or 210 Freeway.

Parking
Once you have entered the College grounds via Ninth Street, park in the first lot on your right, known as East Mesa parking lot.

Shipping Your Belongings
The campus mailroom will be open on Saturday, August 23, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The mailroom will also be open for special hours on Wednesday, August 27 from 3 to 9 p.m., Saturday, August 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, September 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Except for these special times, the mailroom is not open on weekends. Any boxes sent to Pitzer should be marked and addressed as follows: Hold for New Student: (Student’s Name), Pitzer College, 1050 North Mills Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711. *Please do not ship your belongings before August 11, 2014. Please do not send items needed immediately upon arrival (for example, important documentation or medication).
8 a.m.–Noon
New Student Arrival
Gold Student Center
Check-in gives us the opportunity to welcome you to Pitzer! Pick up your ID card, which doubles as your room key (in all halls except Mead), and get set for a day of student bonding and important orientation information. After checking in, you may proceed to the residence halls where friendly RAs, Mentors, and OA leaders will be on hand to help you move into your new home. A continental breakfast will be provided at the Gold Student Center.

9 a.m.–2 p.m.
From the Grove House with Love
Grove House
Stop by the Grove House for a complimentary cookie and beverage.

Noon–12:45 p.m.
Student Welcome Program
George C.S. Benson Auditorium
Meet President Laura Skandera Trombley, other key senior administrators, and your Student Senate chair and vice chair.

12:45–2 p.m.
New Student Barbecue
Pellissier Mall (The Mounds)
After the Student Welcome Program, find your Orientation Adventure (OA) trip leaders on the Mounds. Keep an eye out for the large sign with your trip name on it to help you find your group. Your OA trip leaders will discuss specific details about your trip and introduce you to the other new students and student leaders on your particular adventure. Each OA group will take turns getting delicious barbecue provided by Bon Appetit, Pitzer’s dining provider.

2–4:45 p.m.
Orientation Adventure Logistics
Pellissier Mall (The Mounds)
Before you leave for your Orientation Adventure trip there are logistics to coordinate. Each OA group will have a different schedule of tasks to complete during this time, including checking out equipment, packing supplies, swim-tests, and other trip-specific responsibilities.

5–6:30 p.m.
Dinner
McConnell Dining Hall
Join us for a delicious dinner prepared by Bon Appetit. Take this opportunity to reconnect with your family and other new members of the Pitzer community!

6:30–7 p.m.
Family Farewell
McConnell Dining Hall
As you embark on the next step of your Pitzer journey, this is the time for you and your family to say goodbye.

7 p.m.
OA Logistics Continued
Pellissier Mall (The Mounds)
All trips will regroup to finalize logistics and preparation for their adventure. Some local trips will head out this evening and the rest will depart first thing tomorrow morning. OA leaders will communicate this at your 2 p.m. meeting.

Schedule subject to change.
**Parent Opening Day**

**Schedule** Saturday, August 23, 2014

8 a.m.–Noon
**Registration & Student Move-In**
Gold Student Center
Pick up your parent information packet, grab some breakfast and help your student settle in.

8 a.m.–6 p.m.
**Letter to Your Student**
McConnell Living Room
Take a few moments to write a heartfelt note to your student as they embark on this new journey. Letters will be delivered to your students during their first week at Pitzer.

8 a.m.–6 p.m.
**Family & Friends Lounge Open**
McConnell Living Room
For those “in between” times, rest in this air-conditioned lounge, purchase Pitzer merchandise, browse the Internet and enjoy light refreshments throughout the day.

Noon–1:30 p.m.
**Parent Welcome Luncheon**
McConnell Dining Hall
Meet President Laura Skandera Trombley, members of the Board of Trustees and senior administrators.

1:45–3 p.m.
**Insights into Life at Pitzer: Roommates & Campus Life**
George C.S. Benson Auditorium
Gather information about roommates, housing and life on campus.

3–3:30 p.m.
**Break**
Visit the Family & Friends Lounge to purchase Pitzer merchandise, participate in the Letter to Your Student activity, or grab a cold beverage.

3:30–4:45 p.m.
**Insights into Life at Pitzer: Academic Advising & Career Services**
George C.S. Benson Auditorium
Learn more about academic advising and gather tips on how your student can benefit from Career Services.

3:30–4:45 p.m.
**Insights into Life at Pitzer: Athletics 101**
Broad Center Performance Space
Learn how you and your student-athlete can get the most out of our sports programs.

5–6:30 p.m.
**Dinner**
McConnell Dining Hall
Join us for a delicious dinner prepared by Bon Appetit. Take this opportunity to reconnect with your student and other families of new Pitzer students. Take a souvenir Parent Orientation picture with your student!

6:30–7 p.m.
**Family Farewell**
McConnell Dining Hall
As students embark on the next step in their journey, now is the time to wish them well as they gear up for an exciting Orientation Adventure trip.

Schedule subject to change.
Orientation Adventure (OA) is the off-campus component of Pitzer’s New Student Orientation program. Student participants spend four days on excursions with 10-15 of their peers in, above and around the Los Angeles Basin and the greater Southern California area. From surfing to social justice, backpacking to bicycling, sustainability to dabbling in LA’s food scene, the breadth of trips is intentionally broad and inclusive.

Students, staff and faculty have constructed each trip to engage the College’s Community Values: Community, Diversity, Dialogue, Inquiry and Action, all while being mindful of the program’s most fundamental goal—to foster the development of meaningful relationships among new students.

All incoming students who are not New Resources Students, exchange students or transfer students are required to go on an OA trip. NRS and transfer students are encouraged to sign up, but are not obligated to do so. At this time, an OA trip is not an option for exchange students.

Important OA Dates

May 21  Trip descriptions available online
June 9   Online trip registration begins
July 4   Online trip registration closes
August 23 Students arrive on campus.
          All trips meet in the afternoon and evening.
August 24 All trips depart
August 25 All-day trips away
August 26 All-day trips away
August 27 All trips return to campus

Sunday, August 24 through Wednesday, August 27
All new students are required to live on campus and enter into a residency agreement. Exceptions to this policy may be made for students living with family, married students, students with children and students 24 years old or older. If you fall into one of these categories and wish to live off campus, contact the Housing Office.

The majority of our students live on campus in the residence halls. Residential living enables you to share in intellectual and educational pursuits, while learning to live within a diverse community. It provides opportunities for individual growth through community involvement, interpersonal relationships and social interaction. Few learning situations in life are potentially more challenging or rewarding.

The Residential Life staff provides a variety of programs throughout the year. These include community service programs, lectures and off-campus excursions. Look for flyers posted around your hall and let your Resident Assistant (RA) know what activities interest you.

Residential Life Staff

The Director of Residential Life and Summer Programs provides leadership and direction to the residence life, housing and summer programs at Pitzer and supervises the Assistant Director, three Residence Directors and student employees.

The Assistant Director supervises and coordinates all administrative activities of housing operations at Pitzer.

Each of the residential communities - P.A.S. (Pitzer, Atherton, and Sanborn), Phase II (West and East), and Mead—have trained, live-in Residence Directors, who are full-time professional staff members responsible for coordinating and overseeing hall activities, including programming, advising on academic and personal concerns, supervising and coordinating student staff, working with the hall council, and daily operations. All professional staff members are readily available to students, with one Residence Director on-call at all times.

RA’s are returning students who have shown maturity, academic success, a genuine interest in helping people and enthusiasm for student life. Generally, one RA is assigned to each floor or tower and is responsible for facilitating community development within the group.

Pitzer College’s Residence Halls

Atherton Hall

This four-story building, adjacent to the Gold Student Center, houses 62 students. Rooms are double occupancy with two rooms sharing an adjoining vanity, bathroom and shower. Common areas include a living room, six study rooms and laundry facilities. The lower level of Atherton Hall houses the mail room, a music practice room, an art studio and classroom, and the Lenzner Family Art Gallery.
Pitzer Hall
This four-story building, located southeast of the Gold Student Center, houses 78 students. Rooms are double occupancy, with two rooms sharing an adjoining vanity, bathroom and shower. Common areas include a living room, eight study rooms and laundry facilities. The lower level of Pitzer Hall houses the Office of Admission.

Sanborn Hall
This three-story building, northeast of the Gold Student Center, houses 178 students. Rooms are double occupancy with two rooms sharing an adjoining vanity, bathroom and shower. Common areas include a living room, nine study rooms, laundry facilities and a kitchen.

Mead Hall
(not open to new students)
This three-story, six-tower complex houses approximately 225 students. Suites share a common living room with four students living on each side, for a total of eight students in a suite. Common areas include a community kitchen, laundry facilities, living room and television lounge. Mead is also home to the Office of Communications, the Center for Asian Pacific American Students (CAPAS), the Arboretum manager’s office, the Writing Center and the Rabbit Hole (a confidential and respectful substance abuse education and outreach program).

West and East Halls (Phase II)
West and East Halls include four buildings that house more than 300 sophomore, junior and senior students. West Hall has a large demonstration kitchen and three apartments for a live-in staff, Faculty-in-Residence and a visiting faculty member. Numerous study rooms and lounges are spread throughout the complex, along with decks, balconies and other outdoor spaces for informal gathering. The first floor of West Hall is home to the Mosbacher/Gartrell Center for Media Experimentation and Activism, the Office of Study Abroad and International Programs, the Kallick Family Gallery, seminar rooms, a digital photography lab, and the Pitzer Archive and Conference Center.

Special Residence Opportunities

Gender-Neutral Housing
Gender-neutral housing options became available campus-wide beginning fall 2008. Gender-neutral housing provides a living environment where student housing is not restricted to traditional limitations imposed by gender and/or sex definitions. This option is ideal for students whose gender expression, gender identity and/or biological sex varies from the standard paradigm and for students who believe that their gender and/or biological sex should not be limiting factors in roommate decisions. No student will be restricted by traditional limitations of gender identity, gender expression, biological sex or other identities pertaining thereto. All students will have the option to participate in, or opt out of, gender-neutral housing.

Residence Hall Dining
Pitzer College’s dining program goes above and beyond the usual campus dining service. Our food service staff is dedicated to making each student’s dining experience tasty, convenient and affordable. The Dining Hall is located in McConnell Center on the first floor off the main lobby.

Food Service Options
The dining hall offers a 12 or 16 meal plan option to accommodate varied lifestyles and schedules. Both plans provide unlimited servings. Arrangements can be made to accommodate special dietary needs by contacting the food service director.

Your meal card entitles you to eat in any of Claremont’s five undergraduate colleges’ (SCs) dining facilities. All students living in the residence halls are required to have a meal plan. However, residents and their guests may purchase additional meals on an individual basis.

In addition, all students of The Claremont Colleges have a Claremont Cash account established as soon as their ID card is created. Funds may be deposited in your account by cash, check, money order or credit card (Visa and Mastercard) at the Claremont Connection or its website. You may also call 909.607.2273. You may use these funds to purchase meals, books, clothing and any other goods sold at locations accepting Claremont Cash.

Off-Board Applications
After consultation with the food service director, if you have dietary needs that cannot be met, you may file an Off-Board Application and submit it to the Housing Office.

To receive consideration, medical documentation from your personal physician and a letter from the food service director stating the College cannot meet your specific dietary needs must be included with your application.
Pitzer College Living: FAQs

What is in my room?
We furnish most rooms with extra-long twin beds (Mead is a mix of twin and extra long twin), dressers, desks, chairs and a small bookshelf. Waterbeds are not permitted in the residence halls.

Does Pitzer provide linens?
Pitzer does not provide linen service. You will need to bring your own linens and towels.

What appliances are permitted in my room?
You may bring small appliances such as stereos (please bring head phones), coffee makers with automatic shut-off, popcorn poppers and small refrigerators. Small refrigerators and microwave ovens are available for rent from www.microfridge.com. If ordered prior to arrival it will be in your room when you arrive. Refrigerators larger than 4.4 cubic feet are prohibited. For health and safety reasons, open-coil hot plates and other cooking appliances are not permitted. Each residence hall kitchen is equipped with a microwave oven, stove and refrigerator.

Who is responsible for cleaning my room?
You are responsible for cleaning your own room and adjoining bathroom. Each bathroom is shared by four students. Cleaning supplies and vacuum cleaners are available at residence hall service desks. The Office of Student Affairs and facilities department jointly inspect each room at least once a semester for health and safety concerns, maintenance and housekeeping. This office also provides custodial care and housekeeping for all public areas on a regular basis.

How much storage is available in my room?
The width of the closet is approximately 47 inches wide and 65 inches long (from the hanger rod to the ground). There is additional space above the hanger rod area for you to place storage bins, boxes, etc.

Do I have a telephone in my room?
Telephones are not provided, however, each room is supplied with its own phone line and two phone jacks. You and your roommate will share one phone line. There is no charge for campus or local calls. Most calling cards also are compatible with our system. To activate a landline in your room, send your request to housing@pitzer.edu with your name, room number and contact number (if applicable).

How much does it cost to do laundry?
Each residence hall is equipped with card-operated laundry machines for which Claremont Cash and/or coins must be used. Washing costs $1.25 and drying costs $1.00. You must provide your own laundry detergent and supplies.

Can I bring a car to campus? A bike?
First-year and sophomore students are not permitted to bring a car to campus due to parking limitation. You can walk almost anywhere on the five campuses within 15-20 minutes. The Claremont Village, with its commercial and recreational amenities, is also within walking distance. A better alternative is to bring your bike. Bike racks are provided outside each building; you will need to supply your own lock. You may store your bike in your room, but not in common areas, such as lounges or hallways. A parking permit appeal form may be submitted online at: http://www.formstack.com/forms/parking-petition.

Will I have to move out of my room during break?
The residence halls remain open during the fall and spring breaks and there is no charge to remain on campus; however, the dining hall will be closed. Although you will not need to move your things, the halls are closed over the winter break between the fall and spring semesters. The dining hall is also closed during the winter break. You will need to find other accommodations during this time.

Is there any storage space for students?
Pitzer has no extra storage space. We recommend renting off-campus storage space if you need to store items. A list of local storage facilities is available in the Office of Student Affairs.

Will it be quiet so that I can study in my room?
All students regulate their own hours. We do have designated quiet hours in all buildings. Study rooms are available in every hall and in the Lucian Marquis Library located in Mead Hall. The responsibility to make the residence halls productive, pleasant places to live and learn belongs to us all. Our community must work together to keep noise and problems to a minimum. We expect students to respect each other’s rights and be considerate of others.

What about my roommate?
If possible, we encourage you to make contact with your future roommate during the summer so you can begin to get acquainted before the first day of New Student Orientation. You will receive roommate information when you are notified of your room assignment in early August.
How are rooms assigned?
In order to best pair you with a roommate for your first year at Pitzer, we ask each student to fill out the Housing Placement Form. This form allows you to share information such as sleep times, hobbies and interests, as well cleanliness level. Please take special care when completing this form by being as honest as possible and submit the form by the due date. If a student does not request a specific roommate, the Housing Office assigns one, taking care to match individuals who have similar interests and/or lifestyles. If you would like to request a specific roommate on your Housing Placement Information form, you and your proposed roommate must indicate your choice on each of your forms. The Housing Office will notify you of your residence hall assignment and roommate information in early August. Every attempt will be made to honor preferences indicated on the Housing Placement Information form.

What rights do I have in my room?
• The right to sleep during the night undisturbed.
• The right to study in your room free of noise and distractions.
• The right to access your room and belongings at all times when the halls are open.
• The right to feel secure against physical or emotional harm.
• The right to live in clean surroundings.
• The right to privacy in your room.
• The right to request problem-solving advice from hall staff when a conflict cannot be resolved by you and your roommate.
Tips For Getting Involved

Within the First Month

- Attend the 5C Turf Dinner & Activities Fair on the Pitzer Mounds and find out about all the great 5C clubs and organizations.

- Attend the open house events at the cultural centers of the Claremont Consortium: Office of Black Student Affairs, Chicano Latino Student Affairs, Center for Asian Pacific American Students, International Place, Queer Resource Center, McAlister Center/Office of the Chaplains.

- Make new friends by sitting with new people in the dining hall.

- Attend your residence hall council meetings and run for a leadership position.

- Attend social events on campus! There are always events going on at Pitzer and 5Cs. Look on the Social Events Calendar, check Student Talk event announcements, and join Facebook groups of the major programming organizations (SAC, PAct, Grove House, Residence Life).

During Orientation

- Check out Student Senate’s website to find clubs and organizations you may want to be involved with.

- Attend the Student Senate event during orientation to find out from upperclass student leaders about the best ways to get involved. Ask questions!

- Attend the Pitzer Activities Fair. Join at least one of the 75 clubs and organizations that Pitzer students are a part of. If there is not a club you are interested in, talk to the Senate Reps about ways to start new clubs.

- Attend the evening and weekend social events where you will meet other new Pitzer students, 5C students and upperclass student leaders.

- On your OA trip, ask the leaders what they do on campus and the best ways to get involved.

- Meet with the incredible Career Services staff about job opportunities on-campus or in the community and have them help you perfect your resume for summer fellowships and internship opportunities they can help you find.

Semester

- Attend the weekly Student Senate meetings and run for a senator position.

- Find consistent ways to volunteer in the community by visiting the Community Engagement Center.

- Look out for student leadership opportunities. Selection processes for Resident Assistant, New Student Mentor, Pitzer Activities Programming Board, Orientation Adventure Leader.

- Get out and get active! Join intermural sports teams, go on a Pitzer Outdoor Adventure trip, attend classes at the Gold Student Health & Wellness Center, volunteer at the Green Bike Program to learn how to fix bicycles.
As a liberal arts college with an emphasis on the social and behavioral sciences, Pitzer College presents a unique opportunity for self-expression and for exploring the world around us. Pitzer believes you should take an active part in formulating your individual plan of study, bringing a spirit of inquiry and adventure to the process of learning.

In order to graduate, you are expected to fulfill the educational objectives of the College by designing, in coordination with your faculty adviser, a program of study that meets your intellectual needs and interests. You must complete 32 courses (usually translated into a normal load of four courses each semester), complete a concentration and earn at least a 2.00 grade point average. At the beginning of your junior year, you will consult with your faculty adviser and complete the process of choosing a major.

Cross-registration with the other Claremont Colleges offers Pitzer students even more academic opportunities. You may register here at Pitzer for courses open to you at the other colleges. With the signed approval of the instructor and faculty adviser, courses may be added or dropped during the first part of each semester.

Your Academic Adviser
Each student entering Pitzer is assigned a faculty member as an academic adviser. Academic advising is an integral part of faculty-student interaction and teaching at Pitzer. You and your adviser will meet during New Student Orientation to create a program of study that meets your needs and fulfills Pitzer’s educational objectives. Our faculty represents a range of expertise and interests and will be glad to talk with you at any time. In addition to your academic adviser, you will meet your student mentor during New Student Orientation. Mentors are sophomores, juniors and seniors who have received special training and are ready to give you the inside scoop on life at Pitzer and any advice or assistance you might need as a new student.

Independent Studies
The option of independent study gives you the opportunity to create and develop your own course of study. Independent studies are intended to foster students’ intellectual and creative development. Projects are arranged between the student and faculty member who serves as a consultant and evaluator.

Independent study is most successful when the student and the faculty member have a good working relationship and when the student is already familiar with the subject area. Students develop the capacity to plan and execute projects of their own conception, researching and writing at an extremely high level.

Register for Classes
Upon check-in for New Student Orientation, you will receive a personalized information packet that includes a 5-College Undergraduate Schedule of Courses, your academic adviser information, as well as other helpful information. Class selection
and registration will also take place during New Student Orientation. You will have several opportunities to meet with your academic adviser to discuss your course of study. It can be helpful to look over the online 5-College Undergraduate Schedule of Courses (http://www.pitzer.edu/academics/curriculum/catalogs.asp), but you do not need to do anything else during the summer for class registration.

Placement Exams
To assist you in choosing the appropriate level of courses for math and foreign language, placement exams will be held during New Student Orientation. If you are unsure which courses you are prepared for, the placement exams and/or your faculty adviser may assist you. All dates, times and locations will be available in your New Student Orientation schedule when you arrive.

If you are interested in taking language courses, you will need to take a placement exam. Exams are offered and held during New Student Orientation. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Your First Class: First-Year Seminar
One of the exciting things about a Pitzer College education is the opportunity to engage ideas in small, interpersonal and innovative classes. Each fall, new Pitzer students enroll in a small seminar class designed just for first-year students.

These first-year seminars, required for new students, are limited to about 15 students and are structured to encourage class discussions and to engage in intensive writing experiences. These are not lecture courses; the expectation is that you will be an important part of the learning process. A separate mailing will provide you with seminars offered and an opportunity to sign up sometime in the summer.

One of the exciting things about a Pitzer College education is the opportunity to engage ideas in small, interpersonal and innovative classes.
### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Fall Semester 2014
- **August 23**: New Student Arrival
- **August 24**: All Orientation Adventure (OA) trips leave Pitzer
- **August 27**: All OA trips return
- **August 28**: New Student Orientation continues
- **September 1**: Labor Day
- **September 2**: First day of classes
- **September 15**: Last day to add classes
- **October 20-21**: Fall break
- **October 22**: Classes resume
- **October 23**: Last day to drop classes
- **November 27-28**: Thanksgiving break
- **December 1**: Classes resume
- **December 12**: Final day of fall semester classes
- **December 15-19**: Final exams
- **December 20**: Residence halls close at noon

#### Spring Semester 2015
- **January 18**: Residence halls open at 10 a.m.
- **January 19**: Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- **January 20**: First day of classes
- **February 2**: Last day to add classes
- **March 13**: Last day to drop classes
- **March 16-20**: Spring break
- **March 23**: Classes resume
- **March 27**: César Chávez holiday
- **May 7-8**: Senior finals; Reading days for all other students
- **May 8**: Final day of spring semester classes
- **May 11-15**: Final exams
- **May 16**: Commencement
- **May 17**: Residence halls close at noon