Newsday COLLEGE PrepTalk

Almost There: Incoming College Freshmen's Summer To-Do List

Congratulations! You have been accepted at your college of choice. Don't relax yet. You still have a little work to do over the summer to be ready for your first day on campus.

Submit your final grades. Many colleges want to see your final transcript (so don't let senioritis derail you now!). Find out if your high school sends your grades automatically or if you have to submit a request in the guidance office.

Look for housing info. If you're going to a residential campus, you'll receive information—via email or snail mail—on housing options after the college gets your enrollment deposit. Fill out these forms and send them back ASAP. If your college doesn't guarantee housing to freshmen, waiting too long puts you at risk of not getting a spot.

Fill out medical forms. Your college probably requires your doctor to sign off on forms that detail your medical history, including immunizations. Some schools even require certain shots, unless you or your parents have objections and sign a waiver. You should ask your doctor about the meningitis vaccine; many colleges now encourage students to have it before coming to campus.

Get digital. The IT department at your school will probably e-mail you this summer with info on how to set up your email account and access to the college's network. It's a good idea to get this done promptly—and before you show up on campus—because as early as the first day of class, your professors could distribute reading, homework, and special announcements.

Orient yourself. Some schools require all incoming students to attend orientation; others make it optional. Take our advice and go—and embrace all the weird get-to-know-you games you'll probably have to play. Freshmen Orientation can be a great way to meet people and make friends.

Get your finances fixed up. The college's business office will be in touch, so you can set up an account and pay your first bill. Ask about payment plans; many colleges offer them for a small enrollment fee (or none at all), and they allow you and your family to make smaller monthly payments.

Submit IB or AP results. If you're in an International Baccalaureate program or you took Advanced Placement exams, you should plan to have your official results sent to your college. Most schools won't accept e-mailed score reports. Do this early! The score can affect which courses you'll take in the fall.

Find out about registration. Colleges use numerous methods to register students for classes, but keep your eyes out for info, especially because registration ranks high on incoming students' lists of most confusing tasks. If you have questions, call the college's office of academic affairs or registrar's office.



STEM Success Starts Here.

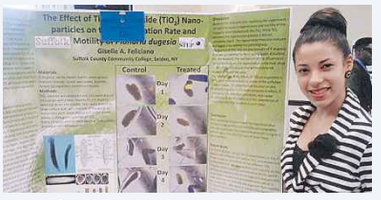
Improving America's STEM education has become a top priority across the nation. At Suffolk, approximately 1,500 students are currently enrolled in STEM majors and the College's STEM program has been producing award-winning students while providing summer research internships at internationally-renowned facilities, including Brookhaven National Laboratory, NASA, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, to name just a few.

Contact us to find out why making Suffolk your first choice is a decision that's second to none.

Suffolk COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
sunysuffolk.edu/Enroll

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) spotlight

Community College STEP students win in 2 competitions



Giselle Feliciano, Brentwood High School



John Mele, Central Islip High School

This spring, two Suffolk County Community College STEP (Science and Technology Entry Program) students won awards in two research poster competitions.

Giselle A. Feliciano, a sophomore, won second place in the Biological/Life Sciences-Junior Division at the STEP statewide conference in March. Giselle, who attends Brentwood High School, was recognized for her project, The Effect of Titanium Dioxide Nano-particles on the Regeneration Rate and Motility of Planeria Dugesia. Her research explored the effect of nano particles on regenerating organisms, which could lead to medical applications such as regenerating body parts and healing wounds.

At the same competition, John Mele, a senior at Central Islip High School, won third place in the Physical Sciences-Senior Division, for his project, Stretching DNA Molecules on a Flexible Substrate Probed by Polarized-Dependent Fluorescence Microscopy. This research focused on the ability to stretch DNA strands by using polymers. Applications of this work could lead to deeper understanding of the genomic sequencing of the human DNA molecular structure.

Giselle and John also won awards at the Long Island STEM Diversity Summit competition at Farmingdale State College. John placed third and Giselle fourth at the local student research poster competition. Both Giselle and John have been involved in the SCCC STEP program since 7th grade. John plans to attend Stony Brook University and study biomedical engineering. Giselle aspires to work in the health field.