

Freshmen orientations at MC draw crowds to Clinton

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Mississippi College leaders will welcome hundreds of incoming students at freshmen orientations.

The maximum of two hundred freshmen attended the first round of informative sessions on the Clinton campus May 30-31. A count hasn't been finalized for the orientation that was held last week. New freshmen can still sign up for the one remaining orientation July 11-12.

It's an opportunity for newcomers to get to know President Blake Thompson, register for classes and spend the night in university residence halls.

There's plenty of time to dine at the school cafeteria, visit the college bookstore and tour the scenic Clinton campus.

The registration fee to attend MC orientation is \$200, and organizers say it's the best way to learn about life in blue and gold country.

Along with 200 incoming freshmen, an additional 400 family members and friends made the journey for the first orientation session last year, says Jonathan Ambrose, assistant vice president for student affairs.

Ambrose and his staff always work hard to get student leaders ready to greet newcomers at the marathon of



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A scene from MC's freshmen orientation last summer at Anderson Hall.

events. Training sessions are required, mixing business with a little fun.

Orientation teams establish goals.

They want incoming students to soak up the Mississippi College culture through a blitz of activities to lead to a

successful undergraduate experience. It opens doors for freshmen to meet faculty, staff and upper-class students during their two-day stay.

Visitors can also discover what Clinton and metro Jackson offers – from businesses to cultural attractions.

Students are permitted to bring as many as four guests to orientation. Housing on campus is only reserved for new students. Parents and guests utilize other lodging options, such as nearby hotels.

At the first orientation in 2018, there were visitors traveling from at least eight states, including Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia and Texas. Others made the trip from as far away as Michigan and Missouri.

Incoming freshmen hear from a parade of speakers and get acquainted with MC academic deans and professors. They learn about campus ministries and dozens of student organizations. Parents find out about financial aid, scholarships and much more at Mississippi College.

Mississippi College's Office of Student Life hosts separate orientations for college transfer students on June 20 and July 24.

MC officials will conduct regular registration on Monday, August 26. This fall, Mississippi College will begin its 194th academic year.



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