
New Student Orientation Guide

Fall 2021

Updated as of July 15, 2021



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Rollie Carencia

Director of Student Life

Welcome from SPS Student Life

On behalf of the Columbia University School of Professional Studies community, I warmly welcome you to SPS as you take your first steps in joining our dynamic and diverse community. At Columbia SPS, you'll be studying alongside students from all over the world and all walks of life. I encourage you to embrace the connections you'll make here, including those you'll find outside the classroom in our student organizations, events, and professional development opportunities.

At New Student Orientation you will learn more about your studies at SPS, as well as expectations and tips for success as a new student. We will introduce you to important members of our community who can support you during your time at Columbia University. Don't be afraid to ask questions and reach out to campus resources you want to learn more about.

We hope you take advantage of this experience and I wish you success as you embark on your educational journey! Welcome to SPS!

Warm regards,

Rollie Carencia

Before Your Semester Begins

COVID-19 Protocols and Requirements

In order to protect the campus community, the University has mandated all incoming students must adhere to the following COVID-19 protocols and guidelines:

1 Get Vaccinated and Upload Documentation

Starting with the Fall 2021 semester, the **University announced** that the **COVID-19 vaccination** will be mandatory for all University students, faculty, and staff. For individuals who plan to attend in-person classes or access campus for any reason, your **vaccination documentation must be submitted by August 2** to ensure there is no delay in processing your information. If you are requesting a **medical or religious exemption**, those also must be submitted no later than **August 2** to ensure appropriate time to review and evaluate.

2 Review all Return to Campus Protocols & Download the ReopenCU App

Be sure to review and complete all **return to campus protocols** and **download the ReopenCU App**. Students must download the ReopenCU App to upload their proof of vaccination and sign the University Health Compact. This app will also allow students to complete the mandatory daily attestation to receive a Green Pass, which will allow their Student ID to admit them to all University facilities.

If you have any questions about the University's COVID-19 protocols and requirements, you can find more information at **covid19.columbia.edu** or reach out to **sps-wellness@columbia.edu** or **covidresource@columbia.edu**.

Before Your Semester Begins

Student IDs

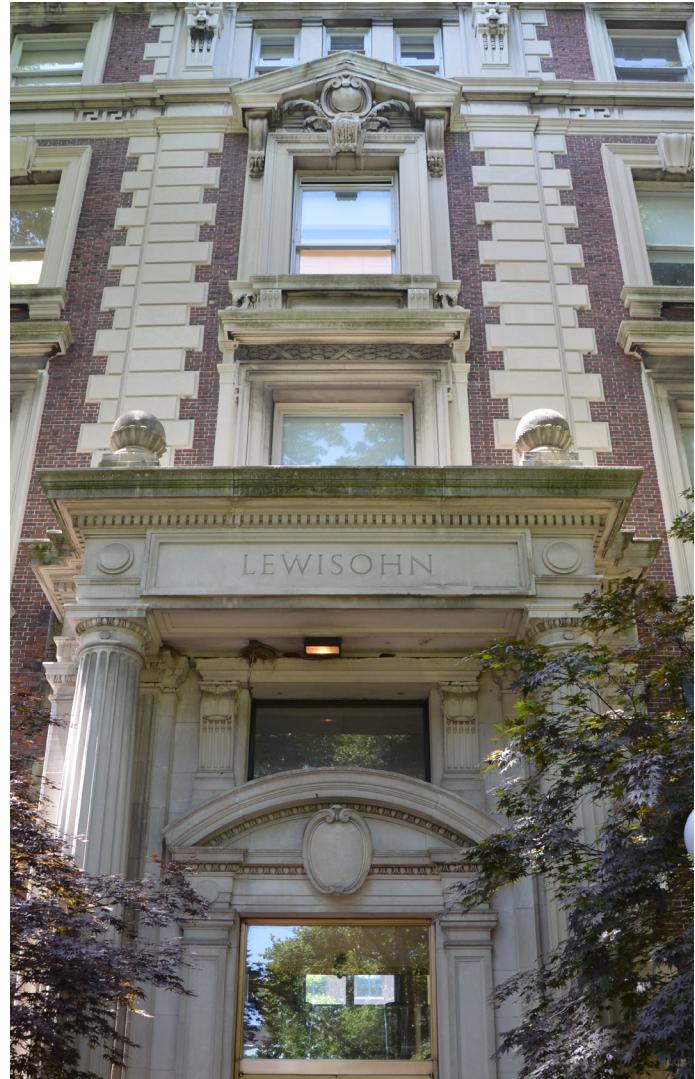
You must have a Columbia ID card to access all Columbia buildings and resources, make purchases at campus cafes and the University Bookstore and to take advantage of student discount programs.

All students must **upload a valid ID photo** by Thursday, August 19, 2021 as Student IDs will not be printed without an approved photo.

Students can pick up their Student ID during the following dates and times:

- The all school ID pick up on Thursday, September 9th & Friday, September 10th, 9:00AM–5:00PM ET in **Faculty House** on campus.
- At your In-Person Orientation Academic Breakout (if applicable). If your program is hosting an in-person academic breakout session, you will be able to pick up your ID at that time. More information about specific dates and times will be provided to you via email.

If you are unable to pick up your ID during dates and times listed above please contact the Office of Student Life at **sps-studentlife@columbia.edu**.



Student IDs cannot be mailed for any reason.

HAVE YOU HEARD?



**Download the
new one-stop
app for SPS
Student Life
today!**

Student Access begins
August 2, 2021.

Find out
about upcoming
events.

Get involved
with student
organizations.

Connect with
important academic
resources.

Questions? Contact
sps-studentlife@columbia.edu

 COLUMBIA SPS
School of Professional Studies

M.S. and M.P.S. Orientation

It is expected that all incoming students to the School of Professional Studies participate fully in their Orientation.

For the Fall 2021 semester, M.S. and M.P.S. programs' New Student Orientation will comprise of three parts:

1 SPS Pre-Orientation Portal and University Tutorials

2 New Student Virtual Workshops

3 Academic Program Breakouts



M.S. and M.P.S. Orientation

1 SPS Pre-Orientation Portal and University Tutorials

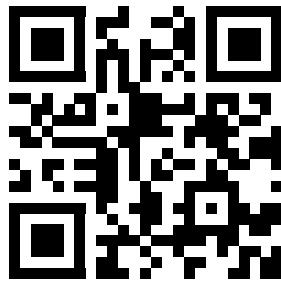
All new School of Professional Studies students are required to participate in an online, asynchronous Pre-Orientation portal prior to their arrival on campus. This portal provides information on items such as Academic Integrity, Student Engagement, ISSO, Health Services, and more! Students will be provided with an overview of all offices and resources available to them at Columbia University SPS.

Additionally, all incoming students to Columbia University are required to complete two university-wide online trainings from the **Office of University Life:**

- 1) **Welcome to Columbia** and
- 2) **Sexual Assault Prevention**

These tutorials will be made available to incoming students by early August and must be completed no later than September 9, 2021. Students will be emailed directly from the Office of University Life when these tutorials become available.

Students can access this portal [here](#).



Failure to complete the designated required sections by September 9, 2021 will result in a registration hold on your student account which will prevent you from registering for classes.

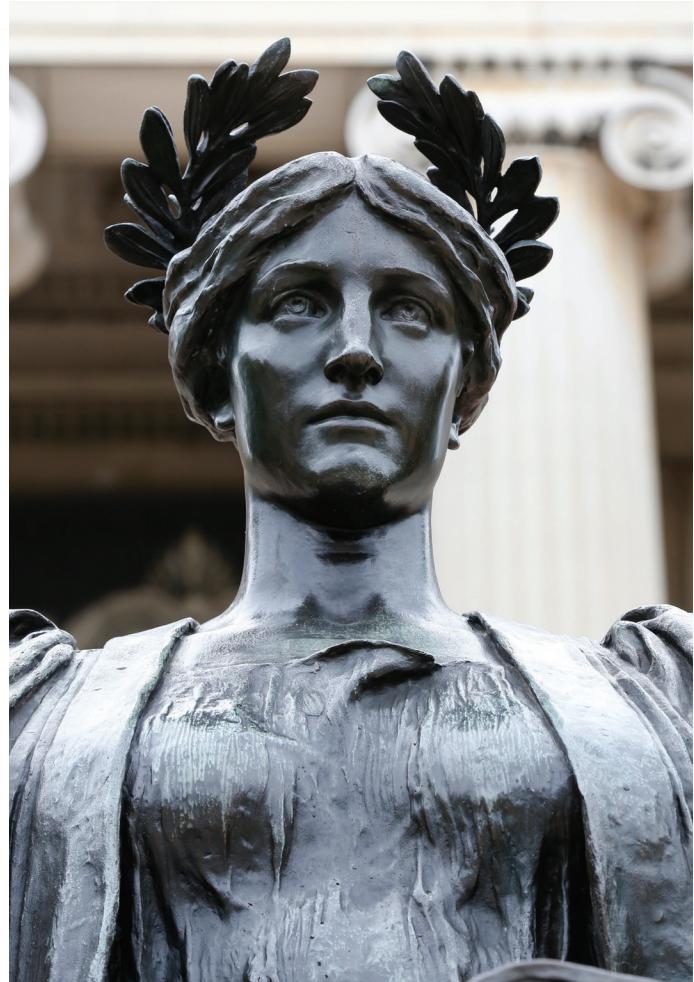
M.S. and M.P.S. Orientation

2 New Student Virtual Workshops

At the Columbia University School of Professional Studies, your transition to graduate studies is important to us. We have designed various virtual workshops to support your transition. Whether you are learning how to finance your degree, navigating your academics, or seeking guidance on professional development, we have a session just for you!

All new SPS students are expected to attend as many workshops as possible. Most workshops are offered twice and students need to attend only one of those sessions. Domestic students are not expected to attend either of the workshops designed for international students. Information to RSVP for each workshop will be sent via email.

All workshops will be recorded and uploaded to the [SPS website](#). Students are encouraged to view the session recordings for any workshop they are unable to attend live.



Check out the full list of workshops on the following pages!

Virtual Workshops

At the Columbia University School of Professional Studies, your transition to graduate studies is important to us. We have designed various virtual workshops to support your transition. Whether you are learning how to finance your degree, navigating your academics, or seeking guidance on professional development, we have a session just for you!

All new SPS students in M.S. or M.P.S. degree programs are expected to attend these workshops. Most workshops are offered twice and students need to attend only one of those sessions. Domestic students are not expected to attend either of the workshops designed for international students. Students are required to RSVP for each workshop in advance.

Recordings of these workshops will be made available in late August on the [SPS website](#).

Workshop	Facilitated by	Workshop Description
Academic Writing in Grad School: What You Need to Know Monday, 8/9 at 12 PM ET Wednesday, 8/18 at 2 PM ET	Facilitated by the University Writing Center	Whether it's been a few months since your last academic writing assignment or a few years, the Columbia University Writing Center is here to help. This workshop will help incoming graduate students prepare for graduate level writing. Through an interactive session, students will learn how to adjust their composition strategy and process for writing at an Ivy League level. Students will also learn about the University Writing Center and the resources available to them.
EQ & You: Intro to Emotional Intelligence and Why It Matters Tuesday, 8/10 at 3 PM ET	Facilitated by Jason Joyce	Effective leadership is central to the professional development of any professional studies student. This interactive session will introduce the concept of Emotional Intelligence (EQ) and why it matters to all successful leaders. Participants will learn how to measure their own emotional intelligence and how to implement simple, effective strategies to improve Personal and Social EQ skills.
Financing Your Graduate Degree Monday, 8/9 at 2 PM ET Friday, 8/13 at 10 AM ET	Facilitated by Student Financial Planning	You made it to grad school! Now how are you going to pay for it? Join the Office of Student Financial Planning for an overview of Columbia University's policies and funding structures, as well as additional financial resources that may be available to you. Make informed financial decisions with the help of student finance professionals, so you get the most out of your Columbia degree.
Getting to Know the Career Design Lab Thursday, 8/5 at 12:30 PM ET Tuesday, 8/17 at 9:30 AM ET	Facilitated by the Career Design Lab	SPS Students have access to a robust network of professional development opportunities facilitated by the school's Career Design Lab (CDL). This workshop will introduce you to the variety of programs and resources available to SPS students to help them develop the professional skills and competencies needed to succeed at Columbia and beyond. Tap into the wealth of knowledge both the Columbia and SPS alumni networks have to offer, while building meaningful professional connections and exploring a diverse range of career options. We will have breakout rooms for different career journeys to help students understand the best ways to engage with CDL.
Immigration Essentials with ISSO Friday, 8/6 at 10 AM ET Friday, 8/20 at 2 PM ET	Facilitated by the International Students and Scholars Office	Navigating US immigration and visa regulations can feel difficult—but the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) is here to help. This workshop will cover the immigration privileges and responsibilities of international students and how they can keep and protect their F student and J exchange visitor non-immigrant status to ensure eligibility for future benefits. Facilitators will also discuss important policies, documentation, and information that international students should consider while enrolled at Columbia University.

Virtual Workshops (continued)

Workshop	Facilitated by	Workshop Description
International Student Welcome Monday, 8/2 at 9:30 AM ET	Facilitated by the American Language Program	As an international student, adjusting to a new city and culture can be an exciting, yet challenging time. The goal of this workshop is to help international students feel well-prepared for the Fall semester and to know where to find support and community. Having the right skills and resources will help you start the semester off right, so that you not only survive, but thrive at Columbia. Whether you are shy or outgoing, you can use this time to practice sharing your ideas openly (an important skill to have at Columbia!). There will also be time for Q&A, where you can ask any cultural, social or New York-related questions. This workshop will be a safe and welcoming space for students who are new to aspects of New York culture or a US university setting.
Maximizing Your SPS Experience with Student Life Wednesday, 8/4 at 10 AM ET Tuesday, 8/10 at 10 AM ET	Facilitated by the Office of Student Life and the Office of University Life	Are you looking for opportunities to build leadership and professional skills? Then this session is for you! There are a multitude of ways for graduate students to be involved in the Columbia community! Join us as members of the Office of Student Life team share ways to maximize your student experience through extracurricular involvement and student leadership. Additionally, hear from a panel of current and past student leaders on being an active SPS Student and tips for adjusting to Columbia and New York.
Recognizing Your Bias Inside and Outside the Classroom Thursday, 8/12 at 10 AM ET Tuesday, 8/17 at 2 PM ET	Facilitated by the Office of Student Support	Students at SPS come from around the world and have vastly different lived experiences. This workshop will discuss how those experiences and socialization play a part in developing biases. Through an engaging and interactive session, attendees will gain an understanding of implicit and explicit bias, discuss where bias can arise in a university setting, and develop strategies to help mitigate bias in one's interactions with others.
Research Support with Columbia Libraries Monday, 8/2 at 2 PM ET Wednesday, 8/18 at 10 AM ET	Facilitated by the Columbia University Libraries Team	As an Ivy League institution, Columbia University has one of the greatest networks of libraries and academic research resources in the world. This session will help students understand what resources are available to them and that may complement their academic pursuits. Members of the Columbia University Libraries Team will cover interlibrary loans, research databases, and general reference inquiries, among other critical topics.
Strategies for Succeeding in Graduate School Wednesday, 8/11 at 2 PM ET Monday, 8/16 at 12 PM ET	Facilitated by the Office of Student Support and the Office of Online Curriculum and Instruction	What does it take to be successful in graduate school? How do you communicate and collaborate with faculty and students to maximize your time at Columbia? What academic techniques do high-achieving students employ to succeed in their courses? Join the SPS Office of Student Support and Office of Online Curriculum and Instruction for an interactive session that covers various techniques and approaches for how you can make the most of your graduate journey.
Thriving in Graduate School: Caring for Yourself and Others Tuesday, 8/3 at 10 AM ET Thursday, 8/19 at 2 PM ET	Facilitated by the Office of Student Wellness	Self-care and wellness go hand-in-hand with academic success. In fact, SPS has a dedicated team to connect you with wellness resources and strategies, so that you can make the most of your Columbia experience. Through an engaging and interactive session, this workshop led by the Office of Student Wellness will cover the ways students can care for themselves and others. Attendees will learn the importance of balance for success, while understanding the variety of wellness resources available through the University. Attendees will also be encouraged to be courageous in acknowledging vulnerability and knowing when to reach out for help.
Trans Inclusivity 101 Wednesday, 8/4 at 3 PM ET	Facilitated by Kalliope Dalto '20SPS	Learn the basics of supporting and advocating for transgender people in the classroom and workplace. This workshop is an introduction to trans-inclusive language and trans-liberatory modes of thought. Participate in a structured conversation about how SPS students can elevate trans voices and benefit trans lives.

M.S. and M.P.S. Orientation

3 Academic Program Breakouts

The Academic Program Breakout Session is an opportunity to meet with leaders and representatives from your academic program, learn about your coursework, and get to know your fellow classmates. These sessions will be held between August 28th to September 3rd. We expect your academic breakout to last approximately 2 hours.

All breakout sessions will have a virtual option for students to attend.

Specific details regarding each program's breakout session, including date, time and modality, will be communicated to students via email.



Non-Degree Orientation

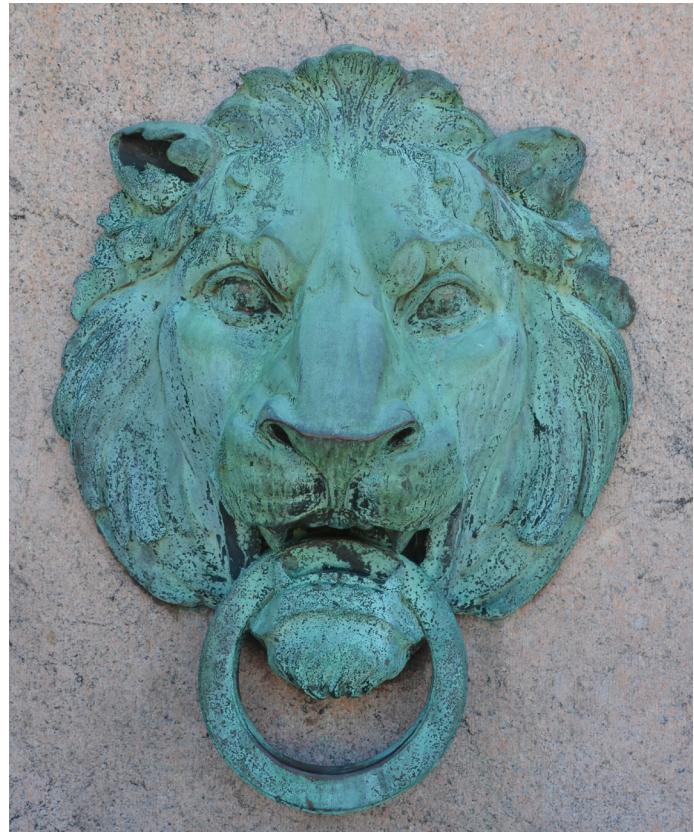
It is expected that all incoming students to the School of Professional Studies participate fully in their Orientation.

For the Fall 2021 semester, Non-Degree New student Orientation will comprise of three parts:

1 SPS Pre-Orientation Portal

2 New Student Virtual Workshops

3 Non-Degree Breakout

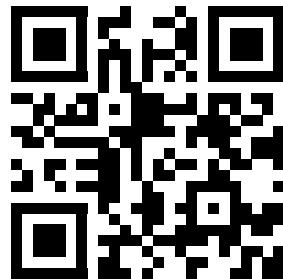


Non-Degree Orientation

1 SPS Pre-Orientation Portal

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Failure to complete the designated required sections by September 9, 2021 will result in a registration hold on your student account which will prevent you from registering for classes.

Virtual Workshops

At the Columbia University School of Professional Studies, your transition to graduate studies is important to us. We have designed various virtual workshops to support your transition. Non-Degree students are encouraged to attend the following select virtual workshops.

Recordings of these workshops will be made available in late August on the [SPS website](#).

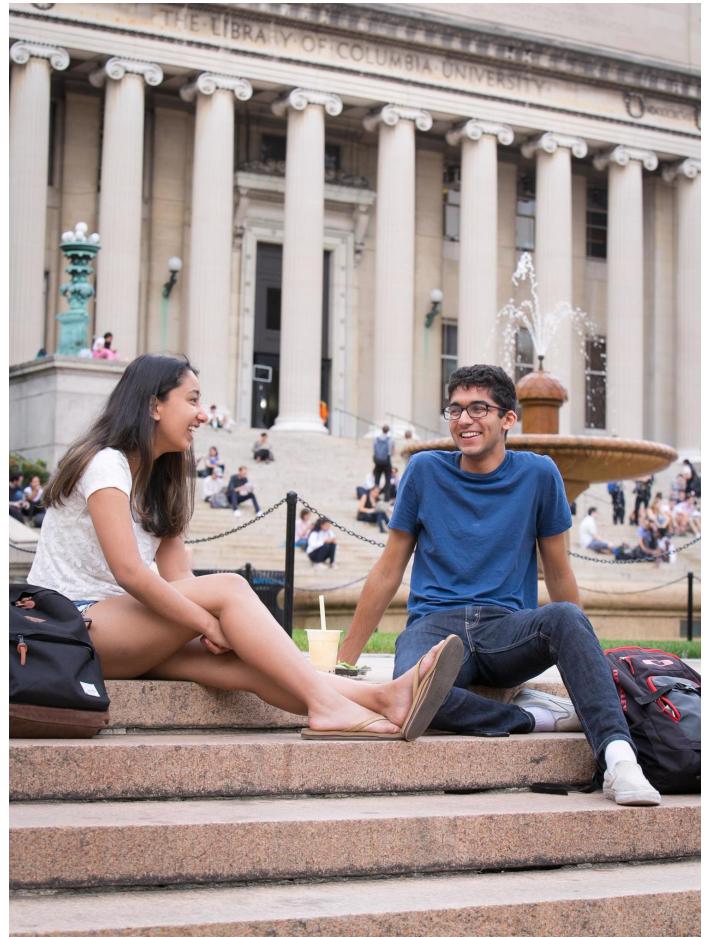
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International Student Welcome Monday, 8/2 at 9:30 AM ET	Facilitated by the American Language Program	As an international student, adjusting to a new city and culture can be an exciting, yet challenging time. The goal of this workshop is to help international students feel well-prepared for the Fall semester and to know where to find support and community. Having the right skills and resources will help you start the semester off right, so that you not only survive, but thrive at Columbia. Whether you are shy or outgoing, you can use this time to practice sharing your ideas openly (an important skill to have at Columbia). There will also be time for Q&A, where you can ask any cultural, social or New York-related questions. This workshop will be a safe and welcoming space for students who are new to aspects of New York culture or a US university setting.
Maximizing Your SPS Experience with Student Life Wednesday, 8/4 at 10 AM ET Tuesday, 8/10 at 10 AM ET	Facilitated by the Office of Student Life and the Office of University Life	Are you looking for opportunities to build leadership and professional skills? Then this session is for you! There are a multitude of ways for graduate students to be involved in the Columbia community! Join us as members of the Office of Student Life team share ways to maximize your student experience through extracurricular involvement and student leadership. Additionally, hear from a panel of current and past student leaders on being an active SPS Student and tips for adjusting to Columbia and New York.
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Non-Degree Orientation

2 Non-Degree Breakout

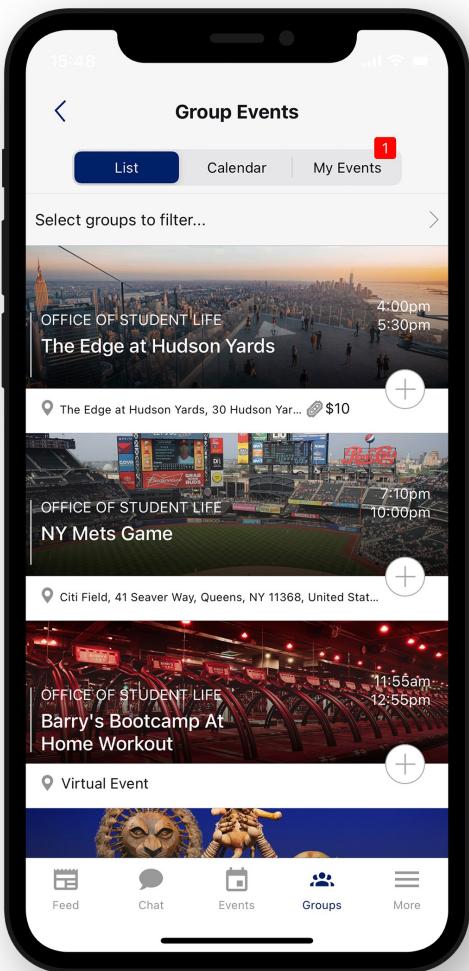
The Non-Degree Breakout Session is an opportunity to meet with leaders and representatives from academic programs, learn about coursework, and get to know fellow classmates.

The Non-Degree Programs Breakout will be held Tuesday, August 31, 1:00 PM–2:30 PM ET.



Weeks of Welcome!

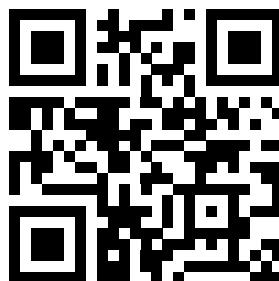
The SPS Office of Student Life is excited to announce Fall 2021 Weeks of Welcome! Hosted by the Office of Student Life and Office of Student Support, these events have been designed to help you meet your fellow SPS classmates, explore New York City, and have some fun! These events are open to new and returning SPS students.



All Weeks of Welcome events, including RSVP information, can be found on the New SPS Engage!

Events include:

- NY Mets Game
- Virtual SPS Student Organization Fair
- The Lion King on Broadway
- Barry's Bootcamp At-Home Workout
- Wellness Workshops and more!



sps.columbia.edu/engage



Questions? Contact sps-studentlife@columbia.edu



sps.columbia.edu