



UNIVERSITY  
OF  
LOUISIANA  
Lafayette.

# Office of the First-Year Experience

## The “How To” to Beginning College

### Cajun Connection



This “How To” will focus on the Cajun Connection program taking place August 20<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>. For specific questions please contact OFYE directly.

### RESOURCES

#### Office of First-Year Experience:

Lee Hall 106  
337-482-6599  
[Office Website](#)  
[ofye@louisiana.edu](mailto:ofye@louisiana.edu)

#### Connect with OFYE on Social Media for updates:



**6-10 on Wednesday Night:**  
mandatory for Campus Residents and strongly suggested for Commuter Students

**9-5 on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>:**  
mandatory for all students

**8-5 on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>:**  
mandatory for all students

All other night and weekend activities are optional.



### Cajun Connection

To kick off the Fall 2015 semester OFYE will be hosting UL Lafayette’s inaugural Cajun Connection, a new “Transition to College” program designed to offer students a better chance at succeeding in college. The event is being modeled after the [Gateway Program](#), a nationally successful program out of the [University of Colorado at Colorado Springs](#). Across the country, high school graduates are struggling to adapt to the way life in college runs as opposed to life in high school. Cajun Connection will allow freshmen to get on campus before the remaining 15,000 university students and receive counseling, direction, and university resources that have been customized to the freshman perspective.

Cajun Connection is part of the UNIV 100 seminar, and is officially class. Therefore students must attend as if attending any other classes. **Attendance from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on August 20<sup>th</sup> & 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on August 21<sup>st</sup> is mandatory.** This means arriving on time, and being fully prepared with a bookbag, writing utensils, and notebooks. As it will be August in Louisiana we also suggest auxiliary items such as an umbrella and water bottle.

#### When to Show Up:

Cajun Connection will have a soft kick-off on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the close of Move-In Day. The event will consist of a Swamp Party, hosted for freshmen students only at [Cypress Lake](#) behind the Student Union. Bar-b-que will be offered for \$5.00 to commuters or a [meal swipe](#) to campus residents. While on-campus residents will attend the Swamp Party with their Community Assistants (C.A.) and floormates, we strongly encourage commuter students to make their way to campus to attend. Parking for commuters will be offered in the Earl K. Long Parking lot free of charge.

Early Check-In for Cajun Connection will be offered at the Swamp Party. Students will get a t-shirt, academic planner, and Cajun Connection packet. Those who check in Wednesday night will be ready to go for when classes start at **9:00 a.m.** on Thursday morning. Students who don’t check in at the Swamp Party will check-in at **7:30 a.m.** on Thursday morning in the Student Union.





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### Calendar of Events

#### Wednesday, August 19th

- 6:30pm - Swamp Party / Early Cajun Check-In

#### Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>

- 7:30am - Check-In for those who didn't attend the Swamp Party
- 9am - 5pm Mandatory Class for all students. (Class location given out at Check-In)

#### Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

- 8am - 5pm Mandatory Class for all students. (Class location given out at Check-In)

### Weekend Activities

Times to be announced at Cajun Connection

- Back to School Bash
- A Wish for Change
- Dodgeball Tournament
- Freshmen Frenzy
- Ragin' Cajun Fan Day
- UPC Movie Night
- Intramural Sports
- Yoga and Zumba
- Part-Time Job Info Session
- Greek Life Info Session
- Religious Life Info Session

### Cajun Connection

#### Parking & Dining:

Cajun Connection is taking place on UL Lafayette's main campus. On-campus residents will park in residential parking lots. Commuter students will park at Cajun Field and be bussed to campus. Busses will begin service at 7:00 a.m. and will run about every 20 minutes. As we expect to transport roughly 1,500 commuter students, there will inevitably be some extent of wait time. Class attendance on Thursday is taken promptly at 9:00 a.m. so we highly suggest registering at the Swamp Party and allowing enough time to make it to campus Thursday morning. On-Campus parking is also [available](#) to commuter students in the [Girard Park Circle Parking Garage](#). Garage rates consist of \$5.00 for the first two hours, then \$1.00 for each additional hour.

Lunch will be provided to all students on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. For dinner and weekend meals, students have access to [campus dining options](#), as well as off campus options such as Old Tyme Grocery, Bisbano's Pizza, The Saint Street Inn, Cajun Commander Café, Cottage Café, Piccadilly Cafeteria, and local fast food.

#### What does Cajun Connection entail:

Class content will be based around [five different themes](#): learning about what academic and social resources the university has to offer and how to make use of those resources, learning how to maintain both a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle while in college, learning how to appropriately prioritize and approach the academic work load of college, learning how to recognize and address diversity as well as adversity in the college landscape, and discovering the history and traditions behind UL Lafayette and its historic campus.

But college isn't all work and no play. Review the column to the left for a listing of the fun and entertaining activities planned for Cajun Connection!

