Project Arts 2021 — Family Guide

A Guide to Project Arts 2021
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Introduction

Whether you are a parent or guardian, an incoming first year student, or a fan of well-crafted collegiate programming, we would like to warmly welcome you to the Project Arts family. We are a community of students dedicated to enhancing the first-year experience and crafting the most worthwhile introduction to life at Duke and Durham. We wrote this guide to give you all the information you need to have an amazing week with Project Arts to make for a seamless transition to the first year at Duke.

The pArts family understands how important this time is for incoming first-years—and we respect that responsibility. While we are advertised as an arts-centric program, we are far more focused on building genuine community amongst our participants and our staffers, using our shared appreciation for the arts as a vehicle to do so. Our student staffers work closely with professionals in a variety of Duke’s administrative offices to ensure that we put together the most impactful, memorable, and—most importantly—fun-filled days to kick off an illustrious Duke career.

We cannot wait to have you as pArt of the family. Please reach out to us for anything, we’re here for you!

— Sara Heilman & Eli Kline, Co-Program Directors, Project Arts 2021

Mission & Vision

Project Arts is a pre-orientation program designed to be an introduction to life at Duke University and the city of Durham, as well as an inclusive social support network for all participants. Additionally, we provide an introduction to the arts and culture of Duke and Durham. We provide information, connections, and tools that first-years need to get involved in the flourishing on-campus art community, and we celebrate the diversity of backgrounds and experiences our pArts community attracts. We help develop the artistic skills of our participants, yet we largely focus on getting to know the culture of Duke and Durham and broadening students’ perspectives throughout the program.

pArts works to establish a core undergraduate art community through a common love for the arts. Such a community forms through the present and empathetic relationships that center around the acceptance and appreciation of others’ perspectives, as well as reflections upon our own. Relationship-building and self-discovery work hand-in-hand to form our core pillar.
Feedback from Former pArticipants about pArts Staffers

“They truly opened up to us and they keep connected with us during the school year, so it’s great to start off the year with upperclassmen friends.”

“The pArts staff not only gave me incredibly helpful advice in terms of finding ways to get involved in the arts at Duke; they’ve also become some of my best friends and mentors at Duke so far.”

“Always listening to troubles I was having in transitioning to a foreign land and its rules; always being responsible about health and well being, never letting personal frustration show, being very open to us about their lives and hence helping foster a friendship as opposed to a leader-follower relationship.”

History & Program Overview

Project Arts is one of Duke’s newest pre-orientation programs, just now entering its seventh year. We are an eight-day program—a student-operated affiliate of the Office of New Student Programs. Project Arts’s headquarters for 2021 will be in one of the East Campus dormitories and will serve as a central hub for our 24 student staffers and 48 first-year participants, whom we call “crewlings.”

We introduce pArts crewlings to a breadth of arts opportunities at Duke and in the Durham area. We partner with a multitude of local art organizations. We fill our days with “art time” for crewlings in their respective fields, as well as other activities such as visiting museums or the Duke Gardens; we fill our evenings with dinners at some of Durham’s most delectable restaurants and action-packed activities that have become integral to the pArts tradition.

A particularly unique aspect of pArts is that our crewlings work on an arts project throughout the week. Students can be accepted for one of our six art fields: Dance, Creative Writing, Visual Arts, Music, Visual Media, and Theater. Each student’s respective project is influenced by their transition from home to their new university and city. Each day, participants have a few hours to work directly with our specialized arts leaders and other first-years to develop their project. Crewlings’ work will be presented for friends and families at the Final Showcase which is held on the last day of our program, August 16th.

As mentioned, pArts is planned and run entirely by students, with guidance from advisors in the Office of New Students Program. The pArts staff consists of a six-person administrative team to organize program logistics, a six-person team of arts leaders that spearhead each art cluster, and a 12-person team consisting of crew leaders and drivers who act as peer-to-peer mentors to crewlings. All student staffers are former pArts crewlings.
operating on a volunteer basis, and each undergoes a highly-competitive selection process as well as rigorous training to be qualified for their position. Project Arts staffers are among Duke’s best and brightest; they’re hyper-involved, willing, and knowledgeable. Crewlings can expect to leave the program feeling confident about their transition into Duke, with strong friendships and a network of 72 fellow Blue Devils who are motivated to help them succeed. They will have a robust understanding of extracurricular and academic opportunities available to them in their art fields. They will also be a bit tired from eight days filled with things to do, foods to eat, arts to practice, and people to meet.

Below is some lingo useful to know for when your student calls home from pArts:

- **Crewling:** a first-year participant in pArts
- **Crew:** small (<10 person) group of crewlings; participants will spend most of their time with their crew, and each crew has four staffers
- **Arts Cluster:** small groups of crewlings that are organized according to their arts, participants will be with these crews each day during “art time”
- **Staffer:** an upperclassmen student who has been a pArts participant or staffer previously
- **Crew Leader:** a student staffer who is the point-person for each crew
- **Driver:** a student staffer who drives crews and arts crews; doubles as a senior Crew Leader as well
- **Arts Leader:** specialized arts-focused students who head up the art crews and run “art time”
- **Coordinator:** the executive leadership team that organizes pArts, consists of Events, Arts, Food, and Logistics Coordinators
- **Program Directors:** the two head staffers of the program
- **Arts Annex:** one of pArts’s main hubs where we will congregate daily, a converted warehouse that offers students arts supplies at no cost
- **Rubenstein Arts Center (Ruby):** the other pArts hub, the new arts building that includes dance studios, a film theater, a multimedia editing studio, and more. It also houses the Von der Heyden Studio Theater, where the pArts Final Showcase is held.
- **GTHC:** “Go To Hell, Carolina,” because the rivalry is real
pArts 2021 Specifics

**Dates:** The program will begin the morning of Monday, August 9th and end the evening of Monday, August 16th.

**Drop Off Information:**
- *When?* August 9 from 9 am to 3 pm.
- *Where?*
  - If driving: Duke’s East Campus. We will be in communication soon to provide a specific address for student drop-off. We will have staff waiting for you to direct you upon arrival.
  - If flying: Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU). We will have staff at the airport to transport participants and their luggage to Duke’s campus.

**Entry Testing and Arrival Information:**
All students need to complete an entry test when they arrive at Duke. Entry tests will be done on West Campus at Penn Pavillion. We expect the testing process to be a smooth and quick one and it should take less than thirty minutes - hopefully closer to ten.

Students should sign up for an appointment on August 9 using the following link: https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/StudentEntryTesting@ProdDuke.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/

After completing their entry test, students can check in with East Campus Housing to move in. You will be able to change your appointment date and time if needed. A parking pass will be sent to you shortly before your appointment date.

**Move In:**
We request you only bring the items needed for the duration of the pre-orientation program as there will be limited time for you to settle into your room before programming kicks off. We encourage arranging to have the majority of your belongings either shipped to campus or brought with a friend/family member on the day of our Final Showcase.

**“Pick-up” Information:**
Participants will be let out of the program on August 16th between 8 am and 10 am to officially move into their dorms. However, the program does not officially conclude until August 16 at 9 pm, after the Final Showcase, and crewlings will be expected to return to the Rubenstein Arts Center on the 16th at 4 pm, after they’ve moved in.

**Final Showcase Information:**
The Final Showcase is our program’s way of showing off all the artwork the participants have worked so hard on during the week.
- *When?* August 16th from 6 pm to 9 pm.
- *Where?* Rubenstein Arts Center (located between Duke’s East and West Campus)
- *Parking?* Parking will be provided at the Duke Gardens Parking Lot on the corner of Campus Drive and Anderson Street.
## Sample Daily Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Additional Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 am -10 am</td>
<td>Wakeup and breakfast on East Campus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 am - 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Art Time</td>
<td>Split into “art clusters”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 pm-1:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Catered from a downtown Durham restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Activity and Crew time</td>
<td>Split into “crews” for daytime activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm - 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>Eat out at a local Durham restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 pm - 9 pm</td>
<td>Night Activity</td>
<td>We will have activities on Duke’s campus as well as in Downtown Durham.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Free time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 pm</td>
<td>Crew bonding into bedtime</td>
<td>Split into “crews”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Packing List

**Essentials**
- Sleeping bag, pillow (it will be much easier to just sleep on a sleeping bag on your mattress rather than packing your entire bed set for a few nights)
- 8 days’ worth of casual outfits (Note: it will be hot and humid)
- T-shirts and shorts
- Socks, underwear, bras, etc.
- 1-2 semi-formal outfits
- 1-2 bathing suits
- 1 blank t-shirt (or something you want to screen-print on)
- Sneakers/closed-toed shoes that you can run in
- Flip flops/casual shoes
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, contact lenses, toothbrush, deodorant, feminine products, etc.)
- Towel and shower shoes
- Beach towel
- Reusable water bottle
- Sunscreen, bug spray
- $20 cash for food trucks
- Medications, Epi-Pen (if applicable)
- Any equipment or clothes needed for your art (i.e. instruments, cameras, etc.)

**Recommended**
- Hat, sunglasses
- Extra spending money ($20; all program costs are covered, but sometimes crews go out for desserts, snacks, etc.)
- Light jacket
- Rain jacket
- A pen and journal
- Book to read in the Duke Gardens
- Portable water bottle

While all of your belongings will be locked during the day and our living/storage space is highly secure, pArts is not liable for any lost or stolen belongings. We therefore recommend you limit bringing valuable items with you (laptops, jewelry, etc.).
Policies

- All students must abide by the Duke Community Standard.
- Smoking is strictly prohibited.
- The possession or consumption of alcohol, drugs, or weapons at any time during Project Arts is strictly prohibited.
- Poor or inappropriate behavior may result in expulsion from the program.
- All Project Arts participants must remain with the program from drop-off on August 9th until its completion on the night of August 16th (excluding move-in on the 16th).
- Mail/Calls/Visitors: During the week, we strongly discourage any visitation or mail by parents and friends. Phone time will be extremely limited.

Questions or Concerns? Family members can get in touch with Project Arts participants by contacting Sara Heilman and Eli Kline (Program Directors) or the New Student Programs Office (specifically Jordan Hale, the Director of New Student Programs):

Email us at project_arts@duke.edu OR...

Contact our Program Directors directly (email is preferred):
Sara Heilman
- Phone: (919) 260-6641
- Email: sara.heilman@duke.edu

Eli Kline
- Phone: (973) 632-7640
- Email: elias.kline@duke.edu

Contact New Student Programs:
Jordan Hale
- Phone: (919) 684-8573
- Email: jordan.hale@duke.edu

New Student Programs Office
- Phone: (919) 684-3511
- Email: studentorientation@duke.edu

Emergency Information: In the case of an emergency, family members can get in touch with Project Arts participants by contacting the Duke University Police Department (DUPD) at (919) 684-2444 or 911.
FAQs

When should I arrive?
New Student Programs partners with Housing and Residence Life to arrange early arrival for all students participating in a pre-orientation program. Plan to arrive between 9am and 3pm on the start date of pArts (August 9th).

Can I move in earlier than the start date of the program?
Since the start of programs is also tied to moving in and completing required testing, early/late arrival poses a logistical challenge. If you are able at all to arrive August 9th that is preferred. If you end up having to arrive in Durham early, you might have to find your own accommodations and then continue with the scheduled move-in and baseline testing on August 9th.

If I am flying to Durham, how will I get to Duke?
Airport pick-up will be available. If you need a ride to Duke from RDU, please contact Sara or Eli so they know when you are arriving to coordinate a shuttle.

What will testing look like?
All students will be required to complete an Entry Baseline test, but there will not be a sequester period while awaiting results. Students should sign up for a testing appointment and plan to move in after completing their test. Appointments can be made at the following link:

https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/StudentEntryTesting@ProdDuke.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/

Will I be staying in my assigned room?
While it is our goal for students to be able to move into their Fall 2021 housing assignment, there is the possibility that your room is not available for the start of the pre-orientation programs. If that is the case, you will be given access to a temporary room for the duration of the program and will move into your Fall assignment after your program ends.

Can I move in all my belongings when I arrive?
We request you only bring the items needed for the duration of the pre-orientation program as there will be limited time for you to settle into your room before programming kicks off. Additionally, in the rare chance that your Fall assignment is unavailable, there will not be a space to store the remainder of your belongings prior to move-in day. We encourage arranging to have the majority of your belongings either shipped to campus or brought with a friend/family member on the official move-in day.

The website states the program ends August 16th; Will my student have a place to stay that evening?
Students will have access to their permanent housing assignments and will be able to stay in their rooms on August 16th with RAs on call in each dormitory.
Because my student will have access to their permanent housing assignment, may I move them in early?

It is strongly discouraged to bring all your belongings for the year prior to August 16th. We recommend only bringing what is necessary for the program, as we will not have the staff or logistical power necessary to coordinate full move-ins, and have not planned the program so that students have extensive time to settle into their permanent dorm rooms. Please reach out if there are any questions about this policy.

What types of safety measures are observed during pArts?

We are fortunate to have nearly a 1:2 ratio of pArts staffers to crewlings. pArts staffers are “on-call” 24/7 to ensure there is always an easily accessible staffer should any crewling require assistance or have an emergency. They are trained in how to act during health emergencies and other at-risk situations, though we are committed to preventing the need for any such training to be exercised. Furthermore, each student’s Resident Assistant (RA) will be staying in their permanent dorms for the program’s entirety.

Contact

Provided is Program Director contact information should you have any questions or concerns about pArts before, during, or after the program. Please also reach out via email with what you found useful in this guide and suggestions for how to improve it for the future.

Email is preferred (please include “pArts” in the subject line), but always feel free to call us or DUPD should there be a concern that requires more immediate attention; we will be on-call 24/7 during the program.

Sara Heilman, Program Director
- Phone: (919) 260-6641
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Program Email (only to be used prior to the program): project_arts@duke.edu