WELCOME TO BGSU!

We’re excited to have you join us for Student Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR). Participation in SOAR is required, as it is a vital part of the start to your successful college journey. Throughout the program you’ll learn more about the BGSU community, academic and co-curricular expectations, and opportunities to shape your experience. You will also meet with an academic advisor to schedule courses to put your academic plan into action.

SOAR is an all-day program. There is a lot of information to cover about your transition and many action items you must complete before leaving campus. Expect to be on campus from 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on your scheduled date. Please keep this in mind, especially if traveling from far away to attend SOAR.

If you would like to stay overnight in Bowling Green before or after SOAR, you can find a list of local accommodations online here: bgsu.edu/soardirections

Get Connected Now!

Join the Class of 2022 cohort page on Facebook to begin connecting with other new students. You will also see important updates about SOAR and other BGSU resources and services.

Are your parents and family members attending SOAR? Either way, you should encourage them to stay connected to BGSU and other parents and family members by visiting the BGSU Parents Facebook page.

BELONG. STAND OUT. GO FAR. CHANGING LIVES FOR THE WORLD.™

New Student Orientation • 301 Bowen-Thompson Student Union • Bowling Green, OH 43403
419-372-0353 • orientation@bgsu.edu • www.bgsu.edu/newstudent
@FalconSOAR  @BGSUorientation
WE CAN’T WAIT TO MEET YOU!

Check-in for SOAR begins at 7:15 a.m. in Olscamp Hall. Our program begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. so please arrive no later than 7:45 a.m. Check out the campus map on page 3 of this packet for details regarding navigation to the parking lot and Olscamp Hall. Your parking permit is found on page 4.

SOAR Reservation Details
Student Name:

SOAR Date (you must attend on the date below):

Selected Major and College:

Number of Registered Family Members/Guests*:

*You are encouraged to pre-register family members and guests to avoid unnecessary delays and late registration fees at check-in. The fee for pre-registered family members and guests is $25 each and $12 for children under 12 years old. On-site registration is $30 per adult guest and $12 per child. There are no refunds for guests, but the fee can be transferred easily to another guest.

What to Bring to SOAR
- SOAR Parking Permit (page 4)
- Questions and concerns that arise after reviewing the advising information (page 5-6). We encourage you to bring questions from your parents and guests too.
- A copy of transcripts, grades, course list, etc. from College Credit Plus or courses taken at another institution if you are currently enrolled in classes and have not yet submitted an official transcript to the Office of Admissions.
- A jacket or sweater
- One of the following forms of identification:
  - Valid state-issued driver’s license with photo
  - State-issued photo ID card
  - Passport with photo
  - Military ID card

Special Accommodations

Facilities used for SOAR are all barrier free.

Accessible parking is available in all parking lots for persons who properly display a current state-issued disabled/handicapped plaque/card in accordance with Ohio Revised Code. Please notify us of your needs for accommodations at least two weeks prior to your arrival by returning to your online reservation, emailing orientation@bgsu.edu, or calling our office at 419-372-0353.

To our guests with disabilities, please indicate if you need special services, assistance or appropriate modifications to fully participate in this event by contacting Accessibility Services, access@bgsu.edu, 419-372-8495. Please notify us prior to the event.
BGSU ADVISING OVERVIEW

At BGSU, students are assigned an academic advisor from day one. We strive to provide every opportunity possible for students to develop an on-going partnership designed to lead toward the important outcome of student success. This partnership begins at SOAR and continues to develop throughout students’ time at BGSU.

What’s the Purpose of Advising?

BGSU advisors strive to challenge and support students to become independent and engaged citizens who are able to take responsibility for achieving lifelong educational, personal, and career goals. Across all of our programs and colleges, academic advising provides students the opportunity to build a relationship with their advisors in order to:

- establish educational and career goals
- develop academic degree plans to progress towards graduation
- explore experiential learning opportunities such as study abroad, service learning, internships, undergraduate research and many other co-curricular opportunities

Things to Know as You Prepare for Advising

Academic advising is a critical component of the course selection and registration process. During the SOAR advising session, students will meet with an academic advisor and map out appropriate courses for degree completion. To help determine which courses are best suited for a student’s first semester at BGSU, the advisor will take into consideration information about: students’ interests, educational and career goals; requirements of the students’ intended major plan; previous college credit; placement exams for General Studies Writing and Math Placement; and BG Perspective courses, one or two introductory courses for the major, and many other co-curricular opportunities.

In order to make the most of their time with their advisor, students should prepare for advising before they attend SOAR. Preparation includes:

- Send or Bring Information on Completed and In-Progress College-Level Coursework
  If you have completed college-level coursework, please send official transcripts or scores to the Office of Admissions. This includes College Credit Plus courses and Advanced Placement (AP) Credit. This information will be helpful for advisors to know for your advising session and will help to build the first semester schedule. To ensure information is accurate, please send transcripts and test scores as soon as they are available. If courses are still in progress, you can also bring a copy of your unofficial transcript to SOAR to discuss with your advisor.

- Completing the Writing Placement for Placement into General Studies Writing (GSW)
  Based on your Writing Placement score or accepted credit from another institution, you will either take GSW 1100 (5 credit hours), GSW 1110 (3 credit hours), or GSW 1120 (3 credit hours). If you completed the Writing Placement before you scheduled SOAR session, you will receive the placement score at your advising session.

  If you have not completed your Writing Placement, you must do so as soon as possible. Your scores need to be processed and sent to your advisor before your scheduled SOAR visit. If you do not do so, you may leave SOAR with an incomplete class schedule.

  To complete the placement:
  - Log onto the myBGSU web portal
  - Click on the “New Student” icon
  - Click on the “Placement Test” link found on the left-hand side and follow the prompts

If you completed a college writing/composition class at another institution, via College Credit Plus, or Advanced Placement, a Writing Placement may not be necessary. However, students MUST send an official transcript or scores to the Office of Admissions from the college at which the credit was earned.

- Math Placement
  If your Math ACT is greater than or equal to 22, you will automatically be placed into math courses based on your ACT/SAT scores and high school GPA. If your Math ACT score is less than 22, you will be placed into Math 99 or Math 1150 depending on your declared major. In either case, advisors will use this information to recommend appropriate math courses. More information will be given at SOAR.

- Exploring the BG Perspective Courses
  All students at BGSU must meet the requirements of BGSU’s general education program—BG Perspective: 21st Century Liberal Studies. During the completion of general education requirements, students will hone their intellectual skills that include the ability to think critically and communicate effectively; the ability to understand different cultures, modes of thought, and multiple values; and the ability to investigate forces that shape scientific and technological complexities of contemporary culture. Typically, the first semester is a combination of BG Perspective courses, one or two introductory courses for the major, plus English composition (GSW) and/or math. During SOAR, you will be given information about these requirements, but you are encouraged to review the material prior to your visit.

You can find more information, as well as a list of courses offered, at bgsu.edu/bg-perspective. We strongly encourage you to find several courses you find interesting and would enjoy taking during your time at BGSU. Though we cannot guarantee you will be placed in each class you want, advisors will take your interests into consideration when creating a schedule that complements the needs of your major.
Parents and Guests

Academic advisors have one goal—to help students achieve their academic, career and personal aspirations.

Encourage your students to make the most of their BGSU experience by getting to know their academic advisor.

While discussing courses and academic expectations with your student is crucial, the advising session at SOAR is for students only. BGSU has several reasons for this policy:

- By taking advantage of this opportunity to meet one-on-one with an advisor, the student has an opportunity to develop in alignment with the University’s mission. The mission states that “BGSU students are prepared for lifelong career growth, lives of engaged citizenship and leadership in a global society,” and two core values of the University note, “We promote intellectual and personal growth through curricular and co-curricular efforts,” and, “We foster an environment of creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.” Students can begin their personal journey of development, growth, leadership, and entrepreneurship in the advising meeting by advocating for their plans and interests while building trust and learning from the experience and expertise of their advisor.

- Students are empowered to make choices in their educational career at BGSU. By beginning this developmental process during SOAR, students are prepared to make their own decisions from the start of their BGSU journey.

- BGSU complies with all FERPA regulations. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of a student’s education record. FERPA applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. We encourage you to check out bgsu.edu/student-affairs/ferpa for more information.

Though the advising appointment at SOAR is for students only, BGSU strives to be as transparent about the advising process as possible, and does not wish to prevent parents and guests from understanding why decisions on a student’s schedule were made. We suggest discussing a plan of action with your student to help them prepare for the advising meeting. Please be aware that class availability, recommended coursework for different majors, and information about students’ placements and previous coursework may limit course selection options.

Below is a list of questions we encourage students and parents/guests to talk through to help ensure the student is prepared for the advising appointment:

- What questions do you have for your advisor?
- Why are you choosing your selected major?
- What BG Perspective courses sound interesting to you?
- What courses did you enjoy in high school?
- How many credit hours are you comfortable taking?
- What outside concerns may affect your course schedule? (e.g. commuting to campus, holding a job, volunteering commitments)
- What will you do if you are taking a class and it’s not going well?
- How do you plan to discuss your academic progress with your parents/family throughout the semester?
- What will your communication with your advisor look like during the semester?
- How do you plan to discuss the advising session at SOAR with your parents/family? (e.g. taking notes, talking after the advising session, etc.)

## SOAR Checklist

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<tr>
<th>TO DO</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>File the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and learn more about the financial aid process at BGSU.</td>
<td>As soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join the Class of 2022 Facebook group.</td>
<td>As soon as you want to connect with other incoming students!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take your Writing Placement Test online (see page 5 for additional details).</td>
<td>As soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Send official transcripts or scores to the Office of Admissions for any college-level classes you have already completed. This includes College Credit Plus courses and Advanced Placement (AP) Credit. (see page 5 for additional details).</td>
<td>As soon as they are available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Loan Borrowers, sign your Master Promissory Note and complete entrance counseling online.</td>
<td>As soon as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make your payment for tuition or sign-up for a payment plan and make your first payment.</td>
<td>Check out the “Taking Care of Your Bill” information for payment details (page 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete the Financial Responsibility Agreement and update your contact information.</td>
<td>Before your SOAR date – check your “To Do List” in your myBGSU for completion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waive/enroll in the Student Health Insurance plan.</td>
<td>The day after your SOAR visit</td>
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**www.choose.bgsu.edu/nextsteps**

"As a whole, I have been satisfied with my SOAR experience."

"SOAR provided me with the tools and information necessary to successfully help my student transition to BGSU."

92.7% OF FAMILY MEMBERS/GUESTS AGREED WITH THE STATEMENT

95.1% OF FAMILY MEMBERS/GUESTS AGREED WITH THE STATEMENT
Bowling Green State University offers tools and services to you and your family to help manage finances. To continue your education at BGSU, you must be in good standing with the University.

Financial resources to help pay tuition and other expenses

1. Financial Aid
   - Apply for financial aid early to maximize funding options. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
   - If you completed your FAFSA previously, add BGSU’s school code of 003018 to make sure we receive your application information.
   - Take advantage of scholarship opportunities by logging into myBGSU and clicking on Financials.

2. Tuition Reimbursement Programs
   - Check with your employer, or have your parents check with their employer to determine tuition reimbursement programs.

3. Personal Payments
   - BGSU payment plan: Learn more at Payment Plan Options
   - After registering, make sure payment in full is received by the posted due date.

Stay informed and current with your financial aid and your bill

1. Estimate your Bill
   - Visit the Calculate Your Cost of Attendance to calculate your expected bill.

2. Email Notifications
   - Check your BGSU email account regularly for important financial aid messages and billing updates.

3. Access BGSU
   - Access BGSU provides students the ability to share important data such as Financial Aid Awards, Billing/Payment information, Holds, To Do List and Grades with designated proxy (parent, guardian, spouse, etc.). For step-by-step instruction on using Access BGSU, please visit bgsu.edu/accessbgsu and review the guides listed under “Documentation”. Access must be delegated before we can discuss your account with a parent or guardian.

4. Financial Aid Requirements and Awards
   - Log in to MyBGSU to view status of your financial aid and your awards. Check your “To Do List” on a regular basis for items that need to be completed.

5. Online Bill
   - To view your student account summary, log into your myBGSU account and navigate to your student center.

6. Mailing Address Updates
   - Make sure your address is current. Review your Personal Information in your MyBGSU.