The Bridge Orientation Week

Primary Instructor: Professor Laura Davalos

The Bridge Program begins on a Sunday, five days before the start of Trinity’s main first year orientation. A welcome team with grocery carts and lots of enthusiasm will be on hand to help students sign in and unload their cars. Before saying goodbyes that evening, family and friends are included in a welcome orientation, a meal, and activities.

During the Bridge Orientation week, all participants are required to live on campus. Those who plan to commute to campus during the year will get the chance to experience dorm life for the week. Those who plan to live on campus will be able to move into their rooms in the residence halls – the rooms they will have for the year. Because activities are planned for some evenings, all students are required to fully devote their time to this program and are not to leave campus for employment and/or social reasons.

Students in the program will become familiar with the campus and all its resources, hone college survival skills, and participate in team-building activities. By the time the rest of the first year students arrive on Friday and First Year Experience activities begin, they will have already developed friendships and support systems that will give them a confidence-boosting advantage in adjusting to campus life.

Academics 101

1 Credit Hour – Professor Laura Davalos

This course is designed to expand on the skills and concepts introduced in the orientation week. Upper level teaching assistants will help guide students through the academic and social adjustments to college life. The textbook is an excellent resource that will be valuable throughout all four years at Trinity. As with all college courses, a grade is assigned.

FAQs about the Bridge Program

1. Is participating in the orientation week and attending the ACAD 101 course in the fall semester mandatory for me to be able to attend Trinity? Yes, without exception. It is the condition upon which you were admitted to Trinity.

2. Will I also be participating in the first year orientation, called the First Year Experience?

Yes, all first-year students are required to complete FYE, the first year orientation program. The Bridge Orientation ends with lunch on Friday, and FYE activities will begin that same afternoon.

3. Do I really have to live on campus during the Bridge orientation week?

Yes. All students in the program will live on campus during orientation week to enable them to participate in both day and evening excursions.

4. Who else will be on campus during the orientation week?

The residence hall staff will be on campus along with many student athletes and students who are part of the First Year Experience Committee.

5. Who will lead the orientation week?

Professor Laura Davalos, the director of Trinity’s Office of Learning Services, will direct the program along with the help of upper class students and other college personnel. She will also be teaching the Academics 101 course which is taken in the fall semester.

6. I’ve been diagnosed with a disability (a learning or physical disability or an attentional/emotional disorder.) Can I receive accommodations at Trinity as I did in high school?

Trinity has an active disability services program, run through The Office of Learning Services. Contact the director, Professor Laura Davalos for details. (See her contact information below.)

7. I’m flying into Chicago. How will I get from the airport to campus, and is it possible for me to arrive any earlier than the 1:00 Sunday move-in time?

Contact your admissions counselor and/or the Student Development Office to make arrangements. [Admissions: 800.874.6463; Student Development: 708.239.4704]

8. Can I forward some of my things to Trinity before I arrive on campus?

Yes! Be sure to call your admissions counselor or the Student Development Office to make arrangements.

THE OFFICE OF LEARNING SERVICES

ACADEMIC SUPPORT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
Gina Smith
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DIRECTOR:
Professor Laura Dávalos
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What is the Bridge program?
The desire for a college education has never been higher among high school graduates. While the financial advantages of obtaining a college degree are impressive, the costs of achieving one escalate each year.

Every year the Bridge Program allows approximately 25 applicants who do not meet Trinity’s entrance requirements to enroll in the College as first year students. The Program is designed to provide assistance in transitioning to college and ongoing support throughout the first semester.

Contact information:
Bridge Program Director:
Professor Laura Davalos
Office of Learning Services
Trinity Christian College
708.239.4765 direct line
laura.davalos@trnty.edu

What’s the purpose of the program?
The Bridge Program is designed to assist students as they transition into college and face the rigorous academic and personal demands of the first year experience.

Who attends the Bridge program?
Trinity Christian College has developed this program for students who are admitted conditionally to the College. This is based on high school GPA, score on college entrance exams, or a combination of the two. Other first year students may apply to be accepted into the program and may be enrolled if space permits.

It sounds expensive.
This is a service the college provides to enhance success. There is no cost to the student.

What are the program Components?
The first component is an end-of-the-summer, 5-day orientation. The second is a semester-long, academics course. Both are designed to hone learning and study skills essential to college success.