

Parent and Family Orientation Survey

Check in and Registration

Registration/Check-in at Gund Commons

Very Good	<u>129</u> (67%)	
Good	<u>44</u> (23%)	
Okay	<u>6</u> (3%)	
Poor	<u>0</u> (0%)	
Did Not Attend	<u>12</u> (6%)	
<i>no answer</i>	<u>1</u> (1%)	

Expenses

- I heard a parent express disbelief that, after paying nearly \$50,000 for a year of education, that families were being charged for a picnic lunch –
- we stood in a long line for a long time to pick up a schedule and map, then were told we had to be in another line, right next to this line at the same table, to get our lunch tickets. why didn't both ends of the table sell the lunch tickets??
- I would suggest not selling class t-shirts in the same line as lunch tickets. Parents were mainly in this line and many unsure of sizes.

UCC/Student Workers/Staff

- Having students handing out info while we were waiting to get in Gund before 8 a.m. was great.
- That is a situation you're unlikely to get the pandemonium out of. It was fine. The assistance with unpacking the car was important on many levels and should definitely be maintained. It's a long day for kids and parents and being relieved of some of that work is very valuable. It's also very welcoming of course. Keep that going.
- Our daughter, Caroline Lindy, arrived for the Community Service pre-orientation, and everything was very well organized, and everyone very helpful, nice and welcoming.
- Everyone was friendly, helpful, good-humored.
- my son was involved with the community service program - the students were very helpful
- Friendly Kenyon students greeting us outside and inside Gund were a big help in making us all feel welcome!
- All the students were friendly but, they did not seem sure of the process as a whole, only their small part.
- Very friendly and welcoming!
- The student helpers were friendly and welcoming.
- It was great to have the football team there to help unload cars and carry things. The process went smoothly compared to other move-in days we have experienced.
- Such a pleasure to be greeted by such friendly, knowledgeable people!
- As an alumni, it was very exciting. Everyone was very helpful and cheerful, making the experience a good one.
- I was very thankful to the football team members who helped us with the bags--A big thank you to them.
- LOTS of smiling helpful people. No problems. All questions were answered.
- It was a little unclear where to go but very helpful friendly students/staff were readily available.

- Students were helpful. Had a hard time finding financial aid and walked around a bit till I actually got to Eaton Center
- Loved (right away) meeting admissions officer who was daughter's contact person throughout application process. Her warmth was a comforting start to our good-bye day. Also appreciated friendliness of returning students and their readiness to answer assorted questions.
- There seemed to be a lot of Kenyon staff standing around, making it seem more chaotic than it actually was.
- very efficient process with lots of helpful people ready to answer any question or guide you to a person who would have the answer.
- The CA's and student assistants were extremely friendly and helpful.
- It was so great to see the athletes who had arrived early help the remaining Freshman move in on the 24th.
- I liked the greeters who introduced themselves as we moved along in line. It was a warm welcome to new parents and students.
- It was nice having the admissions folks out front to greet us
- A little chaotic, and no place for the family to stand/nothing to do while the student was going through it. This was an opportunity missed. This is a great place for the admissions officers to greet students' families, and for Kenyon propaganda (a short video in the corner?) to be thrust into parents' faces.
- My daughter was one of the first to go through registration and things moved quickly and smoothly for her. I really appreciated the help from the athletes in moving in. It made things go so much more smoothly. My daughter's key did not work in her door and the issue was resolved very quickly. Overall, it was a much more positive experience than I anticipated.
- The students who were staffing the effort were both helpful and cheerful. They made a great first impression on us anxious first-year parents.
- very friendly staff inside and out.
- It was very helpful that so many Admissions folks were there!
- Not necessarily a part of the check-in process, the high degree of student involvement throughout the orientation programs and having the young men from the football team help in moving our daughter into her room were both helpful and reflected positively regarding the expectation of commitment to the Kenyon community manifest within the student body.
- We felt warmly welcomed to campus, but in the initial excitement of arriving at Kenyon, we did a lousy job of utilizing the "arrival check list." We should have gone around the room table-by-table to ensure we covered everything.

Organization

- The check list had items on it that were suggested being done before leaving the room. We looked around for financial aid tables and could not find them. Then we asked about how and where we take care of financial aid items and were told it wasn't handled in Gund. There was another item on the list as well that wasn't taken care of there. Can't remember.
- We arrived at around 9:30 and were told there were substantial lines at around 8:00 AM. It might be worth advising people to stagger their arrival.
- It was very efficient and friendly.
- Pretty easy and friendly
- Everything ran very smoothly.
- Well organized and trouble free. Everybody was very courteous
- The parent table sold both meal tickets and gave out the academic advisor information. It was a bit confusing and a very long line. Would recommend that the academic advising info be distributed separate from selling meal tickets. (Needed more people selling meal tickets).
- We liked the muffins! Line went quickly and process was efficient.
- I thought the entire process went quite smoothly and efficiently.

- It was clear and easy. People were friendly and helpful.
- Excellent, painless, immediate separation of students from parents set the stage for 4 years of student's responsibility and independent action.
- I think that "feeder" lines to the tables would have helped. There was such a cluster in front of the tables, it was difficult to see which line went where.
- The table regarding computers was not necessary - simply told us that there was a connection in the room. Long line, but it moved pretty quickly.
- My son attended while I parked the car. But we could have used a brochure directing us to Walmart, Kmart, Staples, etc.
- A little confusing. It may be helpful to number each station/table -- with a sign that you can see from a distance, maybe up high. Then the checkoff list can coordinate the tasks that can be accomplished at each station. Also, the checkoff list referred to filling out a "red" form, which was actually blue.
- When our son's room key was not available they forgot to give him the rest of the paperwork he needed so we had to go back... not a big deal
- a little chaotic but to be expected
- Signs identifying the lines would help (i.e. tee shirt, lunch ticket etc)
- It was an opportunity to meet a lot of parents
- No. It went faster than I had expected!
- Seemed to go about as well as could be expected with the large number of clueless parents
- I think the signage could have been clearer. Not sure why we had to go from room to room. Maybe look at the flow of people.
- We delegated our daughter to check in and register. We surmise that the process was good to very good as she came back to the car shortly with the packet of information.
- The check-in process was much easier than expected. The lines moved very quickly, and everyone was very helpful.
- I like how the parents and kids were gently diverted in different directions. At that moment I realized this is college! High school doesn't work that way!
- easy, well organized
- Felt the process was extremely organized and well run.
- It was well organized and everyone was extremely friendly!
- Seemed very complete and well organized.
- It was not obvious before we arrived what the procedure would be and where we needed to be. Had we known that it would take fairly long, we would have arrived earlier in the day.
- Extremely well organized, very efficient and friendly
- Very easy and allowed enough time to meet other families in line
- I liked having the group controlled by only letting in a small number at a time.
- It seemed to be very organized, although we were unclear how and where to meet up with our son after the initial gathering of materials
- Loved the clarity of the process. Only improvement would be parking, but I don't know how to do it better.
- I wish I had known how long the banking people were going to be available. I went at lunch time to set up a checking account for my daughter and they had left. Doing this from a distance has been difficult, it is two weeks now, and I still can't get this finished, and I can't be on the account because I am not there in person to do so.
- Check-in for us went very smoothly. Check-in was organized very well
- We were impressed with the organization - went very smoothly.
- Great registration/check-in event! Very organized, people were very friendly, kind and helpful! It was an exciting, festive and fun way to start the process!
- Amazingly smooth and friendly!
- We participated in check in through the football team process and it went very well.

- Name Tags for Parents stating their student's name and where the family resides.
- It was great

Campus Tours

Very Good	<u>25</u> (13%)	
Good	<u>14</u> (7%)	
Okay	<u>2</u> (1%)	
Poor	<u>0</u> (0%)	
Did Not Attend	<u>147</u> (77%)	
<i>no answer</i>	<u>4</u> (2%)	

Parent Orientation

Parent Orientation Session in Rosse Hall

Very Good	<u>130</u> (68%)	
Good	<u>28</u> (15%)	
Okay	<u>5</u> (3%)	
Poor	<u>0</u> (0%)	
Did Not Attend	<u>27</u> (14%)	
<i>no answer</i>	<u>2</u> (1%)	

Topics

- I believe the policy on being written up should be discussed. Chain of events if student is written up and how parents find out.
- A little more about the curriculum and educational philosophy. Otherwise it was very helpful and personal.
- I found the low key, good humor of the speakers very reassuring and welcoming. I guess night-time (ie walking on campus late etc) issues were the only omission I noticed.
- Health services - clinic/doctor/treatment process, etc.
- how does campus security handle an event that requires a college wide alert?
- everything was great, but I could have used a quick summary of banking options for the kids and information on shuttles and how they will get off campus if they need to- and more information regarding what they do if they feel sick.
- Excellent presentation. Though I did run into one of the assistant deans on the way out. She offered the most valuable piece of advice when she told me that it was OK to let my daughter see me cry that day to show her how much this transition meant. (I had been focused on holding back the tears.) I think that would be a great piece of advice for all parents. Maybe you could add that to your presentation next year.
- More about the freshman orientation process.
- With the new technology perhaps a process to help understand how students can get their new laptops operational. We purchased a new laptop with Windows Vista from Dell and informed Dell it was for Kenyon. It took a week of confusion to get connected to your intranet. Your IT department could not get it communicating. I was able to once I understood the Kenyon security requirements. Perhaps if the computer companies all knew and included recommendations/instructions of what you require.
- I think I would like to hear from more of the depts in student services-health, career, physical ed etc.

- Drugs and alcohol.
- Banking/Personal Finances -- I would like to have known what other parents and students are doing to make cash or credit available on campus.
- I didn't know there were campus tours offered.
- more on campus security...what protocols,plans,etc.are in place for emergencies.
- Please note that although campus tours were advertised ahead of time (oddly conflicting with the parent orientation session for the most part), they were not noted in the day's agenda, so we assumed that they were not running. My husband, who had not seen the campus before, would have loved a tour. It also might have been cool to hear from a professor about the way courses are run. Athletics would have been nice to cover as well

General Review

- Great job, and walked the fine line of encouraging parents to be participants while yet stepping back and permitting their children to grow up. By contrast, this same sort of meeting at Amherst College some years ago was devoted to basically telling the parents that they were no longer needed. Dumb. Glad Kenyon has a head on its shoulders.
- Again, well organized and insightful. Little details like sending a letter to your child and locking dorm rooms are important. Well done.
- My husband and I attended the parent orientation on Aug 17 when we dropped off our daughter for volleyball training. We both enjoyed hearing from the representatives of the various offices and programs. We particularly enjoyed the comments by the Dean of Students and the Academic dean. Their comments were very thoughtful and right on. I've told many others about the Dr Gocial's card with the question "What do you want to do about this?". What a great way to give parents the "permission" to let go.
- Excellent - just not quite enough time before needing to go to lunch.
- Enjoyed all who spoke. This is my third time as freshman parent, but it was very informative.
- met in rec center - small group - it was fine
- This was very thorough, and the speakers were each quite impressive.
- Logistics such as when she we plan on our student leaving Kenyon at Thanksgiving. Friday night? Saturday morning?
I will look for that info on the website.
- A variety of topics were covered in a very thoughtful & entertaining manner & the Q&A @ the end gave ample opportunity for additional topics if not covered.
- Tammy Gocial was the most informative speaker. There were an awful lot of them!
- The relaxed atmosphere was a positive for new parents
- No--it was terrifically informative. A lot of thoughtful input, given with grace, wisdom and humor.
- There was a lot of interesting information. Thank you for doing this.
- The speakers were great. Lots of good stuff to learn.
- As a christian family we would have appreciated time to attend the Chapel service prior to the parent orientation event. We understand that it is a busy day but these two events overlapped.
- Topics covered were great. We left during the question/answer session as the questions asked were all provided in the literature given
- No, all of the important topics were covered and the speakers were excellent. They presented the information in a relaxed, humorous manner that was very comforting. My husband and I exited the session feeling like our only child was being left with persons who would truly support and care for him in our absence.
- I thought that they did a great job and the humor was much appreciated.
- very useful and helped to relax
- I thought the range of information offered by the speakers was great and each and everyone of them had a tremendous sense of humor which made it that much more enjoyable
- They were very comprehensive -- the microphones should be checked prior to presentation

- Having difficulties with the microphone system was a problem. Suggest having AV/IT folks standing by to help in the future
- Almost all parent meetings I have had at Kenyon, either this time or during earlier campus visits, have been top notch and, for the most part, better than other schools.
- Great session! Very thoughtful, helpful and reassuring! Loved the panel's sense of humor!
- we loved it
- Q&A part at the end was hectic as people were leaving to get to other things while questions were being asked. Maybe allow a little more time. Good speakers for the most part who seemed very engaged and informative.

Why didn't parents attend?

- Have been here for going on 22 years. Kinda "been here, done that."
- Since we have an older son who's finishing college, this session didn't seem to be necessary for us, as I gather it had to do mainly with adjusting to having a kid in college. And I'd visited the campus with Geoff in the Spring, so I felt I knew a bit about Kenyon itself.
- We tried to get in, but there were not enough seats.
- One parent attended session, the other was still in the middle of helping move daughter and set up room. There was not enough time allocated for move in (at least for a girl!)
- HAd a long journey home and arrived the day before.
- We did not have enough time to go.
- I only attended for a short time because of the schedule. I was concerned about getting back to my daughter's dorm, getting my family to Pierce for lunch and then being ready for Convocation.....Given the number of people there, I was concerned about time.
- it took us hours to unpack our daughter, so no time to attend anything beyond lunch, and we started, in line at Gund, at 8 am. Then we had to catch a plane. Wish we had the schedule earlier so when we made our plane reservations we would have known to leave later.
- Chose to use time to help daughter get settled, and she and I wanted to be together as much as possible.
- between settling our daughter into her room and eating lunch at Pierce we just ran out of time to do everything that was scheduled
- we were still busy moving her into her room and didn't feel like leaving her although we really wanted to attend

Convocation

Opening Convocation

Very Good	137 (71%)	
Good	33 (17%)	
Okay	7 (4%)	
Poor	0 (0%)	
Did Not Attend	13 (7%)	
<i>no answer</i>	2 (1%)	

Things that went well

- Excellent speech by Georgia Nugent -- really laid out why Kenyon is special.
- Have to admit, this was the first time I've ever attended. It was very moving. Loved the processional.

- We admired the intellectual focus. At times amusing and with some light-hearted anecdotes, but still very much counteracting the sense that college was more summer camp than intellectual engagement.
- I was really moved by the faculty turnout and the way you had the faculty come in and form a funnel so the students saw each one of them as they came in. It really displayed the care you have for each student. The speeches were all fine and concise. It was a great event. And I'm glad it was in the KAC, as I'd have been dripping with sweat if it were outdoors that day, although I'm sure it's beautiful when you're able to do it outdoors.
- Great transition for the kids and the parents. Enjoyed the formal "hand off" from admissions to the faculty. Well done.
- Liked Howard Sachs comments a lot.
- My husband and I thought this was a fantastic event for both of us and for our son.
- I especially enjoyed Dr. Nugent's address. The use of Aristotle was quite apt, I thought.
- Moving the service to the field house was a good idea. Speakers were short & sweet. Very impressed.
- It was great! What a wonderful way to bring a class together and formally make them a group. Comments by speakers were right on and appreciated. Enjoyed admissions presenting the class.
- I found it very meaningful. The speeches were excellent, thoughtful and I think it must have had a profound impact on the students.
- Wonderful - each person speaking. The president's speech confirmed our good feelings about Kenyon as our son's choice.
- I feel the importance of the ceremony is a good way to get the students to appreciate what is special about Kenyon
- I truly enjoyed the ceremony and thought having a formal opening was a lovely way to mark the beginning of the students' collegiate life. Most of the speeches were truly excellent, inspiring, and informative. I especially appreciated those who were pithy and brief. President Nugent officiated with grace and dignity and gave a truly excellent address.
- The ceremony impressed us. It was both appropriate and meaningful, and conveyed what we see as perhaps Kenyon's greatest strengths--its strong community, small scale, and close connection between faculty and students.
- I love the way it united these students as a Class. It was moving to see the Class of 2012 flag. The speeches were just the right length and very welcoming.
- Surprisingly effective evocation of class identity
- It was beautiful and all the speeches were just right! It was warm and exciting and made everyone feel good. I loved the way the faculty welcomed the new students, in full dress, like a reverse graduation. Very, very nice. Helped the kids feel like they were crossing into an important experience and helped them feel proud to be there. The whole thing was absolutely terrific.
- Enjoyed the prayers, procession, the interest of the faculty to attend.
- The presentation was very memorable
- Lovely
- Thanks for going to the trouble of having the ceremony. It was quite moving.
- The mix of speakers was very nice. I really liked how the focus was on welcoming the new class and your excitement for what they would bring to Kenyon. It made me feel that my daughter, and indeed the entire class, was special! Thank you!
- Brilliant talk on moderation, after which I bought the book at the Kenyon Bookstore. A very thoughtful distinction between chore time and appointment time. A moving event, with intellectual chops.
- The indoor site worked very well given the heat
- Lovely, special and memorable
- The speakers were exellant! Not too long...not too short
- Appreciated having it indoors on such a warm day.
- It was impressive. Parents may have paid more attention than some new students, but I'm sure my daughter will remember it as a great beginning.

- What a wonderful event. I think it made us all feel really special.
- It was very pleasant to have it in the KAC because of the temperature/humidity. I found the ceremony very moving. We are an academic family (my husband is a professor at Allgeheny), and it was nice to see the convocation from the parents' perspective.
- We appreciated the indoor venue since it was hot and predicted to rain by the afternoon.
- A very motivational experience
- Great choice to hold it inside due to weather however I know it would have been better outside-hard to see the full ceremony-
- Glad it was indoors.
- This is a great way to welcome the kids and parents.
- Liked the traditional flavor of ceremony.
- I was initially disappointed it was not held outdoors but the KAC actually worked quite well for a location. Lots of room and we got to watch the football team practice.
- Excellent! We were so impressed by the President's remarks and the entire ceremony.
- I have two older children who have already graduated from college. I kept thinking how fast it all goes by. The ceremony meant alot to me and was very well done. We loved the president's speech and the admission director and the Sociology professor. They really were all wonderful.
- Very good idea to switch to inside venue due to heat and possible storms.
- Appreciated brevity, focus and collective breadth of speeches.
- It was actually quite inspiring -- and a little intimidating! After hearing about all the accomplishments of the incoming class, I couldn't help wondering how my child would keep up -- and she's no slouch! I also wondered how many of the students felt the same way.
- I am VERY glad that it was inside. Even though it didn't rain, it would have been unbearably hot out in the sun, etc. It also seemed to too long. I understand that it is a tradition, but since we are all new to the society up there, some of that was lost on us. The speeches need to be shorter, maybe.
- Very moving, wonderful ceremony; great start to 4 years at Kenyon. However, I would have preferred the students all walking on stage and then sitting down. I wasn't able to see my daughter walk in from where I was sitting in the second row.
- beautiful. Thank you
- wonderful
- This was a very moving experience for us.
- Excellent traditional way to welcome students/families "officially" as Kenyon students.
- Enjoyed the speakers
- I was very proud and excited for my son as he joined the rich tradition of Kenyon and know he'll make his own mark in his new community.
- Wonderful ceremony. Very meaningful to me as a parent.
- I did not know what to expect, but think it is a great tradition in welcoming new students.
- Such a beautiful way to celebrate this exciting event!It is a wonderful tradition!
- Very nice. Was glad this was done when the parents were there which this was not the case for a sibling at another school.
- Good tradition, keep it up!
- We wish it had been outside. But even so, it was a joy and a treat to look into the faces of the slightly perplexed students and fascinating faculty, as they all processed by.
- It was an absolute thrill to witness. A lovely way to impress upon the entering students the importance of the journey they are beginning at Kenyon. We enjoyed seeing all the professors in their academic regalia.

Things to work on

- There should have been some thought to how students and parents would reconnect after the ceremony. An announcement to meet somewhere, maybe alphabetically, would make it easier. Also, all the beverage containers were empty at the back of the room by the time I got there.
- Although we didn't need it, some parents might be interested in significance of the colors of the hoods.
- Could have been a little shorter.
- Small point but I wish we'd had some info as to how the kids entered the gym because we were on the wrong side of the room so missed Caroline's entrance with her class.
- Too many speeches made it hard to focus on any one speech. The fact that it had to be held indoors detracted from the "magic" of seeing the students walk up Middle Path to the outdoor Convocation. (We experienced this with our first son to attend Kenyon, currently a Senior, and we really missed it this time, although we understood why it had to be held indoors that day.)
- I very much enjoyed the traditional aspect of this. The speeches were wonderful. I am so glad it was NOT outdoors! I had an EXTEMEYLY difficult time going back uphill. found no shuttle.
- Would have preferred the atmosphere of the outside setting better, but the AC was nice.
- A shame it wasn't outside - seemed kind of insitutional in the field center, but it was nice and cool.
- Very impressive but perhaps a bit too long.
- I think parents and kids are too dragged out by then to appreciate the convocation. I would suggest holding it one hour later in the day to give everyone enough time to take a deep breath and enjoy lunch instead of rushing through it, which is what we needed to do. If I had been less exhausted at that point, I would have enjoyed it more.
- It is tough to get the kids stop in the middle of a hectic day... regardless of how good teh speakers were... and from a parent's point they were good, I noticed a lot of nodding off in the ranks
- A little bit long...
- Understand the Athletic Center was not the preferred location but it was very difficult to see the students and the speakers and therefore impossible to take any good photos
- We wish it had been held in its traditional outdoor space. Having been to previous Kenyon Convocations, I know how deeply memorable the occasion is in that setting, rather than in any air conditioned building.
- Could have been shorter by having one less speech. Each of the individual speeches was a good length, however.
- Couldn't see the students and the end was a flop.
- It was quite impressive. We were curious about the "meaning" of the banners on the stage and our son wanted to know why everyone had different colored hoods, stripes, cap styles, etc. Perhaps a little history / explanation could also be included in the program.
- I do not promote lowering the drinking age to age 18 and felt a little saddened that the opening convocation was used as a time announce the issue.
- We wish we would have known from which door our child was entering so we could have seen him enter and sit near where he was. Otherwise, it was quite impressive.
- Wish there was a better seating arrangement whereby we parents could get a better look at our kids and their future friends. We are listening to profound and poignant speeches, thinking about our children's futures, and yet we cannot see them nor take a good look at all their expectant faces and they ponder their next 4 years at Kenyon.
- Enjoyed the pomp, the academic orientation, the high-mindedness. Could have used one more casual or humorous speaker to warm the ceremony up.
- I know it was really hot outside, but Kenyon is such a beautiful campus, it was sad to have to be indoors.
- Thanks for moving it to the air-conditioned facility! Too many speakers, however. I'd cut one or two and ask they keep their remarks brief.
- Loved that parents were invited, and appreciated being indoors in the heat. It could have been a little shorter.

- We thought the convocation was very positive and inspiring, with the exception of the drinking age debate being brought into it. While an important debate, we felt it changed the tone of this event and think it was a poor choice of topic for an opening convocation.
- I was dissatisfied that it wasn't held outside. The venue was so large and it was hard to see. Couldn't see any of the new freshman as the speeches were made.
- The speeches were a bit long and verbose.
- Individual speeches were excellent, but there were too many, especially after having been to the parent orientation.

Post Convocation

President's Reception

Very Good	<u>36</u> (19%)	
Good	<u>28</u> (15%)	
Okay	<u>22</u> (11%)	
Poor	<u>2</u> (1%)	
Did Not Attend	<u>101</u> (53%)	
<i>no answer</i>	<u>3</u> (2%)	

Q&A with Faculty Advisor

Very Good	<u>104</u> (54%)	
Good	<u>24</u> (13%)	
Okay	<u>10</u> (5%)	
Poor	<u>2</u> (1%)	
Did Not Attend	<u>48</u> (25%)	
<i>no answer</i>	<u>4</u> (2%)	

Kenyon vs. Other Schools

Have you attended a previous Orientation program with another student at Kenyon or another institution (other than your own college orientation)?

Yes	<u>73</u> (38%)	
No	<u>118</u> (61%)	
<i>no answer</i>	<u>1</u> (1%)	

If yes, how did this year's Kenyon program compare:

Far More Informative	<u>19</u> (10%)	
More Informative	<u>31</u> (16%)	
About the same	<u>21</u> (11%)	
Slightly Less Informative	<u>2</u> (1%)	
Far Less Informative	<u>1</u> (1%)	
<i>no answer</i>	<u>118</u> (61%)	

Parent Specific

- wouldn't charge parents/families for the picnic lunch.
- One: the end of the day was a little anti - climatic. We all went back to the dorms and tried to figure out when we should leave. Maybe the separation should be a little more formal. At U of Chicago, our son's school, everyone walked together to a campus gate after the convocation. The students kept going through the gate as a group and the parents didn't. Upperclassman were standing by with boxes of kleenexes for the parents.
- Keep up the good work! I would like a handbook and a course catalog.
- The president spoke about moderation, but her speech was too long. And it is untrue that you cannot find areas where people/strangers greet each other. Parents should be encouraged to leave at the appointed time and should be encouraged to not delay the advisor meeting by having a private meeting with the professor.
- This was an excellent day. One feedback only: The line at lunch was so long that we had to abandon it in order to get to the next scheduled event. Need to have more time or else an additional way to get lunch.
- We didn't attend the advisor session because it felt like we had had so little time with our son. I need just a little more time with him to say goodbye.
- For those of us travelling from afar...wish there was a way to get everything done from air travel to shopping for dorm rooms to finding a hotel for the night to getting to orientation on time with somehow, a bit more time. It is very intense and since there are very few places to stay in Gambier, you have the added drive from Columbus. I don't have a solution, I just know that it was intense and stressful, and shopping for everything Saturday eve prior to orientation after travelling all day from the West Coast was a challenge.
- Pitzer had a ritual I liked -- there was an event during which the faculty formed a welcoming line and the new students kissed their families goodbye and were welcomed by the faculty. It was merely symbolic -- our student was back with us in fifteen minutes to go shopping -- but the moment felt like a passage.
- That said, I very much appreciate the clarity of Kenyon's "5:00 -- Goodbye" directive. At Pomona there was an open-endedness that made the long goodbye more difficult than it had to be.
- Our older son graduated from UPenn. Although he (and other students) had a good orientation and were made to feel welcome, parents were basically given the "heres your hat, what's the hurry" treatment. I learned alot from the Kenyon orientation and felt really good about leaving our son there.
- You did a good job of seeing our minds at ease about our child being accepted, quirks and all, but also being expected to grow into a fully functioning adult. Good mix of humor and serious information.

Advisors/UCCs

- The other college where we have attended an Orientation session had a powerful presentation by the advisor on life after college. It wasn't 'Careers' but a wide-ranging presentation on how to get the student to think about how 4 years of college would fit into her larger life planning: what do I really like doing? who do I like doing it with? in what kind of environment (human and physical) do I like doing things? So, not 'how do I get a high-paying job', more 'what will satisfy me in life and how should I use my college years to find out and prepare myself.
- maybe to extend the freshmans time with their student leader person---maybe that group eats with another group the next night for more social exposure initially?
- More emphasis on the need to see the faculty adviser, and a more obvious and accessible list of office addresses. It's possible there was one but I didn't see it.
- Perhaps the faculty advisor, or maybe it was just ours, could help new parents to know what questions to ask, be readily available with info that we might not know, never having had a college student. Our session seemed unguided and nonconclusive. Perhaps we might have been told what to accomplish in this session--we were not guided by our son's advisor and still don't know if there were questions we should have addressed.
- The program ran late for those trying to get home for work the next day. The most important, and unique, experience for us was the meeting with the academic advisor; but given how late that was scheduled, we did not get back to the East Coast until after 1:00 a.m. Our son's roommate's family, from

Iowa, did not even stay through the morning; an earlier advisor meeting would have enticed them to do so.

Move-In

- I thought it was just right. ALSO, the move-in was very smooth and friendly--the unloading and parking system, the help from the football players, etc. This was really great.
- I thought the program worked very well. It looked like it was going to be bedlam based on the schedule, but, of course, it was not at all. It did its job--from the parent's perspective, it really helped us make the transition and move on. You can't do better than that.
- Kenyon did a great job in making us all feel comfortable. My wife and I were extremely pleased with all aspects, including how you matched up our son with a roommate. Also, having the athletic teams assist in moving into the rooms was very nice. All the kids were helpful and polite. Maybe add name tags to the kids, who assist in moving in with the class year

General

- Only other experience was at much larger school with orientation in summer lasting 2 days, therefore more opportunities to give information.
- More time! It was hard to check and move our son in and fit the other events and say good-bye all between 8 and 5!
- It was a very pleasant experience.
- I thought it was very well done, and presented some good thoughts for the first few weeks away from home.
- It felt like too much activity packed into one day. You may also want to remind people to get there promptly at 8:00. We are newbies at this and realized later that those extra 45 minutes would have been very helpful.
- Gosh--I thought it was superb, and vastly better than the orientation we attended for our other daughter, two days before.
- I may have missed first few minutes... In parent orientation for Class Of 2009, Nuge spoke and was very good - lower altitude than convocation talk. Having students speak at orientation was excellent. Tips for parents about kids' transition was good topic - thanks. Do you give the freshmen tips about their parents' transition? Hope so. What is the role of the faculty advisor? Very different experience/message this time compared to 3 years ago!
- The other orientation was at a large public university. The focus on the individual person and their success is important. The clear recognition that this is a big step for new students and the multiple open lines of communication and help is reassuring.
- Based on memory of our experience with University of Tampa about five years ago, this was as good if not better. We remember the UT experience being long. A cocktail hour to meet advisors and faculty and a dinner program in a hotel extended one of the day's programs. We enjoyed Kenyon's convocation and the reception.
- As Career Counselor at Reed-student services gave a lot more info--all the different depts. spoke about what they have to offer the students. I think it worked well.
- Daughter and I felt rushed with only one day to settle her in - were unable to make needed trips to town to address needs we identified in the process.
- My other child, also a freshman this year had a 2 day orientation. It included safety, drinking, academic policies and procedures. While I believe my young adult children should and will be responsible for themselves they still need guidance from me now and again. How can these students be totally independent when I pay all of their bills? Communication between myself and my children has been open and honest throughout the years. I expect them to solve their own problems and to seek help when needed. I hope Kenyon is open and willing to help with transitioning from high school to college life.
- I think everyone did a terrific job. I was so impressed with the quality of the faculty and administration and the caring, nurturing atmosphere at the college--and struck by the overwhelming niceness of all the students! I think the orientation program was a wonderful reflection of what Kenyon has to offer.

- I thought the meeting with the parents of the football team went very well and allowed for questions and interaction with the presentors.
- It was excellent. Even little things, like the water available on Main Street, were excellent. Anything you can do to welcome the students, and make them feel comfortable is superb. Its an incredibly stressful time!
- Provide a map with ALL Kenyon buildings identified. We had a hard time finding the faculty advisor's (Marla Kohlman) building. Three "official" guides couldn't help us.

Parent Classifications

Are you the parent/family member of a transfer student?

Yes 4 (2%) 

No 177 (92%) 

no answer 11 (6%) 

How far did you travel to Gambier?

Less than 60 miles 9 (5%) 

60-100 miles 6 (3%) 

100-300 miles 35 (18%) 

300-500 miles 41 (21%) 

Over 500 miles 101 (53%) 

no answer 0 (0%)

Did you drive or fly to Gambier?

Drive 142 (74%) 

Fly 43 (22%) 

other: 3 (2%) 

no answer 4 (2%) 

How many evenings did you spend in a hotel in the Mt. Vernon/Gambier/Columbus area?

0 49 (26%) 

1 64 (33%) 

2 52 (27%) 

3 15 (8%) 

4+ 10 (5%) 

no answer 2 (1%) 

Did your student attend any Pre-Orientation programs (i.e. Pre-O Service, Writers & Thinkers, fall athletics, KEEP, etc...)?

Yes 41 (21%) 

No 151 (79%) 

no answer 0 (0%)

Pre-Orientation

- My wife attended, and she indicated it was well organized and informative.
- Appreciated having the parent orientation on Aug 17th when we dropped off our daughter for volleyball.
- Good opportunity for student to feel comfortable before everyone else arrives and classes begin.
- Caroline enjoyed her program and it helped with her adjustment to college. It was also helpful to be able to settle in a bit without the greater hustle and bustle of the 8/29 arrival day.
- Perhaps should have been larger, our daughter couldn't get in.
- They were unaffordable for us.
- It was a hard decision for us, largely based on the time away from home between pre-orientation and Thanksgiving.
- I wish we had received a few emails regarding Pre-Orientation because with summer travel, the whole possibility of attending just slipped by us –
- It was great, she enjoyed it and felt comfortable when we left Gambier after reg o.
- Loved the chance to meet the volleyball team, tour the KAC, talk with the coach. Dinner with the team and other parents was a terrific idea and left me believing my daughter is in good hands.
- we did meet one student who had attended writers & thinkers and other pre-orientation programs and he was especially attentive to us as parents and gave us an impromptu tour of the campus when he ran into us. He was very enthusiastic about Kenyon
- very helpful in calming the parents of a first year student
- She loved it because she met a few people in a less stressful environment. Also, working at a task together is a great way to make friends.
- I was surprised that Kenyon did not have an outdoors oriented program. My nephews have participated in Outward Bound-type programs at Williams and Trinity and thought they provided a great way to meet people (students, faculty, the president) from their schools.
- Our daughter did the service program and absolutely loved it. Hearing that she was off of the waitlist very shortly before she needed to arrive was a real challenge and big expense for us, as plane reservations had already been made, and we needed to get her packed up in a greatly abbreviated time period, but she felt it was invaluable to have been able to participate. We loved that she became familiar with ways to give back in her school community before getting caught up in other aspects of college life, and she made friends who immediately made her feel as though she belonged there.
- The athletic team building during the cross country week was a great first experience for Alex.
- I think the soccer preseason program is poorly run and the coach is a poor communicator and very arrogant. Kenyon can and should do better.
- My daughter very much enjoyed it! It was an excellent opportunity for her. She attended the KEEP program where she met many students and she developed strong bonds with several fellow freshman students.
- We loved the opportunity to move our son into his room early, so we could take our time, do a little extra cleaning and help him get totally set up. He thoroughly enjoyed the Pre-O Service Program. In fact, we are encouraging him to apply to be a student leader for the program next year.
- Writers and Thinkers was great. The days were long though. My daughter felt exhausted.
- Chelsea had done the Young Writers program the previous summer but wanted to have as much time as possible at home to say goodbye to her HS friends. If she had not had the earlier experience, we might have encouraged the pre-o program more heartily.
- Not enough intriguing options, too much like school, not enough fun.
- Outstanding, just what my son needed to feel comfortable on campus.
- He thoroughly enjoyed himself. We came back for Sunday orientation and it was wonderful to hear him speaking to new friends he had made the previous week - even saw kids he knew at Wal-Mart!
- They are a little too specific. Our older son had a great experience with a pre-Orientation program that was simply three days of hiking/camping. Our Kenyon student was afraid that choosing either writing or community service would somehow "brand" him--even though he enjoys both.

- From what we've heard, the pre-orientation program was an excellent opportunity to meet people and get a headstart on the first year. The service aspect of the program was apparently not very compelling, but the bonding aspect was.
- Excellent. She enjoyed it and found great value in it.
- Writing and Thinking was excellent according to my son. And it was a great extra opportunity for him to get his feet wet.
- Our daughter was very glad she attended the Service program, mostly for the chance to meet other students. I don't think the service activities were the highlight but she had a good time nonetheless. She said more than once she was happy to have done it.
- It wasn't made clear early on that parents of first year students coming for pre-season sports (football) would have any orientation other than what was scheduled for the other students. Better and more timely information would have helped us plan and save some money. Our son arrived on his own for pre-season and then we drove all his stuff out to him later. We probably would have driven him and his stuff at one time if we had better info, but didn't want to miss the orientation program, which turned out to be essentially an hour and a half program. Because he didn't move in or register that day, we were out of the loop about lunch, etc. When all was said and done, though, we survived!

Most Beneficial Part of Orientation

General

- Suggestions for how to help students transition.
- Everything
- From the schedule, looks like every effort is made to integrate students into life at Kenyon, but the first day was far too rushed. We arrived at 8 am, but it took over 1 hour to get her checked into Gund and get keys. The rest of the day we were always rushed and late or could not attend everything. Never had time for lunch (one parent tried but line too long and ended up buying a juice at the store, other parent had nothing).
- Information regarding campus life and generally what to expect.
- All the Parent & Family programs were well organized and beneficial.
- The inclusion of the parents into all aspects of the programs made the inevitable separation easier to bear
- feeling a part of the community with the lunch, orientation, other scheduled events
- arriving early meant that we didn't have to fight any crowded dorm hallways
- Kenyon came across as a thoughtful, caring, and serious institution.
- The tone made the parents feel part of the school but also reminded us that these students are young adults and need to be making decisions themselves with the assistnace of the wonderful people/resources at Kenyon.
- Seeing how organized and prepared Kenyon was.
- They increased our comfort level with the cammpus and its people/community.
- I think they gave us some insight into and comfort with the Kenyon community. They also gave us some Kenyon time with our child.
- discussions concerning the support services and advisors
- Loved it all! Parent orientation, lunch, convocation, meeting her academic advisor.
- Feeling a connection to the school - like my son was going to be well taken care of.
- To increase comfort level of bothe parent and student.
- Gave structure to the day, calmed the parents down, got to talk to advisor (great!), new cafeteria was wonderful.
- No - we are very impressed with how Kenyon functions.
- The point that this is a big transition and there will be ups and downs. The clear description of available help, whether academic or social. Emphasizing that one needs to communicate issues and get involved in the community to enhance the experience.

- It gave directed time for both students and families, allowing both to spend the day together productively and gradually disengage.
- Addressing the campus safety and transportation opportunities to Mt. Vernon during the orientation eased our anxiety.
- The amount of information given both prior to and during and the amount of help we received on move in day!
- It gave us more comfort that Kenyon was the right place for our son. It did create somewhat of a sense of community that included the parents as well as their children.
- We really appreciated the special arrangements made by the Peoples Bank of Gambier that enabled us to open an account for our son on a Sunday!
- My husband had not seen the campus before Orientation but after spending the day with you, he was thoroughly impressed and convinced my daughter had made the right choice. Well done!
- The registration process and the convocation.
- Hard to say since I missed most of them.
- Help us feel more at ease with all the new people and things to learn
- Time to help my child move into the dorms and get her room set up.
- It reinforced that our son had made the right decision in choosing Kenyon.
- just meeting other families, and having a chance to meet the kids in the dorm
- The takeaway for us was: "you can trust us with your child". We enjoyed meeting our daughter's roommate and her parents. I think the match was good.

Advisors/UCCs/CAs/Staff

- Meeting with the Academic Advisor. And getting to meet the student counselors (the RA and UCC)
- 3 things. Very friendly and personal approach, especially the nice touch of meeting with our child's academic counselor. And we really liked the fact that because there were separate activities for parents and students, there was a gradual separation that occurred over the day that made leaving her there pretty uneventful. Lastly - football players helping with the move-in was pretty helpful and kind of funny.
- Mailed materials were very informative. The upperclass students were very helpful for the fall athletes as we were trying to move in.
- I thought meeting our son's adviser was a good, personal touch.
- 1. the introduction of and warm welcome to Kenyon family expressed to new student at the opening convocation makes this parent feel good about where his child is now living. 2. concise (and humorous) presentations delivered by personnel of various departments from academics to security - the personal touch is more effective (to me) than reading in a booklet. 3. Speeches at opening convocation were wonderful. 4. meeting academic advisor in person was enjoyable but also essential to knowing where to initiate problem solving concerns
- Hearing from various deans and program staff about your perspective on student's transition to college life, resources available at Kenyon, and general life at the school. It provided enough information for us, as parents, to feel very comfortable about leaving our daughter and knowing that there would be ups and downs but that there were also safety nets in place to catch her if needed.
- Convocation. I also liked meeting with the young women in the dorm who are in charge of the freshmen. I can't recall their titles, but they were very helpful and it was good to have the one-on-one contact.
- Just seeing the campus, helping with move-in and meeting key Administration staff
- All the friendly people who welcomed us and made us feel at home. Esp football team and other students who helped us move stuff into dorm room!
- Our meeting with Caroline's advisor, Jonathan Tazwell, with very informative and reassuring. He was very knowledgeable and clearly interested in being helpful to Caroline. Contact with faculty right from the start is terrific.
- It kept the parents and students separate, while the students started meeting others. Otherwise, I can see where it would have been one VERY long goodbye. We especially appreciated the time we had with our daughter's faculty advisor. It made us feel as though we absolutely chose the right school!

- Getting to meet the faculty advisor and hearing from so many people involved with the college both during the parent orientation and the Convocation.
- Getting to attach a face and personality to the names of the people my daughter would be dealing with at Kenyon. It allowed me to evaluate to a certain extent who would be most effective in helping her should she need it.
- Welcoming faces at Gund, Legacy Lunch (for our family), and morning Parent Orientation Session. Meeting the faculty student advisors was great!
- A feeling that the faculty and administration really understood the stresses on incoming students and family, and had realistic programs to deal with them. Reinforcement of the feeling that Kenyon is a close-knit family, not a bureaucracy cranking out the requisite number of graduates a year.
- Good help moving in. Generally nice helpful feeling
- I really appreciated meeting with our daughter's faculty advisor. What a wonderful match for our daughter! I also had the amazing opportunity to also meet her UCC. Also an excellent match and an AMAZING RESOURCE. Analise Gonzales is EXCEPTIONAL! She has really been the best resource for support on campus!
- Hearing Tammy Gocial.
- Interactions with the volleyball team, coach .
- Getting to meet other parents and kids; meeting the faculty advisor was really great.
- Students really felt welcome, both by those charming football players at move-in, but also with the formal convocation and introduction of the class, with families watching. A lovely ceremony
- I felt that we were given a good overview about what our son was about to experience at Kenyon. It left me feeling like he was in good hands and there was help if he needed it.
- Meeting with his advisor was terrific!!
- The football team helping students and parents move in.
- Opportunity to meet our daughter's academic advisor.
- Good source of information, very helpful to put faces with the names of the staff
- Gaining confidence in Kenyon by hearing and meeting faculty, coaches, the president & students
- We enjoyed the opportunity to talk with our son's academic advisor. It was most reassuring.
- The straight talk from staff and students and the chance to hear them speak
- The entire day was lovely. We went to the legacy lunch, and it was delightful and very well planned. It was great having the kids introduce themselves and their parents. We so appreciated the opportunity to meet with our daughter's faculty adviser that day, too. That was a wonderful gift to us. It was so much fun to see the remodeled Peirce Hall, too. The speakers in Rosse offered a lot of useful information. It was great to get bank accounts set up, also.
- We got to spend time on campus meeting people and getting a feeling about the school and the people.
- Students helping carry suitcases was a great way for the students to feel welcomed! And for us parents, having the chance to meet the faculty advisor is a golden opportunity. We were so impressed that he had studied our daughter's file and was eager to speak with us. FAR SUPERIOR to what we have experienced at our older daughter's college.
- Meeting the academic advisor. It was a great and unique opportunity. Thank you, it was really very much appreciated.
- The kind and helpful students that helped to unload car. The sensitivity and humor of the Rosse Hall speakers helped to lighten the burden of separating from our student. The total experience better familiarized us as parents to the campus and fine community members. We appreciated the opportunity to meet directly with Mr. Carson, Advisor. We felt our daughter was in good hands as we drove away.
- The chance to meet and speak to faculty
- Meeting with the student's faculty advisor and other staff members.
- Caring people! Every Kenyon community member we encountered was helpful and friendly.
- Very well organized, great team work in assisting in move-in, welcoming staff everywhere.
- The speakers were great. All of them were interesting, fun, and most importantly kind!

- I felt that the administration, faculty and students that spoke with were thoughtful, genuine and informative. They were also kind enough to leave my husband and I comfortable enough to leave our first born at Kenyon!
- Having the chance to meet the staff, and hearing what they expect from the students.
- The sense of real caring and guidance planned for the incoming students. Also appreciated the overall sense of "community" displayed in numerous ways throughout the day.
- Many thanks to the football team for helping us move in. It may seem like a simple thing, but the extra hands were very helpful and allowed us to get on to other activities on a very busy day.
- Meeting with Advisor and Convocation
- Unquestionably, the meeting with the academic advisor. We didn't bug him in our meeting, and we may never have any contact with him again, but meeting him and hearing about the advisory program allowed us to leave our son with our minds at ease.
- I think it was good the student got immediately involved with campus activities independent of us. As hard as good-byes are, seeing your daughter starting to interact with others is also great. Simply knowing she was doing something as simple as eating lunch with new friends was reassuring. Being able to meet with the faculty advisor was very nice. I find any contact with the faculty is very informative. Getting to know the faculty one-on-one, even in such abbreviated situations, helps build my confidence that Kenyon will be doing a good job.
- There was always someone available with the answers to any questions we had. The warmth, kindness and help from everyone involved created a wonderful atmosphere and made this "bitter-sweet transition" a great experience! Thank you!!!!
- Just getting to see the campus, to hear about life there and to get the "feel" of the place was very useful. It was particularly good to meet the Faculty Advisor, the UCC and the CA, particularly since they all seemed like good people in very useful roles.
- Meeting students, faculty and administrators was extremely comforting to me. Especially since we are so far away from our daughter.
- Meeting with faculty advisor
- We really appreciated hearing from all the different members of the Kenyon staff -- we were made to feel very secure knowing that Kenyon has such a strong support system in place for its students. Making a personal connection with the academic advisor was a huge bonus.
- Hearing from the staff who presented at the orientation program gave us a real good feel about the school and our son's choice to attend. It also opened the door for knowing where to turn when we needed some guidance around a health matter that came up for our son

Parent Orientation Session

- See above. That parent's meeting was very important, again, on a number of levels.
- I thought that Parent Orientation meeting in Rosse was informative and well thought out. I thought mention should have been made after the "brief" question and answer time that parents with further questions should stay seated and the others move on to lunch.
- The talk in Ross.
- Parent orientation
- Parent info session
- I thought that the Parent Orientation session was excellent and showcased an exceptional and articulate staff!!
- The Rosse Hall session; having football players help with the move in - genius and so appreciated!
- The celebration of the moment with convocation, the chance to hear from many at the family orientation.
- Orientation at Rosse Hall, faculty advisor-parent meeting
- parent orientation, counselor meeting. Unfortunately there was so little time and we had to fit in meeting with the swim team coach and team too. We did not get a tour of the campus nor was one offered to us. The lunch line was far too long!

- check-in and parent orientation
- Parent orientation and meeting with the Faculty Advisor
- I enjoyed both the parent orientation and the Convocation.
I left feeling that our daughter would have all the support she needed and that Kenyon is a good fit for her interests and abilities.
- Separate parent orientation is helpful to parents, and gives kids time alone to meet neighbors/friends.
- Parent orientation was useful. Not sure that I learned lots of new info but I was reassured that our daughter is in a safe and nurturing environment with multiple resources to address any problems. Appreciate that parents are seen as participants in dealing with student issues, partners with both the school and the student, while at the same time recognizing the need to let the student become increasingly independent and responsible. A difficult balance to strike but it seems that is the admirable goal of the Kenyon staff.
- I liked that the parents and the students had responsibilities apart from one another (parent session, prep for convocation, parent advisor time) yet had meals and other moments (moving in) to share. It made the good bye less dramatic and the separation more gradual. I liked, too, that it could be done in a day and was over by 5. I think that was very appropriate.
- Good mix of together and separate activities - parent session informative and humorous at the same time with direct (non sugar coated) information. New dining hall was a little overwhelmed by everyone at the same time as kids did not all eat while the parents were in the parent session. But that was a first time for the new kitchen.
- parent orientation in Rosse hall
- The Parent Q&A. I learned more from that than I did in all the pre-college counseling at school. All the practical 'tid bits' were so very helpful.
- For the parents, the Parents' Orientation Session gave an excellent feel for the atmosphere at the school and the programs available. I also really appreciated the opportunity to speak with my son's faculty advisor.
- The intro to the staff early in the day at the parent orientation session was quite helpful. Only a few of the speakers seemed perfunctory--like the young women student who repeatedly told us to tell our child to get a planner. Not really very useful contribution to the panel. To that end, the young man who spoke at the convocation was rather inarticulate and not the best representative of the student body. Not quite sure why he spoke. Perhaps he is a class officer. His speech somehow wasn't as fitting a part of the program as it might have been.
- Mainly the Rosse Hall session. Also enjoyed the sumptuous lunch, as food has been a small point of anxiety for our daughter/us.
- Welcome to the school, sense of the community, broad overview at the parent session
- The meeting for parents at 11AM.
- Everything, but esp. the discussion in Ross Hall and the meeting with the advisor.
- The Parnt Orientation Session.
- Parent orientation meeting. Convocation was good for spirit.
- We enjoyed the session in Rosse Hall. It could have been corny or overdone and instead, it was informative, positive without being too rah-rah, and every speaker was worth listening to. We were pleasantly surprised.
- Parent orientation and the good feeling I had leaving my son in the hands of the caring people at Kenyon.
- The Parent Orientation Session did alot to put me at ease about leaving my daughter at Kenyon and offered some simple, helpful suggestion to help with the transition.
- Parent session in Rosse Hall, lunch in the dining hall, and the meeting with the academic advisor. All gave us a taste of what our son's daily life would be.

Missing Information

None

- It was *terrific*. As one who has always been on the other side of Kenyon events, this was done beautifully.
- Don't recall any.
- Cannot think of any.
- can't think of anything
- no, very complete just too little time for everything
- Information was very complete

Academics

- I wasn't sure about the curriculum--what sort of General Education requirements, if any, you have. When I first learned of Geoff's schedule (Intro Biology, Biology Lab, Neuroscience, Italian) I was pretty worried since it was all science (He's interested in Biology and Pre-Med). But when I looked into it I realized it was the right schedule for him. I'm still not sure what the curriculum looks like, in terms of requirements for general education. (But maybe this was addressed in the Rosse Hall session I missed.)
- Because students schedule classes after meeting with their advisor, parents are largely left out of this process and are informed by the student after classes have been selected and approved. It would have been helpful to me to receive more information about what a normal class load is (i.e. 2 credits are a normal load, 2.25 a rigorous load, why your student may be taking less than 2 credits first semester. If I had had more information, I would have been able to understand why my son had the number of classes/credits he had.
- Would be interesting to hear more about the orientation our children will be going through. Also, more detail about their course selection process, and roles of key persons (faculty and students)

FERPA

- We expected that our son would be able to sign the parental disclosure form during Orientation, and many senior officials (including several deans that we spoke to) seemed very uniformed about this. This is a bit of a sore point with parents in general, based on conversations with others during the day. The impression we got was that Kenyon was hoping we would just sort of forget about this. We like Kenyon and we trust our son, but we want to know what's going on. It's really not much to ask given what we are spending.

Orientation Details

- There was some confusion over where to meet our student's faculty advisor - home or office - two handouts said two different things!
- my daughter said she needed a map of campus (I got one, but apparently she didn't)
- Sociology dept. offices are not on the campus map and this made it very difficult to locate her advisor.
- Yes, we could have used handouts regarding the location of shops for supplies and a summary of any shuttles offered the students to get off campus.
- Better maps especially to the faculty advisor meetings
- I think perhaps it would be better if the parents/family recieved the same scheduling information as the students; it would help to know where the students were, and it would also help if one member of the family lost his or her materials.
- The only suggestion I have is to send the day's schedule to us earlier. We did not realize until we received the letter (one week ahead) that we would be busy the full Sunday. We need to plan for travel, other kids' schedules, work, etc.
- Perhaps a simple map to town, to places such as Wal-Mart, for supplies.
- I didn't look at her information, so I really don't know. The only thing that was confusing was the K-card. We were not told until we tried to go to the security office to get hers that it is the same thing as her student ID.

- As stated before, advise on how to meet up with our son at different times was lacking. We had difficulty finding him after the initial check-in, at lunch, and after the convocation. Maybe because we are not that familiar with the campus yet--and neither is he--it would have been useful if something had been mentioned in announcements after any of these activities as to how to find your student. Also--after we carried the considerable contents of our car up the 3 floors to McBride, we found out that there were football players available to assist with this. It would have been helpful to know we could have had help. Maybe this could have been announced somewhere also -- or the upperclassmen on each floor greeting the new students might have said something as they saw us all struggling with our son's luggage and various items.
- I did not know about the President's reception. Where was that advertised?
- I thought the oral presentations were too redundant of the hand outs.
- It wasn't clear that the student id was also the K-Card.
- The info at the parents meeting was basic and not really enlightening. It would have been more interesting to hear about how they were going to spend the next few days, what opportunities lay ahead, how to secure campus jobs, etc..
- The parents could benefit from guidance beforehand about what we should discuss with the faculty advisor.

Misc.

- Why do you have a bus trip offered to N.Y.C. in October, with no agenda when they get there, no supervision for the weekend, and no school-related purpose? It was the source of an unwelcome early dispute with our Kenyon Student.
- Thought there was going to be more information about banking in Gambier.
- Our son didn't share the information that applied to students only.
- Banking. We are still piecing it together. The brief session the bank apparently held in Gund residence hall was during the period we were busy moving in. By the time we got a moment (after lunch) the representatives had cleared out.
- A better explanation of the role of the UCC.
- Yes,
Information on the software compatibility for our daughter's laptop. My husband is a software analyst for GE and due to the software/and security we installed prior to arriving.. we had a difficulty establishing an internet connection. It would be helpful for more detailed information to be included in the orientation packet, as it pertains to software and security.
- Information on getting computers on the Kenyon network would be appreciated so they can be set up in a better, non-rushed environment. I think my daughter is still having difficulties.
- The orientation program was very comprehensive. I relied on our student to look over the materials he received himself, so I can't comment whether anything is missing.
- We never went to check-in because our son was already there. (See previous comment about pre-orientation). However, I'm pretty resourceful and spent some time on your web site before we arrived, so I probably didn't miss anything crucial. But how would I know...

What to Add or Remove

None

- No. What was there was desperately needed. Can't think of a thing that was missing.
- It was perfect, enough to do without it being overwhelming. We had time to get him moved into the dorm and we were still able to attend everything and look around.
- No additions, barely enough time for everything as it is.
- We thought that the rhythm of the day worked well. It provided time with your child, but allowed them time to begin acclimating.. excellent job.
- Not sure what all the "events" were.

More Time

- I'll repeat that more time should be allocated for move in, also, given all the walking and carrying, maybe water stations outside of buildings or in quad around freshman dorms for middle age parents to get something cool to drink, might also be socializing area for parents during the move in process. Maybe consider box lunch option to improve lunch service for families (fixed price, pick up location could even be around dorms).
- Mainly I felt scheduling was too tight. Didn't have time for a tour and eating in the cafeteria, but I guess we should have tried harder to get to the campus earlier than 10 a.m.
- More time to get them moved in.
- It was really a full day...maybe just expand the time allotted for lunchtime break.
- Lunch was a bit rushed given the schedule and lines. We chose not to attend the President's reception due to the crowd and the short time interval before meeting the faculty advisor. We wanted a few more minutes alone with our daughter before saying "good-bye."
- I felt the day was very full and in fact overbooked. We had time to move into the dorm and start the unpacking then off to the parents orientation and somewhat rushed lunch before convocation and then a quick farewell. No time for a campus tour (we'd had one last summer so didn't mind missing it) or to meet with faculty advisor (feeling somewhat exhausted at that point). Not sure how better to do everything, though, unless start a half day earlier. But perhaps that would draw out too long the time before the inevitable farewell and parting. I guess we defer to your experience!
- I feel it should be a 3 day weekend with less stuff to do with the school and more time to "move in and help the freshman get settled."
- The morning seemed rushed, the afternoon too spread out. I wish we could have met with the advisors sooner. The time after lunch and after convocation were dead times, the morning was too packed.
- We did not manage to get a campus tour because we were busy helping our son finalize his move-in. There was SO MUCH to do that day ... I don't know how to resolve this without making it last more than one day.
- Perhaps more time for Parent(s) and student to orient together in order for questions to be clarified for students as well.

Athletics

- All tours and visitors should go through the new spectacular field house. Everyone should at least hear about the national prowess of the Kenyon swimming program, and their consecutive NCAA Div. 111 Championships.

Getting to Know Campus

- I would have liked to meet some of the professors in the various departments - just a chance to walk into a classroom or lab and shake hands.

Convocation

- I think the presidents reception should have been held in a nicer place than just there on the track, so it would have seemed more special. A home perhaps, or a cottage on campus?
- Fewer speeches at Convocation - President, faculty and student speeches seem to be most important.
- The weather venue for the Convocation was fine, but was not set-up well for the reception afterwards.

Academics

- additional information as to the process of selecting courses
- Could skip meeting with advisor.
- It would be nice to have a handbook and a course catalog.
- Not sure how useful the time with the advisor was.
- The meeting with the faculty advisor needs improvement as to how it is structured, if it is one on one, why certain advisors were assigned to which students, how much time each advisor spends with each parent (if one on one) so that you don't end up waiting around for 20 minutes after rushing over to their office (and thus having NO time to say goodbye to one's children following the meeting).

Food

- suggestions for parents to make dinner reservations in Gambier (and have the restaurants stay open on a Sunday) so that when we (out of towners) say our final goodbyes we don't then have to search for somewhere to have a nice relaxing dinner. The people at the Kenyon Inn were very accommodating altho they said they were all booked up for dinner they were able to fit us in.
- I think the lunch was really crowded so we didn't eat in the dining hall but at a little restaurant in Gambier instead.

Family Info

- Information for younger siblings. i.e. - how to keep in touch, whether or not they should be encouraged to visit, etc.
- Add a session on banking options. At OU they have Bobcat Cash, at Pitzer and Pomona they have Claremont Cash. Kenyon may not need this sort of thing, but without talking to a banking rep we essentially left our daughter with a \$50 bill, not knowing how we would next get money to her.
- If there was any way to have parents mingle at the event, it might help the process of letting go.

Orientation Improvements

Mad Props

- In all honesty, don't have a thing negative to say. Everyone did their job extremely well.
- No everything went well
- Orientation went smoothly. It was very scheduled, which provided a distraction from parent separation! Busy was a good thing.
- I thought the College did a wonderful job and re-assured this parent that Kenyon was indeed the right choice. The orientation made it a little easier to leave knowing my son was in good hands.
- No -- we were pleased with amount of information and all events.
- I thought it was wonderful
- I can't think of a thing. Very well done.
- Whatever you do, please keep in the parent/advisor meeting! It did me a world of good to know that my student would be advised/guided by a reasonable person. I also really appreciate it that the orientation took place on a weekend, so the whole family could attend and see him off. It meant a lot for the younger siblings, with whom he's close, to actually see the campus and see our son enjoy his new environment. Also, one day was very appropriate - he's mature enough to move himself in; I don't need to micro-manage that. We helped him carry stuff in, set up the bedding (and the stereo, of course!) and he did the other stuff.

More time

- My young adult felt it was a bit long on day one and two.
- Have a little more time - a day and a half perhaps? two days? even an evening and a day.
- My only complaint is that I felt a little overscheduled. I wanted to have a bit more time to help my daughter put her room together and do some supplementary shopping.
- Overall - terrific experience. The day was rushed, however. I wish there had been a bit more time to unpack and also to get to know other parents, especially the parents of my son's roommate.
- Unless you arrived very early, it would have been tough to get your child unpacked and make it to everything. And we spent very little time with our son that day, which I guess is OK.
- We parents would like it to be longer but I am not sure that is what is best for the kids. It would have been nice to have some group activity to meet other parents.
- Why was this only one day long? More importantly, why could we not configure our child's computer to Kenyon's network PRIOR to move-in day? My husband spent over 3 hours trying to get our daughter's laptop configured (and he is an engineer! Our daughter' room mate's dad works for Microsoft and HE had a tough time getting hers done in a timely manner too!). My husband began working on the laptop the moment we arrived (8:10 AM) and he took a break when I came to get him for lunch. By the time we got to Pierce for lunch the line was overwhelming. We asked some questions and determined it would take at least 40 minutes to get our food. We would have no time to eat it because we were due at

Convocation. So, although I paid for our lunches, we did not eat. There was too much to do in too little time.

- Maybe allow more time between the end of lunch and the beginning of the Convocation.
- The schedule seemed to be a bit too rushed. I would suggest spreading it out over another hour or so in order to allow for a somewhat more leisurely lunch and to avoid the feeling, at last for parents, that there was no time to stay around after a session to ask questions without missing the next event.
- Wish daughter could have had key to her room a day earlier, not to spend the night at Kenyon, but toward better use of the weekend for her transition needs.
- The packed schedule made for a very stressful day. I wanted to attend the parent session, convocation and adviser session and thought that our 9:30 am arrival would allow for that, but it soon became clear that I wouldn't be able to do it all. I don't know how you address this if you're trying to keep the parent orientation to a single day....maybe if the first session had been held after lunch, and the convocation following that, I would have been able to do both. We wound up speaking with the adviser by phone after we got home, and hope to meet him in person during family weekend.
- Driving in the morning, moving in, attending orientation, eating, and then going to convocation were a little rushed. I think maybe 1 1/2 days would work quite well.
- The move in time was way too short. By the time, we began unloading the car, it was around 10 AM. That only gave us about 2 hours to try to get the room together. It was all very stressful with 2 students and 3 parents trying to accomplish the same thing. There was absolutely no time to go to local stores for missing items. At other schools, move in is on one day and orientation on the next. Much more manageable and makes more sense, especially since Gambier is such a small town and trying to buy things locally is no easy feat. The lack of time also created unnecessary stress on both student and parents. The alternative is for the programs to have started later in the day and the goodbyes to have been after dinner.
- Do it on a Saturday so families can travel home with more time, and kids can have weekend to settle in.
- There should be more flexibility in the hours that students could move in, and more flexibility in what time the afternoon events take place, to accommodate parents who drive from a distance. To be able to meet with the faculty advisor, we had to stay overnight a second night, due to our 8-hour drive. Alternatively, maybe Kenyon could sponsor some off-campus event that night for the parents who have to stay a second night after saying good-bye to their students.

Food Stuff

- Getting everyone through the lunch line was challenging. I realise this was the first time for the new dining facilities and that there was inevitably a rush. But there are surely some ways of anticipating that and preventing people from feeling so rushed.
- Stagger lunch times.
- Less waiting for lunch. The lines were pretty long.
- It appears that overall, Kenyon knows what it is doing regarding Orientation. The only logistical bump was that it took quite a long time to process everyone through the dining hall for lunch following the Parent Orientation session. We spent a long time on line, and were a bit rushed during lunch itself.
- ran out of water in the coolers
- We didn't anticipate the long line at Peirce Hall. I'll plan extra time in the future.
- I was frankly stunned that after paying almost \$25k for my daughter to attend Kenyon, we were asked to pay \$6 for lunch. I have children at other universities and each of them provided a complimentary lunch for families on move in day. Not a big deal, but not a very nice touch either.
- We waited in a very long line for lunch, which almost caused us to be late for convocation. If you could come up with a way to reduce the lunch line it would be great.
- Getting lunch. My student had to shovel her lunch and run back to the dorm to get ready for the Convocation. Maybe the Convocation should start a little later.

Academics

- Some sort of little cheat sheet outlining what typical curricula look like for the first year.

- I would like the freshman student to have more time and information BEFORE choosing the classes. A day or so is not enough.
- If possible, schedule Advisor meetings earlier in day to allow for long distance drivers to leave sooner in the day.
- It is not real helpful that the parents meet the faculty advisor before the advisor has met our children. I don't know how you would remedy this but it seems to be putting the cart before the horse.

Tours

- All tours should include a guided tour of the field house.

Info Before Orientation

- It would have been helpful to have a bit more information about the logistics of move-in. For example, where to park and reassurance that although parking is limited unloading is allowed from areas that are not normally used for parking (such as the lawn south of Lewis). And to let parents know there are security guards helping with parking and also students helping with unloading.
- Since the early morning lines were longish the gal @ the table was told to skip looking up faculty advisor names unless specifically asked. How about having that info preprinted for parents?
- Wasn't crystal clear where to park the car initially in order to pick up materials from Gund Commons-- whether to go to dorm first etc.
- I'm not sure how my husband and I missed the info regarding the schedule for that first day - it may have been sent to our son who did not realize it needed to be shared... but had we known that there was about the convocation or the opportunity to meet with his advisor, we would have made arrangements to take Monday off so that we could have stayed the whole day on Sunday.
- We shipped some boxes but were not clear on when they could be send. The materials could be more clear in stating when.
- Make sure to let parents know before arriving on campus where they need to be and how long things will take.

Also - it would had a little more to the day if there was a way in which to share the campus with your own student in some fashion. I am suggesting this because, now that we are hearing about this and that class and hall mates and where things are, I would love to be able to visualize what my daughter is talking about.

Misc.

- Drop the reception (too close to lunch anyway). Have the UCC take student AND parents to meet the faculty advisor briefly. (Allows the advisor to place names and faces of parents & student together.) Have box lunches available for parents & students at the dorms/outside Gund Commons. Have parent orientation with tour after lunch while students finish unpacking and prepare for Convocation. After Convocation, do advisor meeting. Have buffet dinner/ reception with President/students/parents followed by "good-byes."
- I wish that many of the orientation events were mandatory rather than as suggestions of events that my son could have done during the orientation days. He takes his time coming out of his shell so he did not attend many of the events even though he had a schedule and plenty of encouragement from us.
- During admit weekend, if possible, it would be great to have current students with some interests in common with the visiting admitted students pre-assigned and waiting for them when they arrive, rather than having the visiting students wait so long in Gund to be assigned a host with whom they may share no interests. We believe that this may have contributed to the decision of a friend of our daughter to attend a different college.
- Perhaps have time where families of students in a particular hall could all get together in their lounge and get to know one another.
- I liked the Sunday morning check-in, but the whole process needs to allow for parents to leave earlier. Even 3:00 p.m. would be a much better ending point. How about noon for the convocation, 2:30 for the academic advisor meeting, 5:00 for students meeting with RAs. Then the room set-up could take place more in the afternoon, and those who need to travel could leave when they need to. Also, the business of dumping our son's stuff on the street in front of the dorm was ridiculous and assumed that there were

more than two people there to unload and carry stuff to the dorm room. It wasn't that crowded; it would have made far more sense to have us park, unload and carry, THEN park. Also, the football players weren't particularly helpful in carrying stuff--but the cross country guy was AWESOME. It would be great to be able to give feedback on the helpers, so that we could feel that they were acknowledged!

- We missed the first few minutes of the Parent Orientation meeting. We missed the announcement that the President's Reception will be at the indoor track. We finally were redirected and made it. Also, after the President's Reception a student, there to help out, directed us to the faculty advisor's home instead of the office. After leaving from the faculty advisor's home we made it to the advisor's office just in time. A bit hectic, but we made it.

After moving in that morning we didn't meet up with our son again until 5pm. We didn't realize that the student's Orientation folder had the advisor's name and meeting location. If we (the parents) had the advisor's meeting location ahead of time it would have been alot easier.

Did you visit the Kenyon Orientation website (www.kenyon.edu/orientation.xml) prior to coming to Gambier?

Yes **163** (85%) 
No **26** (14%) 
no answer **3** (2%) 

The information and materials provided by the website and mailings prior to Orientation was helpful in preparing for our family's arrival.

Strongly Agree **94** (49%) 
Agree **79** (41%) 
Don't Know/Unsure **7** (4%) 
Disagree **1** (1%) 
Strongly Disagree **0** (0%)
no answer **11** (6%) 

Comments or feedback regarding the pre-arrival information and materials:
50 responses [view this question](#) [view all questions](#)

Did you take any time off work in order to bring your student to Orientation?

Yes **120** (63%) 
No **68** (35%) 
no answer **4** (2%) 

Would you be in support of adding a day to the Orientation schedule in order to allow more time for move-in?

Yes **73** (38%) 
No **108** (56%) 
no answer **11** (6%) 

Overall, how would you rate the activities and programs for parents and family during Orientation?

Excellent **120** (63%) 

Good	<u>59</u> (31%)	
Okay	<u>4</u> (2%)	
Poor	<u>0</u> (0%)	
<i>no answer</i>	<u>9</u> (5%)	

Final Comments

Student Helpers

- We were in, out, and on our way to move in to the dorm in record time. Having the football team help move him in - THANK YOU, GUYS!!! Couldn't have done it without you!
- Very nice job...appreciated the students helping carry stuff to rooms at McBride...and police and security were very helpful and friendly...parking was well thought out
- It was helpful having the football team curbside to help carry stuff-they were very welcoming and we appreciated their assistance. Nice surprise-wasn't expecting them.
- Everything about the day seemed to meet our needs - even things we did not expect like move-in help from the football team and other upper class students.
- dorm room was clean, resident assistant right on hand and cheerful, UCC showed up right away. sports teams helping to unload was so nice and VERY helpful. everyone so nice and helpful. line at Pierce was ridiculously long, just too many people coming in all at once. Maybe you need an additional food service/luncheon area for this day?
- Our time on the campus was nice. The assistance offered by the students upon moving into the dorm was wonderful. The directions by the traffic controllers was accurate and polite. Also the chilled water station outside of one of the dorms was very hospitable.
- I think having the football team there to help carry in belongings was wonderful! Thank you very much.
- The assistance provided by the upperclassmen/women was excellent. We were very impressed with their work ethic, and friendliness. Our entire experience has been excellent.
In addition, our daughter is happier than we have ever dreamed.
Thank you, Kenyon is the absolutely right college for her.

General (Positive)

- Nice work.
- Registration was very well organized and everyone very friendly and extremely helpful.
- We are so very happy that our son is attending a great institution such as Kenyon.
- Thank you for all your time and effort making the kids feel so welcomed.
- I left feeling very very satisfied; feeling that my son is in good hands and where he belongs. It really makes me proud and peaceful.
- We drove away from Kenyon knowing our child is in a truly special place. Thank you for a wonderful welcome.
- It was a fine introduction to Kenyon for a parent who had not previously visited. I thought it showed Kenyon's qualities as a community. It went well. Thank you.
- We both thought it was a great day. Our daughter loves it there so far and we could see why she picked Kenyon: High academic standards but also nurturing and friendly.
- The activities that we attended were very organized and well done. Nice job!
- A huge thank you for working to serve the parents and students of Kenyon.
- I was very impressed with the way everything was done on a timely matter. Everything ran very smooth. I have been coming to Kenyon this is the 5th year, but I always missed this because I came early with my sons who played football and had to check in a couple weeks early. I was already back at home and never got to experience this part of it.

- In 1967 my parents brought me to Kenyon. I was attending a boarding school in Pennsylvania that had a strong swimming program. My parents and I thought Kenyon was beautiful and a great fit. I was short of the Kenyon academic standard, and attended another larger University. Our son, who has a good academic record has visited some of the finest colleges & universities in the country. His favorite was Kenyon. We are thrilled that he is attending Kenyon.
- I was very impressed with Kenyon and the support we have received since my student was diagnosed with mono her first day there!
- note that my child had already moved in the week prior due to preseason training. So my experience at orientation was relaxing and not complicated with stress of moving in that other parents may have had. So adding a day may be more important to those parents.
- We participated in the legacy luncheon, and that was a lovely event, a homecoming for me (David Lindy, '74) and a wonderful opportunity to officially share Kenyon with Caroline.
- Just thank you very much.
- I felt very confident that my daughter would be made to feel comfortable at Kenyon. I could see that there was a network firmly in place to help her through the important early decisions, such as, what classes to take and how to register. It made it much easier to leave her there without me.
- In general, great job the two times we have attended Orientation with our sons! Football players were extremely helpful and friendly both times we moved our sons in as Freshmen - greatly reduced our family stress! Can't thank them enough!
- both my daughter and I felt very reassured by the atmosphere and attitude apparent all around campus
- Thank you, it was beautiful.
- Thank you for all your efforts to make our daughter feel at home and be excited about her new life as a college student
- You are to be congratulated on successfully hosting such a classy event for the families and students. Everyone we met was genuinely friendly and welcoming. We are very happy that our daughter chose Kenyon.
- We were very impressed with the overall feeling of friendliness and being welcomed. We felt very comfortable leaving our daughter at Kenyon.
- Our daughter seems to be very happy at Kenyon. We are impressed with the care shown in matching roommates. It seems a good match which has made for an easier transition. Thank you!
- I am delighted, nay thrilled, that my daughter is attending Kenyon.
- We are thrilled that our daughter is so happy to be there. Jennifer handled the application process in a way that was far more personal, connected, and friendly than that of any other college.
- The Alumni Lunch in the new Pierce Hall was a lot of fun and I'm so glad to have been able to attend after 30 years. Thank you.
- This one day left our whole family with a really good feeling about Kenyon. Very good way to start.
- We expected the best from Kenyon and have not been disappointed. We are still trying to figure out why our daughter got the advisor she did but that will come with time, I guess.
- Thank you! Although I could barely see the road through my tears as I drove away from campus, I felt relieved to be leaving my daughter at such a welcoming and beautiful school.
- We are absolutely LOVING Kenyon and the experience there. We feel that our daughter has found the perfect place for her to grow and become an adult.
- Everyone was very helpful, friendly, and available. Seemed to work very well.
- We left Kenyon College with no reservations about Andrew's safety or happiness. We knew, unequivocally, that he picked a school that best fit him which, by the way, has been confirmed by his experiences over the past two weeks.
- Thank you for asking for feedback.
- I'm just really happy my son is at Kenyon--after being there with him it just confirmed for me what a perfect fit it is.

- Chelsea is now our fourth child to go off to college, so we have had the advantage of seeing multiple college cultures at work. Kenyon-ness comes through every pore of Orientation, which is great. We arrived at 9:30 and I wish we'd had maybe one more hour to help get the room set up or a last quick trip to Target to get a fan or more hangers. Beyond that, the day was perfect and there's nothing I'd change. Thanks for all you do so right!
- Orientation was very well done overall. It truly gave us a flavor of what Kenyon would be like, and reinforced the decision our son had made. It was great to meet with the academic advisor; maybe a parent "hello" with the CAs would have been good as well? There was nothing that was going to help our 9-year-old separate from his brother more easily, but I did see a number of younger folk there, and perhaps there is a way to involve them separately (set up a game area, for example?). Lunch was a mess; the lines were unbelievably long, there was no signage in the serving area to indicate what was where, and there weren't enough places for the family to sit together--realizing that the hall had just re-opened, that really needs to be fixed for next year.
- Thank you again! We all thought the orientation was fantastic!
- The orientation did a good job of making Kenyon feel like a friendly place, most importantly for the students but also for the parents.
- Just that I really appreciate all the hard work that went into making sure that orientation went so smoothly. The friendliness and goodwill evident allayed our anxieties.
- It was well done. It's just a complex day.
- We drove away feeling very positive about the number of people available to make this experience an excellent one for our daughter. What an outstanding staff you all are!
- we thought it was great. Much better than the welcome at her twin sister's university

Scheduling

- I definitely think more time for move in would be helpful. We had no idea what the room would look like, what her roommate would be bringing and needed time to help them arrange their belongings in a space efficient manner (they are in a VERY small room in Mather). We also needed time to make a trip to Walmart. Considering how isolated Kenyon is, I think more time for move in would be extremely helpful.
- we definitely needed more time- it felt a little too rushed
- If you were adding more time, I'd sure like to have met some professors. So little time seems to be allotted to one of the main reasons a college is selected. The one day college visit didn't include meeting professors, either. Grinnell had a "fair" for about 1.5 hours during the visit allowing student and parent to talk with some professors. It was effective.
- I think an additional day for those that have to travel long distances would be good. It would have been easier to purchase some of the items in the area rather than transporting them with us.
- Adding an extra day would be helpful because the move-in day is such a busy and emotional day. It is hard for families to move in and attend all activities and then drive or fly home all in the same day.
- I would have enjoyed going on the campus tour, but there was no time. I instead chose to help my daughter unpack and set up her room.
- I absolutely support adding a day to the orientation, especially after talking to parents from Oberlin and other schools where the schedules were much more relaxed and forgiving. It's stressful enough sending your kid off to college without trying to cram so much into so little time.
- Maybe break up lunch times so that there is less of a wait as there is a lot to accomplish on campus in a short amount of time.
- Regarding adding another day, while that may be helpful, my sense is, after a day, it is time to get the parents out of there. I'd defer more to the kids on this one
- Hard to add a day because difficult to find lodging.
- I would be in support of adding a day to orientation as long as the students are kept busy. I think that things could get a bit dragged out if it went on much longer. I appreciated the fact that the parent orientation was only one day. It is difficult enough to have to leave and it would be exhausting if it went

on much longer than it did. Thanks for everything. Everyone was so friendly, and we appreciated the move-in help from the fall athletes. My son is so pleased with his choice of colleges.

- The schedule for the students the first three days is overwhelming. Maybe that is intention, but my daughter was EXHAUSTED, and the registration process did not go smoothly and she had to run around for two days trying to get into a 4th course. Then she discovered that money on kcard (650) would not buy necessary books for her courses. That is outrageous and faculty should be asked to look at costs. Also, that just complicated her process of being ready for the first day of classes. Look at your schedule. Not enough time for them just to move in. Several mixups with locking/not locking rooms. Have you considered using kcard for room access as well? Swipe for everything without extra key would be easier.
- I don't think you need an extra move in day and maybe with emotions so high it's best to not have too much time to feather your child's new nest!
- Although I said "yes" to adding a day to Orientation, I'm not sure it is really necessary to stretch it out any further. Perhaps one less or one shorter meeting would allow enough time to leave without feeling rushed.
- We were unfortunately not able to meet with our son's faculty advisor because she had been flight-delayed returning to Columbus. This was unfortunate, although it has happened to all of us. One of her colleagues was there to meet us, however, for discussion and questions. We hope to be able to follow up with her during Parent's Weekend in October.
- Maybe add some time for parents of, and students on the same residence hall to socialize with one another? Would have been nice to meet the students that live next door and down the hall from my son.
- I would not add more time for move in as I don't think my DAUGHTER needed it. She was ready to be on her own.
- Coming from so far and not having time to go buy some essentials locally, so now they are being shipped in at considerable expense, is why more time for move in would have been helpfull... probably don't need a whole day but I am not sure how else to schedule
- Having move-in and orientation on a sunday kind of demands that one take time off work if there is travel involved.
- There was plenty of time for move-in. No need to add another day. Best to get the parents in and out.

Misc.

- In general, my son was anxious to settle into his academic routine, start classes, get a regular schedule going. I would not lengthen orientation. He appreciated the mandatory events - easier to meet people. He felt too awkward to attend most of the optional events.
- I did not answer the question about how many days we stayed because it asked about staying in a hotel. We are Kenyon alumni and stayed in Gambier two nights with friends (one of my professors from many years ago). I find that some people who are Kenyon alumni and have children attending Kenyon do the same. Perhaps that question should be reworded.
- I guess some parents want to be extremely involved in the freshman experience, but I look at it as something for my daughter, not me. I did not attend the meeting with her faculty advisor because that seemed more appropriate for high school than college. and the bit in the orientation materials telling us that 5pm was time for "final hugs and goodbyes" was very juvenile.
- i do think there can be more than just the short orientation for parents. see above. The program at Kenyon appeared minimum.
- About previous rating, I didn't feel like I had the opportunity to fully participate in the program and activities.
- I did not bring my daughter to Kenyon College because I do not drive and I did not know of anyway that I could get from Columbus, Ohio's airport to the school. This is equally an issue and concern that I have regarding this coming Parent's weekend. I really think that the school should look at a way of providing transportation from the airport to the school for parents as they do for students. I do know that there is an assumption that everyone drives and has a car (this isn't a reality for everyone or that they possess driving skills. I like many, would(most certainly) be

willing to pay for this service. If this could be done for this coming Parent's Weekend October 2008, it would assist me with finalizing my decision to purchase airline tickets for me and my younger daughter. I am sure many other parents would also be willing to take advantage of the service. I will be coming from New York City.

- The room Was not anything like described to us at all.
- Although we really appreciated the opportunity to meet with our son's Faculty Advisor, we recommend that he not use the 3rd floor lounge in the Chemistry Building again. The noise from the overhead fan(?) was so loud that we six parents could barely hear what he was saying. Quite frankly, the noise level in that room did not leave one with a good impression of the facility.
- We very much liked the concept of the faculty advisor and the UCC combination. I hope the cluster experiment works well for this class. Since we were coming across country, we had planned to stay longer as we had another destination as well. I don't necessarily think the orientation should be longer but it is a packed day. We saw our daughter only briefly on Monday and did her dorm shopping Tuesday when she really had her first break of a few hours. Her own orientation schedule was quite full and then we said our goodbyes Wed. as we were traveling to NY. By then she had been on campus about 9-10 days and I think was ready for classes to begin. So far, so good from what we hear. We are looking forward to Family Weekend in about a month. Hope you are happy with the Orientation program as well.

Food Stuff

- I question why we had to pay \$12 for lunch after committing to \$50,000 a year. We felt a bit nickle and dimed.
- I was rather surprised that with the price of tuition charged families were charged for their lunch. If there were NO schedule to follow & families could choose where 2 go then I could see that, however having had no choice & in light of the sacrifices some of us make to be there, it just seemed surprising. I DO think it was priced well & that what was offered was astounding. It was wonderful to be able to try first hand what the kids will have offered to them. Additionally during orientation it was continually stressed how Kenyon was family now & kids had to break away and embrace that. I get that, but I felt that we were so very rushed from here to there and the bond of the students family at home was not nurtured as much. What I really wanted was more time to be with my daughter. We cannot afford the occasional or random visit. There was SO much structure to the day and so much thought given to breaking out on your own that in a way, I was offended. I've spent the last 19 years of her life being there, it just seemed like an abrupt break. Of course I worry, I will say however that I firmly believe that Kenyon is the BEST choice in colleges she could have made. The fit is PERFECT & the administration truly seem to care about every aspect of student life as well as every student. THANK YOU!!!!
- maybe consider giving one free lunch to one of the family members, considering all the other college expenses