



Office of Orientation
2024-2025 Application Packet
Student Orientation Staff | SOUL Camp Mentor Staff
All Dates, Times & In-Person/Virtual Delivery Subject to Change



Student Orientation Staff (SOS)

What is Student Orientation Staff?

SOS is a premiere student leadership organization at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Members of SOS work together to help orient new students to campus, represent the university at important functions both locally and nationally, and develop their own leadership capacities. Members of SOS often become leaders in other areas of campus, ranging from SGA to academic, Greek, and honors programs.

How will the Student Orientation Staff benefit me as a student at UL Lafayette?

Making connections throughout the university is critical for your success as a student. As a member of SOS, you will have the opportunity to make and enhance connections with faculty, staff, and a variety of students from the UL community. In addition, you benefit from learning detailed information about university services and programs. Finally, you will be participating in a powerful leadership learning experience. If selected, your time on staff will ask you to develop and strengthen your understanding of leadership, and you will be seen and treated as one of the pre-eminent student leaders on our campus.

How will the Student Orientation Staff experience benefit me after graduation?

The SOS experience will be intentionally designed to enhance your leadership skills and abilities. Members of SOS will develop skills in group problem solving, conflict resolution, interpersonal communication, multicultural understanding, and team building. The Student Orientation Staff experience also provides you with the unique opportunity to mentor new students. Throughout the year you will have opportunities to use your skills in hands-on situations, thus providing experiences upon which future employers look favorably.

SOUL Camp Mentor Staff

What is SOUL Camp?

SOUL Camp had its first summer at UL Lafayette in 2010. For the first time ever, the Office of Orientation offered an extended orientation program to new students that wished to learn more about the spirit and tradition of the university. That first year was a tremendous success. Now the tradition lives on.

Service, Outreach, Unity, and Leadership are the four pillars from which SOUL Camp was built. Building camp based on these values gives students the opportunity to successfully transition into college. SOUL Camp will provide incoming students with the knowledge and skillset to effectively navigate their way through their time at UL Lafayette. It is believed that students who attend SOUL Camp will establish a sense of self in the University, build bonds with upperclassmen, faculty, and staff, and be able to give back to the community and the University.

What is a Student Mentor?

The Student Mentor position is essential to the success of SOUL Camp. The position will be challenging and rewarding; dynamic and satisfying. Student Mentors will work closely with the Lead Staff Mentors, Komeback Krewe, and Professional Staff. Student Mentors will also be the direct guides for the students attending SOUL Camp.

Student Mentors will have the primary responsibility of interacting with the campers to ensure they have a successful SOUL Camp experience. Student Mentors will facilitate and lead discussions and activities for the campers. They will also act as the liaison between the campers and the Lead Staff and Komeback Krewe.

How will being a Student Mentor benefit me?

The Student Mentor position is different from any other student leadership opportunity on campus. Student Mentors will help continue the tradition of SOUL Camp. Student Mentors will acquire a great knowledge and understanding of the University and all it has to offer to its students. Student Mentors will also experience an extensive development of leadership skills and self-evaluation through a series of SOUL Trains. Lastly, Student Mentors will create meaningful interpersonal relationships with both peers on staff, as well as incoming students.

SOS and SOUL Camp Mentor Staff Selection Timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
October 14, 2024	Online Application Opens	Link located on the last page of this packet.
October 15, 2024	Information Table	9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Union hallway near Chick Fil A
October 15, 2024	Interest Session #1	2:00 PM - Student Union Forum A, room 209A
October 23, 2024	Information Table	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Rex Street
October 23, 2024	Interest Session #2	4:00 PM - Student Union Forum A, room 209A
October 29, 2024	Interest Session #3	12:30 PM - Student Union Forum A, room 209A
October 30, 2024	Application Due	11:59 PM- Apply online (link located on the last page of this packet) Applications are time stamped upon submission. Applications submitted after 11:59 PM on October 30 WILL NOT be accepted. No exceptions!
November 1, 2024	Mandatory Group Interview	1:00 PM – 4:30 PM, Bayou Bijou, Student Union, room 100E
November 4, 2024	Individual Interview Notification	All applicants will receive an email notifying them of whether or not they have advanced to an Individual Interview.
November 5 – December 4, 2024	Individual Interview	Online via Zoom
December 19, 2024	SOS & SOUL Camp Staff Announcement	Notification via email
Application Deadline: October 30, 2024 by 11:59 PM Questions? Call 337-482-1392 or orientation@louisiana.edu		

SOS and SOUL Camp Mentor Staff Qualifications

- Must be a current UL student in good standing (not on any type of academic or disciplinary probation).
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 at time of application.
- If selected, must maintain a 2.25 cumulative GPA throughout your term on staff.
- Must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours) at UL for the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters.
- Must be in the Lafayette area, or able to return, for Summer 2025.
- Must display professionalism and school spirit.
- Must promote general involvement and not show bias or favoritism towards any specific student organization.
- Must show a positive attitude and strong work ethic.
- Must be open to learning and challenging yourself to grow in your leadership capacities.

SOS Responsibilities

- Respectfully work with Professional Staff, the Leadership Team and fellow Orientation Leaders.
- Mentor new students through 1- and 2-day Orientation Experiences.
- Facilitate small group discussions while remaining both friendly and professional.
- Facilitate discussions on campus life, academic expectations, and UL with new students & parents.
- Always represent UL positively and professionally before, during, and after orientation.
- Assist in logistical coordination of Orientation operations during the summer months.
- Assist with UL sponsored events when asked.
- Serve on one of four Student Orientation Staff Committees.
- Attend all spring and summer training events.
- Successfully complete Student Orientation Staff Training in the Spring semester.
- **If you choose to take a summer course, you may take NO MORE than ONE course, at one time, through any institution, that interferes with orientation for Summer 2025.**

SOS Time Commitments

The Student Orientation Staff requires a large amount of time and dedication – enhancing the overall member experience through staff bonding and service to the university. See following pages for a listing of dates and time commitments for the 2024-2025 year.

- Winter & Summer Retreats.
- Student Orientation Staff Training (Fridays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in the Spring Semester).
- Additional summer training as needed.
- All Summer & Fall Orientation Sessions.
- All staff members will be asked to complete one folder making day, one orientation preparation work day and stay overnight on campus for one orientation session during Summer 2025.
- Freshman Convocation (volunteers will be requested).

SOUL Camp Mentor Responsibilities

- Work with Komeback Krewe, Lead Staff, and Professional Staff to implement the goals of camp.
- Ease transition to university life by connecting new students with each other, current students, and faculty & staff.
- Promote the importance of voluntary community engagement and service.
- Articulate University pride, history, and traditions to incoming students.

- Enhance awareness with issues of diversity and social justice.
- Develop effective leadership comprehension and skills.
- Facilitate small group discussions while remaining both friendly and professional.
- Work with other Student Mentors respectfully.
- Always represent UL Lafayette positively before, during, and after SOUL Camp.
- Be able to confidently answer questions of students.
- Serve as a mentor/guide to all incoming students at all times.

SOUL Camp Mentor Time Commitments

(See following pages for a list of date & time commitments for the 2024-2025 academic year)

- Winter & Summer Retreats
- Fundraising Events (Spring & Summer 2025)
- All training sessions - SOUL Trains
- Orientation Org Expo and Overnight Activities
- Alumni Reunion
- Camp Preparation & Krewe Preparation
- SOUL Camps A & B
- Freshman Convocation (volunteers will be requested).

****Promotion of other Organizations****

During orientation and camp programs, members of both staffs remain neutral regarding membership in any student organization, including fraternities and sororities. They keep conversations with new students, professional and ethical and framed in general terms without mentioning specific organizations.

**** AmeriCorps Conflict****

Due to time conflicts with the Office of Orientation and AmeriCorps training schedules, AmeriCorps students **WILL NOT** be able to be a member of either the SOUL Camp Mentor or Student Orientation Staff for the Spring and Summer 2025 semesters.

**** Resident Assistant Conflict****

Due to Resident Assistant training and SOUL Camp falling on the same dates, students **WILL NOT** be able to be both a SOUL Camp Mentor and a Resident Assistant for the Fall 2025 semester.

Due to the time commitments of summer orientations, students **WILL NOT** be able to be both a Student Orientation Staff member and a Resident Assistant for the Summer 2025 semester, but **ARE ABLE** to be on SOS and be an RA for the Fall 2025 semester. Fall 2025 Resident Assistant training does not interfere with any SOS responsibilities as RAs are excused from participating in Late Fall Orientation in August.

	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025
Can I be an RA and on SOUL Camp Staff?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Can I be an RA and on Student Orientation Staff?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

2025 Student Orientation Staff Details

Time Commitments – Spring & Summer

Staff Retreats: Members of the 2025 Student Orientation Staff will be required to attend the full duration of Winter Retreat the weekend before spring semester classes begin (**Friday, January 10 – Saturday, January 11, 2025**) AND Summer Retreat after spring classes end (**Tuesday, May 13 – Wednesday, May 14, 2025**). **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Students who know they cannot attend both retreats, should not apply for staff.

Staff Training Schedule: Student Orientation Staff members are required to attend all training sessions (see dates below). This is where you learn all the information necessary to help you become an outstanding Orientation Leader. Specific absence policies will be outlined in the training manual.

Orientation Sessions: Student Orientation Staff members are required to facilitate ALL Freshman Orientation Sessions and TWO Transfer & Adult/Late Orientation Sessions (see dates below). Assignment of the Transfer & Adult/Late Orientation sessions will occur in April. Requests for missing an Orientation Session will be handled by the Director of Orientation. Volunteers will be requested to work the Late Fall Orientation in August.

2025 Student Orientation Staff Training Schedule		
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME & LOCATION
January 10-11, 2025	SOS Winter Retreat	ALL DAY – location TBA
January 17, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
January 24, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
January 31, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
February 7, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
February 14, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
February 21, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
February 28, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
<i>No training on March 7</i>		
March 14, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
March 21, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
March 28, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
March 29, 2025	The Big Event	7:30 AM – 12:30 PM
April 4, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
April 11, 2025	SOS Training	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Union
<i>April 18-27, 2025</i>		
<i>Spring Break</i>		
May 2, 2025	SOS Picture Day!!	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, Union
May 13-14, 2025	SOS Summer Retreat	ALL DAY – location TBA
Typically in April/May	SOS & SOUL Camp Mixer	TBA
If necessary	Final Training Day	TBA
If necessary	Welcome Dance Practices	TBA

Time commitments continued on the next page.

2025 Orientation Session Requirements		
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME & LOCATION
SOS members will facilitate all 8 of these Two-Day Sessions:		
May 22-23, 2025	Freshman Early Orientation & Summer Session	Full Days
June 4-5, 2025	Freshman Fall Session 1	Full Days
June 16-17, 2025	Freshman Fall Session 2	Full Days
June 23-24, 2025	Freshman Fall Session 3	Full Days
June 25-26, 2025	Freshman Fall Session 4	Full Days
July 14-15, 2025	Freshman Fall Session 5	Full Days
July 16-17, 2025	Freshman Fall Session 6	Full Days
July 28-29, 2025	Freshman Fall Session 7	Full Days
SOS members will facilitate 2 of these 4 One-Day Sessions:		
May 21, 2025	Transfer & Adult Summer & Fall Session 1	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
June 3, 2025	Late Summer Session	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
June 18, 2025	Transfer & Adult Fall Session 2	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
July 23, 2025	Transfer & Adult Fall Session 3	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Volunteers will be requested for Late Fall Session:		
August 19, 2025	Late Fall Session	7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

End of year Celebration: All staff members will attend a fun end-of-the-year celebration. This date will be announced during summer 2025.

*Although rare, all dates and times are subject to change.
All in-person events are subject to change to virtual.*

2025 SOUL Camp Mentor Staff Details

Time Commitments – Spring & Summer

All dates listed below are mandatory and mentors are expected to fully participate in. The only exceptions will be when you have a scheduled class that interferes with one of the events listed below. Work, vacations, social obligations should be flexible enough to accommodate the dates listed below.

Winter Retreat: Members of the SOUL Camp Mentor Staff will be required to attend the full duration of Winter Retreat the weekend before spring semester classes begin (**Friday, January 10 – Saturday, January 11, 2025**). **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Students who know they cannot attend, should not apply for staff.

Orientations: Student Mentors will be expected to attend and assist at 1 of the orientation sessions throughout the summer. This is where we will be able to meet new students, get to know them, explain what SOUL Camp is, garner interest, and recruit them to attend. Logistics of next year’s orientations are still in the works, so exact times and expectations will be announced later – either at Winter Retreat or at SOUL Train 1.

Spring			
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
January 10-11	SOUL Camp & SOS Winter Retreat	ALL DAY – each day	Student Union
February 7-8	SOUL Train 1	Feb 7: 1PM – 8PM Feb 8: 8AM – 8PM	Student Union
March 7	Business Donation Day	Early afternoon	Lafayette
March 7 & 9	SOUL Train 2	Mar 7: 1:00PM – 8:00PM Mar 9: 8:00AM – 8:00PM	Student Union
March 8	Tournament Fundraiser	7AM – 8PM	Bourgeois Hall
March 29	The Big Event	7:30AM – 12:30PM	TBD
March 31 – April 4	Fundraising Week	Various times & in between your classes	TBD
May 13-14	SOUL Train 3	May 14: 8:00AM – 8:00PM May 15: 8:00AM – 8:00PM	Student Union
TBD [#]	Alumni Reunion	All Day	TBD
TBD [#] - typically in April/May	SOUL Camp & SOS Mixer	TBD	TBD

= Dates that are TBD will be communicated as soon as they are available. If you have an existing conflict when these dates are announced, you will need to communicate that to Lead Staff and Professional Staff at the time of the announcement so that arrangements can be made.

Time commitments continued on the next page.

Summer			
DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION
May 22-23	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
June 4-5	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
June 16-17	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
June 28	Car Wash Fundraiser	All Day	TBD
June 23-24	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
June 25-26	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
July 12-13	SOUL Train 4	July 12: 8:00AM – 8:00PM July 13: 8:00AM – 8:00PM	Student Union
July 14-15	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
July 16-17	Orientation*	TBD	Student Union
August 4-5	Summer Retreat	All Day	Student Union
August 6-9	SOUL Camp A	All Day	Student Union
August 11-14	SOUL Camp B	All Day	Student Union

*Mentors will be required to assist with camper recruitment at 1 of the orientation sessions listed above.

Although rare, all dates and times are subject to change.

All in-person events are subject to change to virtual.

2024-2025 Student Orientation Staff & SOUL Camp Mentor Staff Application Process

Applicants are encouraged to represent themselves well in the written application as well as in their interviews.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 30 by 11:59 PM

1. Fill out an online application at: <https://forms.office.com/r/Wh4vvFCb1w>

Written Response

A critical part of the Application Process will be your written responses to several questions. These questions give you an opportunity to think about some of the totality of the SOS and SOUL Camp experience and your responses should be carefully constructed and thought out. Your responses should be at least one paragraph, but no more than two paragraphs in length and should demonstrate your ability to think critically about the positions. Since both SOS and SOUL Camp Mentor Staff are highly competitive, we suggest you pay attention to detail (spelling, grammar, etc.). **We also suggest you type out your responses in a Word document prior to beginning the online application and then paste them into the application. Your responses should also be your own unique ideas – using AI is not acceptable.**

1. What does it mean to you to be a Ragin' Cajun?
 2. What type of leader are you? Provide an example of how your leadership style impacted a group.
 3. What knowledge, skills, or abilities do you possess that can make a positive impact on our programs.
 4. Which hero or villain do you agree with the most or understand and why?
2. **At the end of your online application, you will have the option to preference which staff you wish to be on, or you can indicate that you're open to being on either staff.**
 3. **At the end of your online application, you will confirm that you can attend the mandatory group interview* on Friday, November 1 from 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM.**

**On October 31, a confirmation email will be sent to all applicants with more details about the group interview process including attire, parking and where to check-in.*