



Student Life & Enrollment Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2024

Greetings, SLE Colleagues,

As we gear up for another academic year, it feels like we're at the starting line of a grand race, much like the excitement surrounding the Paris Olympics. Our UConn Huskies have returned, bringing with them the energy and enthusiasm that makes our campuses come alive with promise and potential.

I hope you all had a restorative break and are ready to dive into what promises to be an engaging and perhaps challenging semester. Your dedication and hard work are the driving forces behind our success and the key to creating an environment where our students can truly thrive.

This fall is particularly noteworthy as we celebrate the opening of Connecticut Hall with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 13. This new residence hall is not just a building but a symbol of our commitment to enhancing the living-learning experience for our students. With its innovative dining options and vibrant community spaces, Connecticut Hall will be a significant addition to our campus. A huge thank you is extended to everyone in our division, particularly the residential life and dining teams, as well as other colleagues across UConn who worked tirelessly to bring this project to fruition.

We are also making strides in expanding our student health services at our regional campuses, ensuring every student has access to essential health and wellness resources, no matter where they are. Guided by the University's Strategic Plan, we will continue to seek ways to enhance our services and support our students' success.

As we anticipate a semester filled with challenges and opportunities—from global humanitarian crises to the upcoming presidential election—I have complete faith in our collective ability to navigate these demands with resilience and collaboration. Every challenge we face is a chance for growth, and I am confident that, with our students at the center of our efforts, we will handle it all with the excellence that defines us.

This fall, we welcome the [largest class in our history](#), pushing our undergraduate enrollment to approximately 25,000 for the first time. Storrs will house over 13,000 students, setting a new record, with Stamford also reaching new heights. These impressive numbers are a testament to our institution's exceptional reputation and reflect our entire staff's tireless dedication. The success we're witnessing is a direct result of the hard work and commitment of countless individuals across various departments.

At Convocation, we captured the Olympic spirit by lighting the torch to welcome the class of 2028. Such symbolic moments remind us of the incredible journey that lies ahead for our students, made possible by the dedication and extraordinary efforts of our team and university colleagues.

Once again, welcome back! I look forward to a successful and fulfilling fall term as we shape the next chapter of our university with our students at the center of everything we do.

Go Huskies!

Nathan Fuerst

Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment



DIVISIONAL HAPPENINGS

Student Employment Fair

As the new academic year approaches, it's time to get excited about the upcoming Student Employment Job Fair on August 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Over 20 employers will be in attendance, eager to connect with our students. Whether they are seeking their first big break or just exploring their options for the 2024-2025 academic year, this is the event they won't want to miss. Feel free to stop by and witness a vibrant student turnout as we help them forge valuable professional connections.

2025-2026 FAFSA Update

The U.S. Department of Education announced the 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available on or before December 1, 2024. This is a delay from the typical release date of October 1, and it aims to prevent the technical issues that were experienced with the previous year's form. The form will be available for completion at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Reminder, UConn's FAFSA on-time deadline is February 15, 2025.

One Stop Student Services

In August, One Stop completed seven months of operation. On a weekly average, we send nearly 2,000 emails, handle 2,100 phone calls, and assist 140 drop-in visits. Since our establishment, we have processed over 5,800 Student Enrollment Request forms (SERF) and more than 3,400 non-degree applications. Additionally, our staff has conducted 45 outreach events, including presentations, workshops, and resource fair tabling, up to the beginning of August. Over the past two months, we have experienced decreased FAFSA issues and are now actively addressing inquiries related to the fall semester.

Housing Updates from ResLife

As of August 7, **13,251** students were housed at Storrs, and **585** students were housed at Stamford.

This year, we are housing 1,046 more students at Storrs than last year, thanks to the opening of a new residence hall, expansions in various areas, and a partnership with the Oaks on the Square. The total bed inventory at Storrs is 13,321, and we currently have 50 vacant spaces. All students who applied for housing on time were accommodated and

selected their housing assignments in July. The 50 vacant spaces are being offered to newly admitted students who applied late and are on the waiting list, which will continue through the start of classes as vacancies exist.

There are 4,225 first-year students living on campus, along with an additional 256 newly admitted regional campus students and 396 transfer students. Newly admitted students are residing in areas such as Buckley/Shippee, Werth Tower, Towers Quad, Northwest Campus, North Campus, and Alumni. We are excited to welcome our newest Huskies to UConn!

IT-SLE Important Updates

Windows 11 Upgrade

IT-SLE will roll out a Windows 11 upgrade to computers this fall. The upgrade will be sent to workstations that are part of the Student Affairs domain that are currently running Windows 10. Communications will be sent in September and October to prepare select departments for this update. For full details visit: <https://it.studentlife.uconn.edu/windows-11/>

Microsoft 365 Changes

ITS will be making changes to Microsoft 365 services based on findings and recommendations pertaining to a recent security audit. The following changes will be implemented in mid-August:

- Browser sessions will timeout after one hour of inactivity on devices not managed by UConn or on an Apple device. The option to remain signed in will be disabled. This change will not apply to Microsoft 365 use through a desktop client.
- LinkedIn account connections to UConn Microsoft accounts will be disabled.
- Access to user-owned apps and services in the Microsoft Office Store will be disabled.
- Individual participants will be required to provide consent when a Teams meeting recording and/or transcription is initiated. If they do not, they will be able to view and hear the meeting, but their microphone and video will be disabled.

Use 'Presentation Mode' for a Distraction-Free Presentation Experience

Windows Presentation Mode is a feature that ensures a smooth experience during your presentation. When enabled, it will disable all other pop-up windows, keep the computer awake and disable the screen saver. You can also remove or change the desktop

background to your preferred image. Follow the steps in this guide to learn more about [Turning on Presentation Mode for Windows](#).

Canva for Teams Available to Departments in Student Life & Enrollment

Canva is a cloud-based graphic design tool used to create on-brand digital marketing content, presentations, videos and more. Staff and student employees can join our Canva service to take advantage of premium features. Billing and access to this shared resource will be managed by IT-SLE.

Requests for access can be sent to Evelyn Lang (evelyn.lang@uconn.edu).

For more information about Canva, including who should have access to this service, please visit: [Canva for Teams IT-SLE](#)

Summer 2024 Orientation

This summer, the Office of Orientation Services welcomed over 7,500 new huskies to UConn Nation! Below is the breakdown by campus:

Avery Point – 192 students

Hartford – 706 students

Stamford – 1,068 students

Storrs – 5,329 students

Waterbury – 254 students

Throughout the summer, our five campuses hosted over 55 orientation sessions. Orientation Leaders guided new students around the campuses, introducing them to well-known UConn traditions such as gameday chants and how to proudly sing the fight song. Additionally, students were informed about campus resources from different offices, familiarized with campus amenities, and enrolled in classes for the fall semester.

We didn't just stop at students! Over 4,200 supporters registered for our Family Orientation sessions. Guests were able to spend a day at UConn and learn about what each campus has to offer. Additionally, our regional campuses hosted a series of eight virtual webinars, each covering a different topic, to provide UConn families with even more campus-specific information. The Office of Orientation Services had a great time welcoming our newest members of UConn Nation, and we can't wait to see them thrive in the coming year.



Strategic Planning and Assessment

Assessment and Reporting Tools

The Division of Student Life and Enrollment has access to several tools to facilitate assessment and reporting. Some tools (such as Qualtrics) are available to all students, faculty, and staff. There are other tools that require specific access and permissions granted by the Director of Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation. If you or your department would like support in using any of the survey or reporting tools, please reach out to me at liza.boritz@uconn.edu.

Reminder: Submit Assessment Projects for Review!

Don't forget to submit your assessment and evaluation projects for review. Visit the Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation [webpage](#) for more information and to access resources including [important forms and instructional videos](#).

In Partnership,

[Liza Boritz](#)

Director, Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation

Other News

The rebranding of UConn's "Center for Career Development" to "Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills" reflects an expanded mission aligning with the university's strategic plan. This new name emphasizes a commitment to preparing students for both professional and personal success by offering a broader range of services that include essential life skills like emotional intelligence and financial literacy. The updated center focuses on holistic student support, integrating career readiness with personal development through resources, workshops, and new programs such as UConn Work+.

This approach aligns with UConn's goals of promoting student success and fostering a thriving community in Connecticut.

Important Dates, Deadlines & Events

August 26: Fall Semester begins

August 28: Student Employment Job Fair, *Storrs Campus*

September 2: Labor Day (no classes)

September 9-13: [Employee Appreciation Week](#) (HR)

September 13-15: [Family Weekend](#), *Storrs Campus*

UConn is a great university.

But it's more than that. A top-ranked Land and Sea Grant research institution, with campuses and staff across Connecticut, built to inspire the global community that is UConn Nation. UConn's talented students exceed expectations. Our expert researchers, faculty, and alumni drive Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (CIE) for a better tomorrow. We fuel the State's economy and are committed to inclusion with emotional intelligence in benefiting the greater good. **This is UConn.**

STUDENTS FIRST. UCONN ALWAYS. HUSKIES FOREVER.

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