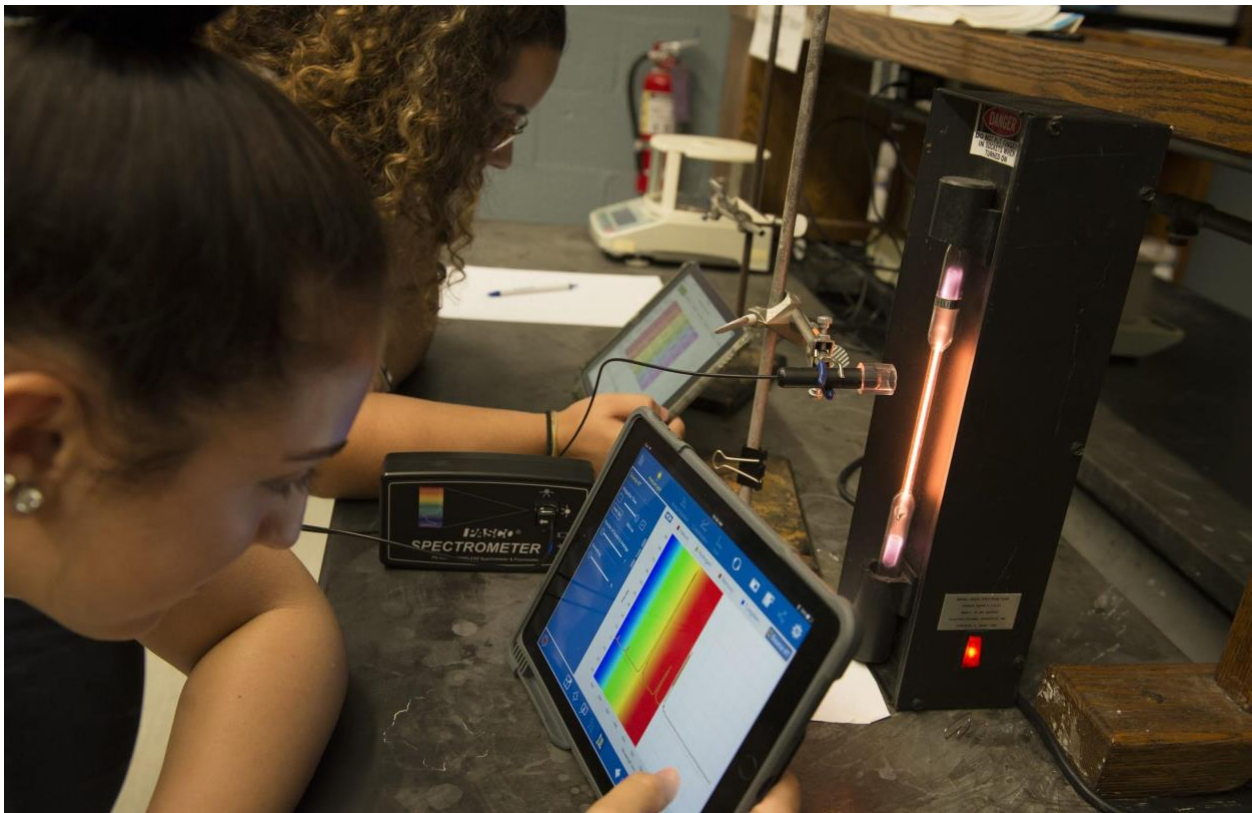




PROVOST BRIEFING

June 18, 2018

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Here are some of this week's top stories and a look ahead.

- Open Office Hours with the Provost Cancelled this Week
- Summer Orientation, June 20-21, June 25-26, and July 16-17
- Learning Management System Changes for all Fall Classes 2018

Open Office Hours with the Provost Cancelled this Week

There will be no office hours with the Provost this Thursday, June 21. Office Hours will return the following week on **Tuesday, June 26.**

Summer Orientation

The Orientation Committee has begun planning for Summer Orientation would like to request the faculty's assistance for advising and registration. Since the College is welcoming over a thousand students to campus this fall, we need to adjust the orientation sessions and to add a third session! Here is the schedule for the three sessions:

- Session 1: **June 20-21, 2018**
- Session 2: **June 25-26, 2018**
- Session 3: **July 16-17, 2018**

Advising will take place on Thursday, **June 21**, Tuesday, **June 26** and Tuesday, **July 17** from **9 am - 12 pm** in **Hamel Court** at the Merrimack Athletic Complex.

This year the Committee is again asking for assistance at any or all of the sessions to advise our incoming first-year students. To the best of our ability, we will match students with their academic advisor or a member of their department, and we will need additional assistance for those students who are undeclared. For Session 1 and 2, we are hoping for a minimum of two people per department with extra faculty in the larger majors. For Session 3, we expect a smaller number of students (and we know that faculty are not usually around in the summer) but will know our needs as we get closer to July. Please know that ANY AND ALL faculty members are welcome to participate. Please send Mary McHugh the names of the faculty members who can attend by **Monday, June 11** at mchughm@merrimack.edu.

If you have any questions or suggestions about Summer Orientation, feel free to contact your school's representative on the Committee, Mary McHugh, Peter Ellard, Diane Shaw, or Allison Pukala.

The Orientation Committee would also invite everyone to the Family Cocktail Receptions, which will be on Wednesday, June 20, Monday, June 25 and Monday July 16 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm in the Blue Line Club.

Thank you in advance for your assistance as we all look forward to welcoming the Class of 2022!



Blackboard Changes for All Fall Classes 2018

There are important changes coming that you will need to know for all of your fall classes. The College is in the process of updating Blackboard to the new **mobile-friendly version** called Ultra. This transition will occur in stages, beginning fall 2018. In addition to a new navigation bar on all course shells, faculty may also opt-in to the new full-course Ultra version this summer. To prepare, please review the LMS updates and changes here: [Blackboard updates](#). To determine if you are a good candidate for Ultra right now, please take this [Blackboard usage survey](#) and the CETL will contact you to provide next steps.

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