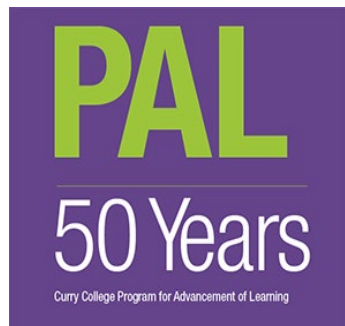


# STUDENT ORIENTATION GUIDE



## Program for Advancement of Learning (PAL)



### Welcome to PAL

*Warm and hearty greetings from PAL - a place where your talents and individuality are always respected and honored.*

This answers some commonly asked questions.

If we can be of assistance, do not hesitate to ask!

# CURRY COLLEGE

## Common Questions

### ***What will I do in PAL?***

You and your PAL professor will decide this together. Learning relationships are collaborative. Instruction is embedded in coursework challenges so that it is practical and meaningful.

### ***What should I bring?***

- \* a time management system
- \* readings or assignments from your classes
- \* technology that you use

### ***Is PAL a course?***

Yes. The first semester PAL course, The Learning Process I, is a course and should be on your schedule for 1.5 credits. If not, check with the Student and Parent Coordinator of PAL.

### ***Is attendance required in PAL?***

Yes. Attendance is crucial. You earn credits for PAL. By requiring that you attend PAL on a regular basis, you are faced with “reality checks” and are asked to address issues that you may otherwise avoid. Students make a commitment to attend PAL regularly.

### ***What else is expected of me?***

You are expected to report truthfully about your performance in classes. You are asked to engage in meaningful reflection on your learning and be willing to explore new habits or mindsets. Student self-understanding and empowerment are at the core of the highly personalized process.

### ***Is the parent role different now that their child is in college?***

We normally include students in conversations about them. Our goal is to develop your self-advocacy and independence for college and career success. You provide written consent for the degree of contact with others that you prefer.

### ***Do I get a grade for PAL?***

Yes. A "pass" or "fail" grade for most PAL courses. This impacts academic standing.

### ***You mean you can FAIL PAL?***

Yes. This normally occurs when attendance is a problem, in which case the Student and Parent Coordinator may contact you and/or your parents.

***How often does PAL meet?***

First-year students in PAL meet with their PAL professor, in a combination of small group and/or individual class sessions, at regularly scheduled times, usually twice weekly for a total of 2 ½ hours.

***What if I want more time?***

PAL professors have office hours when they are available for extra help. You can use Academic Advising tutoring and the Writing Center for help.

***What is the difference between my PAL Professor and my Academic Advisor?***

Your PAL professor works with you on developing strategies for success in your courses. You will see them every week.

Your Academic Advisor meets with you as needed about any changes to your schedule, issues with academic standing, helps you pick out classes for next semester, and provides many forms and signatures that you will need. In some cases, your Academic Advisor and your PAL professor are the same person. All PAL professors and PAL Academic Advisors work closely together in the best interests of the individual student.

***What if there is a mismatch with my PAL Professor or Academic Advisor?***

If necessary, see the Student and Parent Coordinator of PAL.

***What should I know that PAL Professors do not do?***

PAL professors do not write or rewrite papers, do research for students, provide answers to take-home exams, give extensive content tutoring, directly monitor classroom performance, make wake-up calls, send reminders about homework, supervise medication, or act as parents. Fostering student growth in these is core to our philosophy.

***Will my Classroom Professors know that I am in PAL?***

Not necessarily. Your professors will not get a list of who is in PAL, so it is up to you if you choose to share that information with them. Of course, if you want an accommodation like an extended time test, you will have to let them know.

***Will PAL Professors regularly contact Classroom Professors to monitor my progress?***

Generally, no. We rely heavily on your reporting so that you are in control. Accurate reporting about attendance in class and other matters is critical.



## **PAL Cohorts**

As part of PAL 1190, some students may choose to participate in a learning cohort, or small group, with other first-year students who share interests or a major. The PAL professor teaches the class with a specialized focus on the interest area, and the students take one or two other courses together from the Curry curriculum. In a cohort, students meet with their PAL professor individually and in small groups to explore their interest area, their learning profiles, and to develop metacognitive strategies in relation to their interest area and other academic courses.

**For more information about the PAL cohorts, please contact ([pal@curry.edu](mailto:pal@curry.edu)) or 617-333-2250**



## Assistive Technology (AT) Center

### ***What is the PAL AT Center?***

This is the hub for PAL assistive technology support and accommodations, such as:

- \* Extended Test Time
- \* Educational Apps
- \* Speech to Text & Text to Speech Software
- \* Alternative Texts
- \* Notetaking
- \* Hands-on assistive technology (AT) support

The AT Center is available for drop-in support and for quiet work during the day.

PAL has a YouTube channel that provides tutorials on Assistive Technology tools at:

<https://youtube.com/@atcenterpal4492> .

For further information, please contact the AT Center Coordinator ([atcenterpal@curry.edu](mailto:atcenterpal@curry.edu)).

### ***Do I have to sign up ahead of time for extended-time tests?***

Yes. Students must request each extended time test through the online CWIS icon/Student Services or Academic Support/PAL tab on the MyCurry portal at least **five days (usually one week) in advance**. Your PAL professor can show you how to do this.

### **PAL Computer Lab and Study Lounge**

The PAL computer lab provides quiet spaces to work here in PAL with your PAL professor close by. The lab is normally for students in PAL, helping to ensure that computers and printers will be available. Go explore what technologies are available there.

## Webb Learning Center

*We are here to help if you need us*

[PAL@curry.edu](mailto:PAL@curry.edu)

617.333.2250

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Have a wonderful beginning to your first semester at Curry.