Middlebury College
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Dean of Students
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January 17, 2013

Dear Incoming Middlebury Students,

Among our fundamental priorities at Middlebury College are student health and safety, and the building of a supportive, respectful community. Our policies are designed with these values in mind. Middlebury College requires all incoming students to take three brief but informative on-line courses before they arrive on campus: these courses address alcohol use, drug use, and sexual violence. We focus on these areas of concern because both national and local data suggest that they are areas of heightened risk for new students on campus.

Please see the information below for instructions about these courses; you are required to take these courses before arriving on campus. In addition, we want to share some important information about alcohol at Middlebury College. Although alcohol use does not present a problem for most students, it is a problem for some, and first year students are disproportionately at risk for the negative consequences of alcohol. Recent on-campus studies indicate that the number of students who misuse alcohol at Middlebury, including first year students, is higher than national averages. All of us – faculty, staff and students – are concerned about these findings.

Once on campus, you will enter an active conversation among faculty, staff and students about alcohol. For example, last year an appointed task force, led by Bobby Ritter, head football coach, and Katy Smith Abbott, dean of students, conducted an extensive review of alcohol and social life on campus. This task force presented President Liebowitz with over 40 recommendations for his consideration. One thing is clear: dangerous misuse of alcohol, and the disrespect of people and property that sometimes ensues, is unacceptable to all of us. We must work together to reduce problematic drinking and to obtain appropriate help for students who go too far.
If you choose to drink at Middlebury, your decisions regarding alcohol warrant thoughtful consideration. Drinking alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal in Vermont, and the College does not and cannot protect students from legal action if they engage in underage drinking. Providing alcohol to underage students or other minors is also illegal, and both State and local police departments actively pursue those who facilitate underage drinking, as do Vermont courts. Underage drinking is also against College policy, and you should become familiar with these policies as listed in the College Handbook. Students who repeatedly violate our alcohol policies, or who engage in a pattern of irresponsible drinking, will be subject to official discipline and may be dismissed from the College and/or medically withdrawn and sent home for appropriate treatment. What can you do? If you don’t drink, don’t feel pressured to start. Almost 20% of our students (across all classes) do not drink, and almost 60% drink lightly or moderately most of the time.

Many students do drink, however, and too many students drink to excess. During the course of last year, several first year students were taken to Porter Hospital with signs of potential alcohol poisoning, and thus were at significant medical risk. Drinking to that level is dangerous and it’s just not smart. If you choose to drink at Middlebury, be very careful about what you drink, with whom you drink, and how fast you drink. If you drink, know the potential consequences. If others around you are drinking, take steps to discourage them from putting themselves or others at risk.

You will make many new friends at Middlebury – keep an eye on them and keep them safe, and ask them to do the same for you. Take steps to prevent alcohol abuse and quickly step up and help anyone who seems to be drinking too much. During orientation we will identify and discuss together ways to do this effectively.

**MyStudentBody and United Educators Courses**

Before you arrive, however, we want you to explore information about alcohol, drugs, and sexual violence more closely. MyStudentBody (for alcohol and drugs) and United Educators (for sexual violence) feature online courses about these topics; the courses are used in schools nationwide as a requirement for first year students. The goal of the courses is to increase students’ knowledge, decrease harmful or risky behaviors, and provide information to help you make effective decisions. Altogether, the courses take about 90 minutes or so to complete.

Middlebury requires incoming Febs to complete the MyStudentBody and United Educators online courses by February 1, 2013. If you are an international student with limited access to the Internet you are required to take the course as soon as you arrive on campus. Here’s what you need to know to get started:
Course Instructions:

MyStudentBody

1. Go to [http://www.mystudentbody.com](http://www.mystudentbody.com) and click on REGISTER HERE to create your secure account. Enter your email address, select password, and enter middleburypanthers as the school code. Follow the on-screen prompts to enter required security and demographic information. Click continue.

2. NOTE: This school code is for students only – parents should use the code middleburyparent.

3. From the My Stuff page, select the Essentials Course by clicking Take Now under Status.

4. Complete the questionnaire and pre-quiz for the selected module.

5. Complete all module material.

6. Complete the post-test.

7. NOTE: The course consists of two modules. Repeat steps 3-5 for each module required for the course. You must complete the course by February 1, 2013 with a passing score of 70.

8. Complete the course survey.

9. Once you complete the two courses on alcohol and drugs with a passing score (70), you are all done with MyStudentBody. Note that there are many additional resources on the MyStudentBody web site that may be of interest to you now or after you arrive. The web site will be available for your use all year.

10. Finally, all courses include a follow-up assessment that helps you see how you have changed since you took the course. You will receive an email approximately 60 days after you complete the course asking you to log in to MyStudentBody and complete the 10-minute assessment. Please fill out the assessment as soon as you are notified. Completing this follow-up assessment is required of all first year students.

United Educators:


2. First-time users should select the option to create a new account on the right side of the screen.

3. Enter this institution registration code: **0616-S101-XY12**.

4. Create a username and password, and then provide information for a user profile.

5. Once you are on the eLearning homepage, launch the course (**Lasting Choices: Protecting Our Campus From Sexual Assault**) by clicking the course title.

6. If you revisit [www.studentfyi.com](http://www.studentfyi.com), log in using the username and password you created in step 2.

7. If you have any issues with the course please feel free to contact the 24hr help
We hope that your remaining weeks before arriving at Middlebury are restful, and we look forward to seeing you in February.

Sincerely,

Shirley M. Collado
Dean of the College

Katherine Smith Abbott
Dean of Students