



Grow and Learn with us...



2023

STUDENT HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize you with some of the traditions and policies that have been established at the New England Municipal Clerks' Institute and Academy, and to give you an idea about what to expect during the NEMCI&A Program.

It is important for you to work as a team with your class members. We encourage communication between the classes, the faculty, and the NEMCI&A Board of Directors. We are here to help you.



New England Municipal Clerks' Institute & Academy

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

NEMCI&A Policies:

ABSENCES: There are no provisions for being absent and you must be at your classes on time. There is strict adherence to IIMC requirements for satisfactory completion of all courses.

EARLY ARRIVALS: Early arrivals cannot be accommodated. Private arrangements must be made on your own at a local establishment.

LATE ARRIVALS: If you are an Institute student and cannot arrive by 3:00pm please contact your class advisor.

CONDUCT: Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, mature, and responsible manner that reflects highly on themselves, their municipality, and this organization.

ID BADGE: You must wear your ID badge at all times outside of your room. Badges are to be returned at check out in the lobby along with your evaluations in the boxes provided.

HOUSING: Housing accommodations for the Institute and Academy are for students, faculty, and board members only. Your tuition includes housing. **All institute students are required to stay in the dormitory.**

KEYS: Keys are to be kept with you at all times. You will receive one key to your dorm room and one key card to enter the building. Your keys and key cards are to be returned to PSU staff in the lobby at time of check out.

NOTE-Dorm room doors do not lock automatically when closed; they must be locked with your key.

****There is a \$150 charge for lost keys AND a \$150 charge for lost key cards.**

CHECKOUT: You must be out of your room by 10:00 am on Friday morning. Checkout consists of placing your completed evaluation and ID badge in the boxes provided in the lobby; and returning your key and keycard to PSU staff.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: Plymouth State University's main office number is (603) 535-5000.

Refund Policy: The deposit is non-refundable. In the event you must cancel your attendance, a request for a refund of other fees paid must be accompanied by a copy of the cancelled check, as well as a letter from the source of scholarship (if applicable). There will be no pro-rating of tuition or fees for students attending part of Institute or Academy (i.e., departing early). If cancellation (unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, major illness, hospitalization, or death) is past the commitment date between NEMCI&A and the host school, a refund of your fees paid less any costs incurred by NEMCI&A may be considered for a monetary refund or to extend a credit towards a future year's attendance.

Registration Procedures:

Saturday **1:00 - 2:00** Year 1 Registration and move into your assigned room
 2:00 - 3:00 Year 2 and Year 3 Registration
 3:30 - Tour for Year 1 with Class Advisor ending at orientation
 3:30 - Tour for all others, if any, with Academy Advisor
 4:00 - 5:30 ALL participants, Orientation/Reception
 5:30 - 7:30 Year 1 Introduction (first class)
 5:00 - Year 2 and Year 3 classes meet with Class Advisor

Sunday **3:30 - 4:30** Academy Registration

Institute Procedures: *Here's what to expect...*

Day 1



REGISTRATION: Refer to registration schedule on page one.

Location:

Merrill Place Residence
14 Merrill Street
Plymouth, NH 03264

Additional assignments, schedules, and information will be available at that time. Please make every effort to arrive on time. Late Arrivals should contact a Board Member.

Year 1 – *Your first commitment is the tour at 3:30 followed by the orientation and reception. Please be sure to arrive in time to unload and settle into your room before this 3:30 commitment. **Your First Class** will be Saturday from 5:30 to 7:30pm.*

ORIENTATION/RECEPTION: A mandatory orientation for all students will be held Saturday afternoon. Last minute details, special meetings, and possible schedule changes will be announced at this time.

Day 2

Classes, Classes...



Day 3

Monday evening provides the opportunity for **dinner on your own** with friends or classmates. Check out www.lakesregion.org to further explore the region.

Day 4

...and More Classes! There is also an optional evening class for extra IIMC points.

Day 5

Party



Wednesday night is reserved for the graduating class party. You won't want to miss it! See the invitation in your information packet. Creative costuming is encouraged!

Day 6



*****Cocktails at 6:15 p.m., Graduation at 6:45 p.m., followed by dinner*****
Group State and Class pictures will be taken during Cocktail time, please arrive promptly

- See Graduation invitation for location details.
- Those preferring a vegetarian meal or those with special dietary restrictions should email the Food Service Chair as soon as possible.
- Additional banquet reservations must be made and paid for at registration. All reservations are final after that date.

Dormitory Life



Things to know...

CHECKOUT ON FRIDAY is at 10:00am This consists of handing in your evaluation form, ID badge and your key and key card.

CLASS BREAKS: The class break is 10 minutes. There are soda/water machines in some of the classroom halls. The snack bar in the HUB is open Monday – Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Book Store is open all week. A travel coffee mug and refillable water bottle comes in handy.

CELL PHONE USE: Out of respect for the instructor and fellow classmates, keep your phone on silent in class. We are all away from our offices and understand that you may have to respond to your office staff. If possible, wait until break time to respond.

Merrill Place has an open kitchen area in the lobby for our use. Please keep this area clean. Morning Coffee will be provided Sunday through Friday.

MEALS:

- ✓ No dinner will be served on Saturday or Monday.
- ✓ Food will be provided at the Orientation, Saturday afternoon.
- ✓ The regular daily dining hours are:
Breakfast 7:00 – 7:45 a.m., Lunch 12:15 – 1:15 p.m., Dinner 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.
- ✓ On Wednesday, dinner will be provided at a location announced at orientation Saturday afternoon, then join the third-year class for their Graduation Party.
- ✓ Tuition includes breakfast, lunch and dinner for all Institute and Academy students with the exception of Saturday and Monday night.

ROOMS: Upon arrival you will be assigned a room and receive a set of keys. Keys are to be kept with you at all times. You will receive one key to your dorm room and one key card to enter the building. Your keys and key cards are to be returned to PSU staff in the lobby at time of check out.

****There is a \$150 charge for lost keys AND a \$150 charge for lost key cards.**

SNACKS AND DRINKS: Bring your own – and don't forget your own plastic or paper goods, as none are provided.

TOWELS AND LINENS: Two bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths, a pillow, blanket and set of sheets will be provided. They will not be exchanged during the week. You may want to supplement the linens by bringing additional towels and dorm length single bed sheets. Plan to bring your favorite pillow and a blanket or coverlet since the rooms are air-conditioned.

WHAT TO PACK: See Page 5.

WHAT TO WEAR:

- Casual comfortable clothes
- Comfortable shoes for walking
- Dress clothes for the Banquet and Graduation

Note: The dormitory is air-conditioned, many classrooms are not. Be prepared for both hot and cool weather. You will be walking between buildings and should prepare for rain as well.

WIFI: **Merrill Place Residence is WIFI accessible.** The password will be provided.

YEAR I

Traditionally, the first year class will organize and elect representatives such as a president, spokesperson, treasurer, and secretary, etc. Some classes collect dues and plan fund-raising events to purchase class shirts or hats and to pay for their third-year party, a long-standing NEMCI&A tradition.

A picture display of your town, staff, office, and anything else you can add to tell us the story of your Municipality is required by each first year student. Be creative! You want to show off your town and show your pride in the community you represent. Please see the Picture Display in the Information Packet on the website.

In order to apply for Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) status, you must be a dues paying member of the IIMC for two years. Year I students should make sure they are enrolled in IIMC if they are working towards their CMC certification.

Your schedule of classroom locations and class times will be provided at the time of registration. Although your schedule will be very busy you will find it quite rewarding. You must wear your identification badge at all times.

YEAR II

Year II students should review finances and plan their third year party. You will meet with your Class Advisor immediately following the Orientation Meeting. Party plans for your third year must be approved by the Board of Directors. Year II students will vote on the recipient for the LSH Scholarship Award. Please let your Class Advisor know who was chosen no later than Tuesday afternoon.

Other things you should also consider:

1. Arrange location, theme, entertainment, and presentations.
2. Coordinate food with Food Service Chair.
3. Charge responsibilities of class party invitations (design, information, and mailing).
4. Choose your color guards (member of each state plus the American Flag).
5. Are you leaving a gift to the Institute at graduation? (NEMCI&A tradition).
6. Make arrangements to speak with members from Year 3 regarding the costs associated with the party.
7. Discuss who your graduation speaker will be. This person will represent you at graduation and deliver your class speech. The Board of Directors will need this information no later than May 1st to prepare the Graduation Programs.

YEAR III

The Third Year Class will vote on the recipients of the Lobster Award, the Henry Paquin Memorial Scholarship, and the Clyde McKee Scholarship Award. Please let your Class Advisor know who was chosen no later than Tuesday afternoon.

Graduation:

1. All class members must attend graduation rehearsal.
2. Your class is responsible for the music played at graduation. (Prior approval by the Board is required. See your Advisor for suggestions.) This needs to be arranged well before arriving at NEMCI&A.
3. Select three members to represent your class in a meeting with the Board of Directors to discuss your experience at NEMCI&A. We welcome your comments and/or suggestions about the program.
4. Dress for the occasion. It is Graduation Night – this is a night you will want to remember.
5. Remember to make arrangements for your guests. A list of local bed and breakfast facilities, hotels and motels can be found at: www.lakesregion.org. If you need assistance, you may contact any member of the Board of Directors.

ACADEMY

Academy courses are more in-depth, intensive and relate to the development of high-level administrative skills and executive-level management. Check your courses online, some pre-work may be required.

THE MUST LIST

*****Forms you must bring with you to registration:**

1. Medical Release Form
2. Sexual Harassment Policy Acknowledgement Form
3. Anti-Bullying Policy Acknowledgement Form
4. Accident Waiver
5. Photo Release Form
6. Press Release Form (Optional)

Laptop Requirements: Students must **BRING** their own laptops with Microsoft Office 365 / 2010 version or newer.

Your Pre-Work (If required)

Display Poster of your Town (Year 1 only) Bring blue painters' tape to hang your poster outside your dorm room for judging.

SUGGESTED ITEMS to bring to make your stay more comfortable:

For Class:

Travel mug/water bottle
Office Supplies (notebook, scissors, tape, pens etc.)
USB flash drive

For your bed:

Egg crate foam pad
Mattress pad
Extra sheets, blanket
Pillow

For Your Room:

Hangers
Small Mirror
Radio
Fan
Trash Bags

Alarm Clock
Coffee Maker
Small Lamp for Reading

For the Bathroom:

Extra Towel, wash cloth
Toiletries
Bar soap
Paper Towles/Tissue
Extra Toilet Paper

Bath Mat
Hair Dryer
Hand Soap

For the Lounge/Suite:

Lawn Chair
Snacks
Cash for Raffles
Cooler or Dorm-size Refrigerator (work out with roommates)

Clothes:

Jacket, sweater/sweatshirt (some classrooms tend to be cold)
Umbrella/raincoat
Party outfit for Wednesday
Dress outfit for Thursday Graduation

And last, but not least: A dolly or cart to transport all this stuff from your car to your dorm room. PSU may have a few carts available.

All the items on the **Suggested Items** list are merely suggestions. There are many shops in town, as well as a Wal-Mart, Dollar Store, and grocery stores nearby.

NO EXTENSION CORDS, MICROWAVES, TOASTER OVENS, OR HOT PLATES ARE ALLOWED IN ROOMS.

Merrill Place has an open kitchen area in the lobby for our use. Please keep this area clean.