Advisathon 2015: In an effort to help you make wise decisions about your time at Rockefeller, we have designed Advisathon 2015. All faculty members will be present at this exercise. You will have the opportunity to meet with your current adviser, as well as any other faculty members with whom you may be interested in speaking. Please bring your MPA Manual, as you will also fill out your Tentative Degree Program Planning sheet (TDPP) during this session. This is a mandatory session.

Case Study Group Exercise: One of the most important skills you can gain at Rockefeller College is to work in groups. To that end, we have designed a group exercise that you will complete during Welcome Week. You will be assigned to groups to complete a case study that is based on current events in the State of New York. To communicate your group’s recommendation, you will: (1) write an individual memo; and (2) deliver a group PowerPoint presentation in front of a faculty panel. The use of both PowerPoint and Excel will be part of this exercise. The mandatory attendance times for the group project are Saturday, August 15th, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm; Monday, August 17th, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm; and Friday, August 21st, from 9:30am to 4:00pm. Additionally, several professors will hold office hours on Sunday and Tuesday to answer any questions you may have concerning the case. The group exercise includes a graded portion that will be applied to your RPAD 507 grade. This is a mandatory session.

How to find an internship using Handshake and the NYS Internship Portal - This informative workshop will demonstrate how to find an internship using Handshake (the University’s internship and job search database) and the New York State Internship Portal. The session will feature a guest speaker from the NYS Department of Civil Service. This session is mandatory for all students who have not received an internship waiver.

Math Refreshers I, II and III: You will take a math diagnostic test on the first day of Welcome Week to determine if you need to attend one or more of the Math Refresher courses. Depending on your score, you will be assigned to attend one or more refresher courses. There are two different times for each of the Math Refresher courses. If you are a continuing student and have already taken two of RPAD 501, 503, or 505 and received a B or higher, you do not need to take any math refreshers, although you are welcome to do so if you feel you need the review.

Microsoft Excel Basics & “Fun with Charts and Graphs” (2 sessions): You will be required to use Excel extensively in your core courses at Rockefeller College. To determine your familiarity with Excel, complete the pre-test (titled “Handout for MPA Admissions data exercise”) available on Welcome Week Central and read through the workshop materials. If you cannot complete the entire pre-test, you should plan to attend these two workshops. The Excel workshops will include an assignment for RPAD 504, to be submitted on the first day of class. Excel Basics will cover Part 1 of the assignment; “Fun with Charts and Graphs” will cover Part 2. Even if you are not planning to take RPAD 504 this fall, it may be helpful for you to attend this workshop and complete the assignment while the material is fresh in your mind.
However, if you are familiar with Excel and can complete the pre-test, you do not need to attend these workshops. Because of space constraints, we ask that you sign up ahead of time for one of each of the workshops.

**Professional Standards in Using and Citing Sources in Written Work:** You will need to attend one of two options for the Professional Writing Workshop. The workshop will focus on how to properly use and cite sources in academic work, and will utilize readings that can be found on Welcome Week Central.
*This is a mandatory session.*

**Resume Writing/Internship Basics:** Conducted by Jennifer Maclaughlin, Director of Internships & Career Programs, the workshop will be divided into two sections: resume writing and internship basics. All students are encouraged to attend the resume writing portion to review the basics of resume and CV writing for MPA students. The second half of the workshop will cover the process of obtaining an internship and the expectations of the MPA internship program. **Please be sure to bring a copy of your current resume and Career Handbook to the session.** In addition, Jen will be holding office hours throughout the week for individual resume review and specific questions pertaining to the internship requirements.
*This session is mandatory for students who will be completing the internship requirement. (This session is NOT mandatory for students who have already completed their internship requirement or have obtained an internship waiver from the Career Development Office, but they are welcome to attend.)*

**Stress Management Workshop:** Graduate school can sometimes be stressful, and it definitely requires superior time management skills. Find out more about what the University Counseling and Psychological Services has to offer you in an interactive presentation that includes easy stress and time management tips for a busy semester.
*This workshop is optional.*

**Writing with Numbers:** In professional writing, you will often draw on statistics and other numbers to help persuade your readers. Throwing numbers at your readers, however, can quickly confuse and annoy them. In this optional workshop, Professor Stephen Weinberg will offer strategies for effectively using numbers in your writing, with particular emphasis on strategies for placing numbers into a meaningful and transparent context.
*This workshop is optional.*