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General Questions

Do your programs address any of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks?

Yes! Many of our programs address the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, particularly for the *Science and Technology Engineering Framework* as listed on the [McAuliffe Center website](#).

What does CLC mean?

Challenger Learning Center

What is the Challenger Learning Center?

Challenger Learning Centers, or CLCs, are learning environments dedicated to space-themed simulation-based experiences. The McAuliffe Center is home to one of about forty CLCs in the world. Our space mission simulations are led by trained Flight Directors and take place in a fully immersive Space Station and Mission Control for learners ages 10 and up.

Can I request a group visit to the McAuliffe Center?

Yes! A group visit is available for school, out-of-school time, camps, Scouts, clubs, community organizations, private corporations, and more!

What are the chaperone requirements for our visit to the McAuliffe Center?

- For scheduled group visits to the McAuliffe Center, a 1:9 (adult:child) ratio is required for children in grades K-12.
- For students with special needs, a ratio of 1:1 or 1:3 (educator/adult:student) is recommended, depending on the individual student's needs.

What hours are available to schedule a program for my group?

- School-hour programs can be scheduled weekdays, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-1:30pm.
- Out-of-school time programs can be scheduled weekdays, Monday-Friday, starting at 2pm, while school is in session. We also welcome program requests for weekends, school vacation weeks, and summer.

How long is my program?

- Mission + Planetarium: These two programs combined can last up to 4 hours and include a simulated mission, lunch break, and planetarium program.
- Mission only: A simulated mission in the CLC lasts up to 2 hours.
- Planetarium only: A planetarium program lasts up to 2 hours.

What if I have an entire grade level of students who want to visit the McAuliffe Center?

McAuliffe Center staff work with you to determine a schedule that best accommodates your group's needs regarding size and arrival through departure.

Can our group eat lunch or snacks at the McAuliffe Center?

Yes! The McAuliffe Center has its own Lunch Room for groups who bring their own lunches. Please let us know if you need this room for your visit. In addition, [FSU Dining Services](#) has many on-campus options if your group has additional time to spend on campus, or if you'd like catered lunches such as pizza, sandwiches, or salads.

Mission Simulations in the Challenger Learning Center (In-Person)

How many participants do I need in order to schedule an in-person mission in the Challenger Learning Center?

The minimum number of participants is 18 and the maximum is 36.

Is there any prep work for my group before our visit for a mission?

Yes! Prep work before your visit ensures a high quality, positive learning experience for your group. It is important to review the guidelines for participation in the program and to discuss the Crew Manifest roles and descriptions with all members of your group. The guidelines and Crew Manifest are sent to you via email with your group's program registration and information packet.

How do you recommend I assign individuals to stations for the crew manifest?

The crew manifest indicates the knowledge and skills required of the job. Choose the role for each participant according to the skills listed in the job requirements.

What do we do if my group has an individual with mobility concerns?

The McAuliffe Center is an ADA-compliant facility. Please inform McAuliffe Center staff in advance of booking your program about your concerns.

Can we do more than one mission simulation on the same day?

Yes, but only if it is the same mission.

FSU Digital Planetarium

How long is a planetarium program?

The standard planetarium program is scheduled for up to 90 minutes if offered as part of the CLC Mission plus Planetarium combo. A planetarium program alone can last up to 2 hours and includes hands-on activities.

How many people can be accommodated for a planetarium program?

A group needs a minimum of 10 people; and the maximum is 60 people, including chaperones.

Does the planetarium offer programming for Pre-K students, Kindergarteners and 1st graders?

Yes! We offer interactive planetarium programs designed for our youngest learners. Complete the online [Program Request Form](#) and McAuliffe Center staff will follow-up with your request in about a week.

Can I rent the planetarium for a private event?

Yes! Complete the online [Program Request Form](#) and McAuliffe Center staff will follow-up with your request in about a week.

I am an FSU professor. Can I use the planetarium to complement my coursework?

Yes! Complete the online [Program Request Form](#) for the McAuliffe Center staff to review and discuss further with you.

Can FSU student groups use the planetarium?

Yes! Complete the online [Program Request Form](#) and McAuliffe Center staff will follow-up with your request in about a week.

Registration, Contract, and Payment

How do I register for a program at the McAuliffe Center?

First, complete an online [Program Request Form](#) for your group. McAuliffe Center staff will follow-up with you to determine next steps for program registration.

What are the program costs?

Program costs are listed [here](#).

Do you have a discount for booking multiple programs?

Yes! If you book four or more of the same type of program (i.e. CLC, planetarium, or combo CLC+planetarium), you receive a 10% discount for each set of four programs booked.

Frequently Asked Questions (rev. 4/2024)

For example:

- If you book seven planetarium programs, four programs receive a 10% discount and three programs are billed at the regular price.
- If you book two CLC programs and two planetarium programs, there is no discount.

How do I pay for my scheduled program?

The McAuliffe Center accepts credit card, check, or cash.

- Credit card: Payments are made online via the Learning Stream link provided on your invoice and in your email containing your registration packet and information.
- Checks: Make payable to: **Framingham State University / McAuliffe Center**. Your check should arrive to the McAuliffe Center 15 days before your first scheduled visit listed on your program confirmation.
- Cash: This form of payment must be received 15 days before your scheduled visit.

When is the payment for my group's visit due to the McAuliffe Center?

Payment for your group's visit is due in full, 15 days in advance of your scheduled visit. Any exceptions to this policy must be arranged in advance by contacting the Administrative Aide of the McAuliffe Center who can be reached at 508-626-4050.

What is your cancellation policy?

In the event that you need to cancel your scheduled visit to the McAuliffe Center, you must contact the McAuliffe Center via email at cmc@framingham.edu.

Cancellation more than 15 days of first scheduled program	100% refund
Cancellation 8-15 days of first scheduled program	50% refund
Cancellation 0-7 days of first scheduled program	0% refund
No-show for the program	0% refund

What if there is a snow day or another official closure outside of my school group's district-approved school calendar?

Snow days or other official school closures are not considered a cancellation. In such an event, contact the McAuliffe Center at 508-626-4050 AND email cmc@framingham.edu about your situation as soon as possible. Failure to timely inform the McAuliffe Center about your school's official closure is considered a "no-show" and is subject to a charge of 100% of fees applicable to the date of school closure. Please inform McAuliffe Center staff when would be best to reach you to discuss options to reschedule your visit.