

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Collegeboard.com has found that research has continually found a positive relationship between participating in orientation programs and student persistence. In addition, institutions with lower persistence rates were less likely to require students to participate in orientation programs. Studies have also found that orientation programs directly affect retention rates, a key factor in students' success.

The Charge

- Provide guidance that gives students the tools to be successful throughout their education paths.
- Develop a new student orientation program that fosters a positive relationship between participants and the university and serves as a foundation for student persistence and success.

Goal I

Continue to develop a new student orientation program that addresses various needs of students.

Strategies

- A. Increase the amount and accuracy of institutional and departmental information available to students prior to orientation.
- B. Introduce students to academic advisors who will help facilitate the course registration process.
- C. Introduce students to various support services and the providers of those services.
- D. Encourage students to define their success by exposing them to a variety of support mechanisms including alumni success stories, MyDegree@State, promotion of students' long-range planning, and *15 to Finish*.
- E. Increase student-peer interaction and engagement through activities that compel students to interact with peers while providing a foundation for students to develop lifelong relationships.
- F. Introduce students to financial aid and money management tools that help develop strategies for financial aid planning.
- G. Engage parents and families in the new student orientation experience.
- H. Build upon the pre-registration pilot program currently in place.
- I. Consider options for "cohort-based" orientation programs – transfer, adult, commuter, veteran, etc.
- J. Increase the number of new student orientation programs offered each academic year.
- K. Use appropriate assessment strategies to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of new student orientation programs.
- L. Improve transfer credit evaluation processes.
- M. Ensure university placement testing requirements consistently and appropriately result in the correct course placement.
- N. Establish a foundation during new student orientation that entices students to participate actively in "Welcome Days" programs and their freshman year experience course.