



UPDATED PROPOSAL: EXTENDED ORIENTATION PROGRAMMING BEGINNING IN FALL 2022

Beginning Fall 2022, Enrollment Management (EM) and partners propose offering an extension to new student orientation, just before school begins, to help new, main campus students acclimate to the University of Arizona. The programming will focus on helping students' peer connections, developing a sense of Wildcat identity, preparing for academic experiences, learning campus traditions, understanding policies, and engaging in cultural competency development. Institutions that offer such programs have seen an increase in first-to-second year retention.

To do this, we propose moving the first day of fall semester classes to a Wednesday and provide a structured transitional "extended orientation" (to be named) for new main campus students (and their families/ supporters). A Wednesday start will align fall and spring semesters as well and allow for two full days of connecting new students with "just in time" information for a successful start.

For Fall 2021, the Orientation and New Student Services team will implement a smaller-scale (virtual) version to welcome our new Wildcats within the current calendar.

PREPARING FOR THIS CHANGE

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

A change to the academic calendar is necessary for this program to happen. This change will also assist in compliance and operational issues resulting from current calendaring issues. The University Registrar is currently working on calendar models with the fall semester starting on a Wednesday and associated impact. The Registrar will prepare a proposal for campus review. Changes need to be shared with ABOR one year in advance and approved by Faculty Senate.

AFFORDABILITY

A two-day program will keep added expenses to a minimum for new students and their families. A small increase is expected in housing and meal plans, which will also be reflected in the estimated cost of attendance used to determine eligibility for financial aid.

PLANNING

Early planning will be crucial and require campus collaboration. The Office of Orientation and New Student Services in EM will lead the planning and implementation of this effort in conjunction with a committee of campus partners. A full plan will be developed throughout Spring 2021 and early Fall 2021. Best practices and benchmarking have been done and considerations regarding programming for student satisfaction, success and retention will be considered. Launching this program in AY22-23 will also align with the new General Education curriculum. More information on similar programming can be reviewed at <https://bit.ly/3dczVcl>.

BUDGET

To offer a new program of such scale for all incoming, main campus students, institutional investment and a slight increase in the Enrollment Fee is required. The increase, if approved, will be effective for Fall 2022 enrollees. Please note Pell eligible students are able to defer the Enrollment Fee.



SAMPLE PROGRAMMING *(to be determined with campus partners and academic units)*

- Small group connection opportunities and programming with student leaders
- Entire Incoming Class Programming
 - New Student Convocation
 - Interest Sessions
 - Title IX Conversations & Training
 - Cultural Competency Training and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Panels
 - Financial Literacy/Education
 - Class Photo
- Separate programming tracks for first-year vs. transfer students
- Parent/supporter programming

Extended Orientation Topics & Sessions:

- Academic Convocation (Presidential Welcome, Provost, College Deans)
- Campus Resource Tours
- Campus Safety Programming
- Campus Traditions
- Career Development and Student Engagement
- College/Department Programming (UA Clicks expanded)
- Cultural Competency Training / Title IX
- Dean of Students
- Financial literacy, including financial aid and scholarships
- Housing Programming/Relationship Building
- Start of School Celebration
- Tucson Community

CAMPUS PARTNERS (partial list on no particular order):

- Academic Colleges & Departments
- Housing & Residence Life
- Scholarships & Financial Aid
- Student Unions / BookStores / Parking
- Campus Recreation
- Disability Resource Center
- Campus Health
- Student Success & Retention Innovation
- A Center
- Cultural Centers/Resource Centers
- Campus Life (ASUA, Greek Life)
- Dean of Students
- Parent & Family Programming
- Presidential Events
- Hispanic Serving Initiatives
- UAF / Alumni Association
- Research and Innovation
- Advising Resource Center
- Government & Community Relations
- Off Campus Partners
- UA Libraries
- Office of the Registrar