

REVAMPING ORIENTATION: OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

April 20 - 21, 2020 | Orlando, FL



Enhance your student orientation program to better meet the changing needs of students.

OVERVIEW

New student orientation is the primary means to make sure incoming students have the information, resources, and skills they need to successfully transition into the college environment. When planned and executed intentionally, orientation can play an important role in student retention and persistence by setting an important foundation and positioning students for success.

If you're facing challenges around serving the needs of an increasingly diverse student population, managing information overload, and overall doing more with less, this hands-on training is for you. Our experts will show you how to take stock of your current program's strengths and weaknesses, design an assessment plan, and identify creative solutions to overcome some of the daunting challenges orientation staff face today.

With the help of our expert speakers, we will address the most pressing challenges institutions face when introducing a student orientation program on campus, for instance:

- Assessing current practices: mining meaningful data to demonstrate student learning and success, improve the program, and advocate for resources
- Finding physical space on campus to host orientation
- Allocating proper resources and staffing
- Fighting information overload: balancing what students need to know for a successful transition vs. what campus partners want to include
- Meeting the various needs of a diverse student body

To ensure you'll walk away with tangible and valuable resources, our seasoned speakers will share unique and creative solutions to common orientation pitfalls. During this event, you will have the chance to work in small peer groups and build important connections with those engaged in the same work as you.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This training will benefit those who face challenges with their current orientation program or simply want to revamp their existing initiative. Campus constituents leading or supporting orientation efforts will also find this program valuable.

AGENDA

Day One

Conference Registration and Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Conference Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Current Trends and Challenges of Orientation

9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

In this opening session, you will begin to discuss the challenges of leading orientation efforts from finding physical space to reducing information overload and managing staffing. You will take stock of your current challenges, areas of growth, and strengths to guide the rest of your conference experience.

Break

10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

Designing and Implementing an Assessment Plan

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

You will learn how our experts assessed their orientation program and, in turn, implemented successful solutions. You will create your own assessment plan designed specifically for your institution to implement upon your return.

Prioritizing Content: Determining the Non-Negotiables

11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Balancing the right amount of information students need to successfully transition with the information campus partners want to present without leading to information overload is a challenge. In this session, our experts will help you determine what information is needed and when—and how to prioritize conflicting needs. You will leave with a checklist to help implement this on your campus.

Lunch (Included in Registration Fee)

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Day One (CONTINUED)

Identifying and Engaging Diverse Students' Needs

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Students come from a variety of backgrounds and bring with them a variety of needs, which should shape the way we design orientation. For example, adult students likely need information delivered in a different way than Gen Z, first generation students may need different information than a student whose parent is an alum, and transfer students may need the same orientation that first-year students receive. Yet, trying to deliver consistent information to the masses with limited time and resources can be daunting. During this session, attendees will participate in setting and prioritizing the agenda to focus on creating solutions to meet the needs their underserved student populations.

Break

3:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Leveraging Technology

3:15 - 4:30 p.m.

In addition to highlighting creative ways to leverage technology, you will learn the five key steps to implement new technology on your campus. You will hear how our experts overcame numerous challenges by implementing a completely online orientation that still engages students and builds community in creative ways.

Day 1 Wrap-Up

4:30 - 4:45 p.m.

Networking Reception (included in registration fee)

4:45 - 5:45 p.m.

This informal reception is your chance to decompress, have some refreshments on us, and expand your network of connections. Our programs are intentionally designed for smaller groups, so this is a great time to catch-up with attendees and speakers whom you may not have connected with yet.

AGENDA

Day Two

Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

Working with Stakeholders

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Whether you're significantly overhauling or fine-tuning your orientation program, you need productive relationships with your stakeholders. During this session our experts will share their experience building and sustaining successful campus partnerships and highlight the strategies and skills needed to do so.

Break

9:45 - 10:00 a.m.

Beyond New Student Orientation: Supporting Second Year Students

10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

While new student orientation is focused on first-year and transfer students, there's a need to address the sophomore slump. During this session, you will learn about best practices and trends in working with second-year students including what a re-orientation and second-year welcome week could look like.

Telling Your Story: Orientation as a Stakeholder in Student Success

11:15 - 12:00 p.m.

In this closing session, you will identify key steps to take back on your campus to measure and leverage your success to create a sustainable orientation program. You will set clear objectives and create a communication plan to implement upon your return.

Final Remarks, Questions, Evaluations

12:00 - 12:30 p.m.

INSTRUCTORS

Jonathan Fries

Director of Second-Year, Transfer & Transition Initiatives, University of Lynchburg

In his role as Director of Second-Year, Transfer & Transition Initiatives, Jonathan oversees Transfer, Adult Learner, Commuter, and Second-Year student services. This includes overseeing the transfer peer mentoring program, Transfer Orientation, Adult Orientation, Second-Year Welcome Week, Tau Sigma: Transfer Honor Society, and the Commuter Student Association. He has over 10 years of experience working in higher education, with seven of those years working directly with transfer and adult learners. Currently, he is serving as the co-chair for the Non-Traditional Student Network for NODA the Association of Orientation, Transition, and Retention in Higher Education. He has presented at numerous conferences on Transfer, First-Year, Second-Year, and Commuter students. Some topics have included "Creating an Innovating Transfer Student Experience," "Creating Successful Transitions: The Transfer Orientation Experience," "Lynchburg College Legacy: Blazing the Path to Staying Relevant in FYE," "Drive-in and Stay: Transitioning Your Approach to Commuter Student Programming and Climbing the Second Year Mountain to Success." Past leadership roles have included the NODA Region 8 Graduate Coordinator, Chair of the Staff Advisor Committee for Lynchburg College, Co-Chair of the Transfer Network for NODA, served on the Advisory Board for the National Society of Leadership and Success, and Co-Chair of Second-Year Success Committee. He has co-coordinated the Emerging Leader Retreat for first- and second-year students at Lynchburg College for the past four years.

Lisa Simmons

Director, Student Orientation and Transition Services, Utah State University

Lisa Simmons has 15 years of administrative experience with orientation, transition, and retention programs. She directs Student Orientation and Transition Services at Utah State University, an office that houses orientation, parent and family programs, first-year experience, and advising for students taking a leave of absence. She developed an orientation program that provides customized, just-in-time information to over 6,000 students who are starting classes at nearly 30 sites and campuses throughout the state. She is also a director within the Student Achievement Collaborative, a group that designs interdepartmental solutions to challenging issues related to student success. She has a master's degree in English, with an emphasis in technical and professional communication.

LOCATION

April 20 – 21, 2020 | Orlando, FL

Hotel:

Rosen Shingle Creek

9939 Universal Blvd.

Orlando, FL 32819

866-996-6338

Room rate:

\$190 + tax

Room block dates:

The nights of April 19 and 20, 2020.

Room block cutoff date:

March 29, 2020.

Reserve Your Room: Please call 866-996-6338 and indicate that you are with the Academic Impressions group to receive the group rate. Please book early - rooms are limited and subject to availability.

The Academic Impressions Experience



Intimate, workshop-style trainings with personalized attention



Trainings are practical and action oriented so you can hit the ground running



Carefully vetted expert instructors who are also practitioners in the field



Learner-centric and designed for interaction and collaboration



Highly recommended:
9 out of 10 participants recommend our trainings to colleagues