



ASSOCIATION FOR
Orientation • Transition • Retention
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Guiding Principles

Orientation should:

- Facilitate the transition of new students into the institution
- Prepare students for the institution's educational opportunities and student responsibilities
- Initiate the integration of new students into the intellectual, cultural, and social facets of the institution
- Be guided by theory
- Represent a collaborative effort (Departments, Colleges, Campus, & Community Stakeholders)
- Be built as a comprehensive process
- Establish a welcoming environment, introduce/reinforce community expectations, and campus culture
- Focus on specialized populations (Freshmen, Transfer, Exchange, Transient, International, etc.)
- Support anticipatory socialization
- Integrate families or other support systems
- Develop and utilize student mentorship and leadership
- Be based in student learning and development outcomes (Intentional Assessment)

Common Models

- First-Year vs. Freshmen vs. Transfer
- Multiple-Day versus One-Day
- Online Orientation (Complete program versus Supplemental)
- Extended and Off-Site Programs

Emerging Trends

- Technology integration
- Balance of online orientation and modules
- Specialized and underrepresented populations (International, high performing, student athletes, multicultural, LGBTQ, TRIO)
- Veteran programming
- Extended orientation programs

