

Orientation Benchmarking Survey 2006

265 Respondents

221 Completed

47.75% Male

51.80% Female

0.45% Other

41% age 18 or younger

44% 19-25

10% 26-30

5% 31 or older

77% White American

6% Hispanic American

5% Asian American

2% African American

1% Native American

2% Multiracial American

2% Non-US citizen or Permanent Resident

4% Other

10% Prefer not to answer

60% 1st year students

54% Full-time 1st year students

6% Part-time 1st year students

40% Transfer students

31% Full-time Transfer students

9% Part-time Transfer students

25% reported currently living on-campus

74% reported currently living off-campus

1% reported currently living in a Fraternity/Sorority house.

42% attended 1 day orientation w/advising

46% attended 1 day orientation w/o advising

12% did not attend orientation

60% of respondents attended orientation in June-July

22% attended in August

10% attended in April

8% could not remember

Of those who attended orientation, 52% would prefer an orientation that includes academic advising & 48% would prefer an orientation which requires advising at a separate time on their own.

The top reasons reported for not attending an overnight orientation were (multiple responses allowed):

- 50% not interested
- 27% work schedule
- 24% program dates
- 21% length of program
- 18% cost

The top reason reported for not attending any orientation was “Live out-of-state” (50%).

26% of 1st year students’ parents/families attended the Parent & Family Orientation. Top reasons reported for parents/families not attending were (multiple responses allowed):

- 51% Didn’t think it was applicable
- 21% I do not know
- 20% Time of day

When asked to indicate how they heard about orientation, respondents reported as follows:

- 65% Orientation mailing
- 58% Admission letter
- 23% Website
- 15% Friends/family

49% of respondents rated the Orientation website as Good or Excellent (39% reported NA/Don’t remember).

68% of respondents rated the Orientation registration process as Good or Excellent.

45% of respondents reported the length of the orientation program as Just right.

50% reported it was Too long.

82% of respondents reported that the orientation staff was available.

84% reported the orientation staff was knowledgeable.

93% reported the orientation staff was courteous.

78% reported the orientation staff was helpful.

52% of respondents reported that orientation helped them to know what to expect academically at the U (19% disagreed).

41% reported that orientation helped them to know what to expect socially at the U (20% disagreed).

24% reported meeting new people at orientation with whom they are still friends (60% disagreed).

55% reported learning about the different clubs/organizations they could join at orientation (17% disagreed).
68% reported learning about the different resources on campus that could with academic concerns (15% disagreed).
52% reported learning about the different resources on campus that could help with problems adjusting to college (22% disagreed).
36% reported that orientation was a fun experience (31% disagreed).
91% reported having a clear understanding of how to register for classes at the U.
54% reported knowing what resources are available at the U if seeking employment (23% disagreed).
51% reported knowing what resources are available at the U for questions about housing (21% disagreed).
62% reported knowing what resources are available at the U for questions about how to pay for college (19% disagreed).
66% reported knowing the location of all the important buildings on campus (15% disagreed).
45% reported having all of their questions answered during orientation (27% disagreed).
71% reported knowing at least one person at the U they could turn to with questions or concerns (20% disagreed).

49% reported that attending orientation was a good use of their time (25% disagreed).

69% reported orientation gave them useful information on academic requirements (5% disagreed).
55% reported orientation gave them useful information on how academic advising works (14% disagreed).
75% reported getting useful information on how to find information like the online schedule of courses (8% disagreed).
36% reported getting useful information on campus support services to keep physically & mentally fit (27% disagreed).
52% reported getting useful information on campus activities & programs (16% disagreed).
52% reported getting useful information on different rules, regulations, and policies at the U (21% disagreed).
49% reported getting useful information on safety and security on campus (23% disagreed).
54% reported getting useful information on technology resources on campus (17% disagreed).
33% reported getting useful information on how to manage their time effectively (34% disagreed).

48% of respondents reported that meeting with an academic advisor was beneficial.
38% reported not meeting with an advisor. The top reported reasons for not meeting with an advisor were:

- 54% I met with an advisor separate from the orientation program
- 36% Advising wasn't part of my orientation schedule

17% I didn't have time to meet during orientation.

66% of respondents rated the overall orientation program they attended favorably (Good or Excellent).

75% of respondents reported that orientation helped them feel at least somewhat to a great deal connected to the U.

58% of respondents described their academic transition from their previous school/college to the U as easy (Somewhat easy or Very easy).

51% of respondents described their social transition from their previous school/college to the U as easy (Somewhat easy or Very easy).

90% of respondents reported feeling at least somewhat prepared for their first day of classes.

Only 22% of respondents reported attending any new student activities immediately before the start of the semester.

Of those who reported attending new student activities:

57% reported the program helped them feel welcome at the U.

53% reported it helped them meet other students.

33% reported it helped them find information on campus support services.

45% reported it helped them learn about student groups on campus.

Since entering the U:

85% of respondents reported being successful at understanding what their professors expect of them academically.

66% of respondents reported being successful at developing effective study skills.

74% of respondents reported being successful at adjusting to the academic demands of college.

59% of respondents reported being successful at managing their time effectively.

54% of respondents reported being successful at adjusting to the social aspects of college.

59% of respondents reported being successful at developing friendships with other students.

54% of respondents reported being successful at using different campus services.

15% of respondents reported taking a course/seminar specifically designed to help students adjust to college.

14% of respondents reported enrolling in a formal program where a group of students take 2 or more courses together.

74% of respondents indicated that if they could start over again, they would go to the U.

90% of respondents reported it is likely they will be enrolled at the U next semester.

74% of respondents reported that there was nothing that would have helped ease their transition to the U.

When asked to indicate what would have been the most convenient time to attend orientation:

- 40% reported no preference
- 21% reported Morning weekday
- 18% reported Morning weekend
- 13% reported Afternoon weekday
- 8% reported Afternoon weekend

55% of respondents reported typically studying 0-10 hours per week.

45% reported typically studying over 10 hours per week.

58% reported the number of hours spent studying was about what they expected.

72% reported being registered for 12-15 credits at the time of the survey.

15% reported under 12 credits.

11% reported over 15 credits.

26% reported not working currently.

13% reported working 1-10 hrs/week

24% reported working 11-20 hrs/week

37% reported working over 20 hrs/week

When asked to indicate their expected grade range the semester of the survey:

- 41% reported A
- 48% reported B
- 10% reported C
- 2% reported D