



ASSOCIATION FOR
Orientation • Transition • Retention
IN HIGHER EDUCATION



ORIENTATION 101: THE BASICS OF ORIENTATION & THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS

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NODA'S MISSION AND CORE VALUES



Mission

The mission of NODA is to provide education, leadership, and professional development in the fields of college student orientation, transition, and retention.

Core Values

- Community
- Diversity
- Integrity
- Learning
- Scholarship
- Service

NODA Tidbits



- 1st “meeting” took place in December, 1948
(24 delegates from 6 states)
- Continued to meet and develop;
NODA was chartered in 1977
- Organization is governed by Board of Directors
made of volunteers from within membership
- Membership is separated into 9 Regions
- Name Change occurred in 2013

Orientation is the college's best opportunity to introduce a strong learning environment, build the foundations for academic success, welcome students and families to the campus community, promote student interactions with faculty and staff, and convey the values and traditions of their new institution.

Mullendore, R.H. & Banahan, L.A. (2005). Designing orientation programs. In M.L. Upcraft, J.N. Gardner, & B.O. Barefoot (Eds.) Challenging and supporting the first-year student: A handbook for improving the first year of college. San Francisco: Jossey Bass.



CAS Guiding Principles for Orientation (1/3)



Orientation programming *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.

CAS Guiding Principles for Orientation (2/3)



- **Be guided by theoretical knowledge** of students in transition;
- Represent a **Collaborative Effort** between:
 - Departments, Colleges, Campus, & Community Stakeholders
- Be a **Comprehensive Process**;
- Establish a **Welcoming Environment**;
- **Introduce/Reinforce Community Expectations**, and Campus Culture.

CAS Guiding Principles for Orientation (3/3)



- Focus on **Specialized Populations**
 - Freshmen, Transfer, International, Honors, Veterans, 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** of these learning outcomes is key!

Sedotti, M., & Payne, M. (2010). *Orientation planning manual*. Minneapolis, MN: Retrieved from https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/noda.site-ym.com/resource/collection/BD8D3C0E-7F8D-456B-8AB1-63C1DCD0C262/2010_NODA_Orientation_Planning_Manual.pdf




Common Models

- Freshmen versus Transfer
- Parallel Parent & Guest Program
- Summer versus Pre-Semester
- Multiple-Day versus One-Day
- Online versus On-Campus
 - Complete program versus Supplemental
- Extended and Off-Site Programs
 - Pre-semester Welcome Week
 - Pre-semester Camps
 - Pre-semester Wilderness Experiences



Key Content

- Comprehensive programs include information about:
 - The layout of the campus
 - Campus culture, core values & expectations
 - Housing/Residence Life & Commuting
 - Financial Aid
 - Academic requirements
 - Resources for academic success
 - Opportunities for involvement/engagement
 - Business operations: parking, dining, IDs
 - The transition from HS to college, FERPA
 - Health and safety
 - Technology on campus
 - Connections with important offices



Emerging Trends

- Technology Integration
 - Online Orientation/Modules
 - Use of “clicker” technology
- Addressing Needs of Specialized and Underrepresented Populations
 - International, high performing, student athletes, multicultural, LGBTQ, first generation
 - Programming for Veterans
- Shift toward Retention/Persistence
 - Role of Orientation in the broader FYE
- Title IX Issues
 - Integrating Social Justice Issues



Orientation & Other First-Year Initiatives

Opportunities for Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration:

- Summer Bridge Programming
- Week of Welcome
- Convocation
- Extended Orientation and Camps
- First-Year Seminars
- Mentoring – peer, faculty, staff
- Common Reading Programs
- Living-Learning Communities

NODA RESOURCES



- Conferences: Annual (Fall) and Regional (Spring)
- Internship Program
- External Review
- Webinars
- Networks

NODA RESOURCES (2/3)



- Association Publications:
 - *Orientation Planning Manual (2014)*
 - Parent and Commuter Guides (FYE)
 - *Designing Successful Transitions (FYE)*
 - *Journal of College Orientation and Transition*
- Peer Resources: NODA Databank, Website

NODA Core Competencies



- 12 Foundation Areas
- Designed to be the organizational system for knowledge, skills & abilities



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QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

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