New Student Orientation Programs

Talking Points for Campus Partners

ORIENTATION REQUIREMENT

- New CSU students are required to attend an on-campus, summer orientation program to register for courses.
- Students will have a registration hold placed on their account which can only be removed by Orientation and Transition Programs when a student attends a University orientation program.
- As part of the $300 enrollment deposit, students pay an orientation charge which covers the orientation program. Parents/families must pay an additional fee per guest ($60.00 for Preview, $30.00 for Next Step).
- Students should register for their session online using their eID at www.otp.colostate.edu.
- If new students or their parents and family members have any questions or concerns regarding the orientation requirement, direct them to OTP for assistance. OTP can be reached by phone at (970) 491-6011 or by e-mail at orientation@colostate.edu.

BENEFITS OF NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Data on CSU students show a positive correlation (not causation) between attendance at orientation and higher retention rates. More specifically, new students who do attend an on-campus orientation program are retained and persist at higher rates (+6.3% difference to 2nd year for FA11) than students who do not attend an on-campus orientation program.

Orientation programs provide the necessary support for students transitioning to CSU by:

- Providing a space for students to physically interact with campus by experiencing classroom space, residence hall space (at Preview), and locating important buildings prior to their arrival and start of classes.
- Creating opportunities to develop peer relationships with both new students and current students prior to starting on-campus; thereby fostering a sense of community prior to the start of courses.
- Providing opportunities for interpersonal interaction setting a foundation for positive relationships with CSU faculty and staff as they begin a new semester.
- Providing an opportunity for in-person discussion about the differences in personal, social, and academic expectations at CSU than from high school or their previous institution.
- Allowing for face-to-face dialogue on students’ academic plan with an academic advisor.
- Fostering an emotional commitment to the CSU community and helping to create a sense of belonging before the start of classes.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAMS

Preview First-Year Student Orientation

Preview is a one-and-a-half day program that serves as the on-campus orientation experience for new, first-year students where students complete advising and course registration. At Preview, students will:

- Stay one night in a residence hall to become familiar with life on-campus prior to move-in day.
- Make personal connections with peers along with current students who serve as Orientation Leaders through one-on-one and small/large group experiences.
- Learn the history, traditions, and physical layout of the CSU campus.
- Learn the personal, social, and academic expectations of CSU students through a series of interactive, peer-led workshops.
- Connect with an academic advisor to register for courses.
- Personally connect with resources available to support academic success.
- Establish a sense of belonging within the CSU community and pride in being a CSU Ram.
CSU Connect First-Year Student Orientation
CSU Connect Orientation is an early, one-and-a-half day program that serves as an on-campus orientation experience for students who identify as racially and ethnically diverse. Students receive an invitation letter by mail. In addition to mirroring the above experiences offered at Preview, students at CSU Connect will also:

- Make connections with other students of color attending CSU.
- Be able to discuss what the transition of being a student of color and/or first generation college student to CSU is like and learn about resources available to support the transition.

Next Step Transfer Student Orientation
Next Step is a one-day program that serves as the on-campus orientation experience for new transfer students. There are also tracks offered for adult learners (typically 23 years of age or older) and veteran students. At Next Step, transfer students will:

- Make connections with other new transfer students and current students who serve on the Transfer Orientation Team.
- Learn about the academic environment, involvement opportunities, and the campus culture of CSU and how this may differ from previous institutions.
- Learn the personal, social, and academic expectations of CSU students.
- Personally connect with resources available to support transfer students’ success.
- Connect with an academic advisor and register for courses.
- Establish a sense of belonging within the CSU community and pride in being a CSU Ram.

Preview and Next Step Mountain Experience: Outdoor Orientation (This does not fulfill the orientation requirement)
The Preview Mountain Experience (first-year students) and Next Step Mountain Experience (transfer students) are optional, additional orientation opportunities that take place at Pingree Park. Students have the opportunity to add this to their orientation reservation for an additional charge of $147.00.

International Student Orientation
International Student Orientation is a two-and-a-half day program for directly admitted, undergraduate, international students and takes place the week prior to the start of fall courses. International students are encouraged to complete a supplementary online orientation to register for courses prior to arriving for the on-campus orientation program. Participation in this online program will remove their orientation hold to allow course registration. However, students also have an immigration check-in hold that can only be taken off by the Office of International Programs when they check into the United States at on-campus orientation. At International Student Orientation, students will:

- Make connections with other new international students and current students on the International Orientation Team.
- Learn about the academic environment, involvement opportunities, and the campus culture of CSU and the United States and how this may differ from their home country.
- Learn the personal, social, and academic expectations of CSU students.
- Connect with the Fort Collins community.
- Connect with an academic advisor and register for courses (if needed).
- Establish a sense of belonging within the CSU community and pride in being a CSU Ram.

Ram Welcome (This does not fulfill the orientation requirement)
Ram Welcome is the fall orientation experience that all new first-year and transfer students are expected to attend four days before classes begin after they have experienced a University orientation. The program builds upon the orientation experience for new students once they have arrived on campus in the fall. Ram Welcome empowers students to:

- Officially become members of the CSU community through participating in a common, large-scale experience that emphasizes and teaches University pride, traditions, and spirit.
- Explore academic programs and meet faculty and staff and learn about the many services available to support your college experience.
- Connect with over 180 current students who serve as Ram Welcome Leaders and begin to develop closer relationships with their peers before starting classes.