

New Student Orientation Mission Statement

Orientation programs facilitate the successful transition of new students to the University of Northern Iowa.

We help students prepare for the rigors of the academic experience, understand the importance of co-curricular involvement, and navigate the adjustment to a new living and learning environment.

We do this by:

- Involving faculty members, academic advisors, academic support services staff, student services staff, and current students in programming focused on student academic success.
- Promoting student involvement through access to student organizations, campus and community groups, and testimonials from current students.
- Fostering student engagement in the process of course selection and self-registration for their first semester of courses.
- Providing information about residence life, both on and off-campus.

New Student Orientation Learning Outcomes

Students will ...

... learn about the academic expectations they will face as University students.

... receive information about academic support resources and student services. They will receive encouragement from upper level students about using resources, and have opportunities to connect with support staff.

... learn the importance of curricular and co-curricular involvement to their success as a student and as a future professional. Students will have opportunities to make personal connections with representatives of student organizations.

... gain greater familiarity with their new place of residence. Students will gain access to residence halls, and learn about dining options, laundry facilities, policies, procedures, and community life.

... become acquainted with the Waterloo/Cedar Falls community.

Parents and family members will ...

... gain information on their role in supporting their student's academic success.

... become familiar with the academic support resources and student services offices that are available to their student.

... receive information on the laws and policies relating to academic records, and learn how they affect their relationship with the institution.

New Student Orientation Learning Outcomes, Academic Advising

Students will be able to identify components of their degree – major courses, liberal arts core courses, electives.

Students will be advised into beginning major courses appropriate to their initial preference of major and academic preparedness.

Students will be advised into appropriate Liberal Arts Core courses appropriate to personal context and connections (interests, background, preparation).

New students will discuss with Summer Orientation Staff of the differences between high school and university academic culture and will begin to conceptualize the steps he/she will take to make the transition to college successful.

Students will be able to identify university resources that promote personal growth, social contacts and will initiate meaningful contacts with advisors, campus departments and student resources.

Students will understand their responsibility in their academic life and the process of becoming an autonomous and independent. This is achieved through the experiences of building a schedule, using scheduling resources, meeting with an advisor and self-registration.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are (currently) assessed in the following ways:

- 1) In the “General Opinion” and “Academic Advising and Registration” sections of the online satisfaction sent to freshman students and parents approximately one week following their orientation date.
- 2) In questions 3, 4, and 7 of the New Student Survey, sent to all new students approximately 6 weeks after the beginning of the fall semester.