OUR MISSION

The mission of Orientation Services is to facilitate the successful matriculation and transition of undergraduate first-year and transfer students to the University of Iowa.

Orientation Services fulfills an essential function in support of the retention of new students to the University of Iowa. This function can only be fulfilled through the development of current students into peer leaders and mentors and in collaboration with student life and academic partners.

OUR GOALS

Orientation Services supports student sense of belonging through connections to institutional, academic, and social networks.

Orientation Services serves as a key mechanism for transmitting Hawkeye values, expectations, norms, and traditions.

Orientation Services helps new students develop self-efficacy to succeed from day one.
CSI:1600 SUCCESS AT IOWA

Completion rates (students earning an S) for both semesters in the Success at Iowa course for each population.

FALL 2019

- FY (DOMESTIC): 4719/4819 (97.9%)
- TRANSFER (DOMESTIC): 877/925 (94.8%)
- FY (INTL): 113/120 (94.2%)
- TRANSFER (INTL): 24/24 (100%)

SPRING 2020

- FY (DOMESTIC): 40/41 (97.6%)
- TRANSFER (DOMESTIC): 281/288 (97.6%)
- FY (INTL): 113/120 18/20 (90%)
- TRANSFER (INTL): 11/12 (91.7%)

Converted old Captivate modules to video format and introduced a new media release form

Created 9 new videos including a video on “preparing for online courses” and one on “virtual learning success strategies.”

Introduced Pressbooks as an alternative format for course content that requires frequent updating

COURSE EVAL COMMENTS:

- I would have never been able to navigate or even be aware of all the resources available to me without this introduction.
- I really liked how it was online and before classes started. I was able to adjust to some future stuff ahead of time and that really helped me.
- The most important thing I learned in this course was the information about how ICON and MyUI work. I’ve never used these before and I need them for every single one of my classes, so it was good to know about them before classes began.
6033 undergraduate students attended orientation programs between 2019-2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, orientation programs were moved online in March 2020.

- Designed, built, and launched the MyUI Orientation Tile in less than 2 months in partnership with Advising and ITS
- Adjusted reservations for 3000+ students to a virtual format and communicated changes to students and families
- Answered 3203 phone calls from October 2019-September 2020, most in a remote working environment
- Hosted 161 virtual information sessions / webinars for students and families (June-August)
- 30 campus partner offices / departments / colleges represented in virtual sessions / webinars
- 3892 virtual information session / webinar attendees

**After concluding Online Orientation, students Strongly Agreed or Agreed with the following statements:**

- I had adequate time to discuss and plan my course schedule with an academic advisor (93.8%)
- My academic advisor helped me choose courses in which I feel I can be successful (94.5%)
- I feel knowledgeable about academic expectations for my first semester of study at Iowa (95.6%)
- I know how to contact my academic advisor if I have questions (97.4%)

Other than COVID-19 precautions / protocol, what were the top three topics on your mind as you prepared to begin the fall semester at the University of Iowa?
ON IOWA!

Held in a hybrid format to welcome new students to campus through in-person Hawkeye Welcome small groups and online programming in August. All programming was modified to comply with UI and CDC safety guidelines.

- Celebrated 10th Anniversary: 2011-2020
- 170 scheduled events over 7 days, not including Hawkeye Welcome small group sessions
- 43 in-person events, 45 virtual events, 82 hybrid events
- 146 in-person and 7 virtual Hawkeye Welcome small group sessions hosted over 7 days in 9 large lecture spaces
- Hawkeye Welcome included a Convocation message from the President, Administration, and a student speaker, Covid-19 expectations, Excel message from faculty, and tours of campus
- De-centralized check-in at all of the residence halls and the IMU for off-campus students where students received individualized itineraries and On Iowa! swag
- Late Night and Engage events included Bingo, Comedian, Netflix Movie Nights, Trivia Night, Pottery Painting, Campus-wide Scavenger Hunts, Yard Games, the DeGowin Blood Drive, Hawkeye Fun Friday, and an Iowa City Food Crawl

On Iowa! is planned through collaborative committee work. Thank you to our Committees!

Check-in
Choose
Communications
Convocation
Engage
Excel
Kickoff at Kinnick
Late Night
Multicultural
President’s Block Party
Volunteers

After attending On Iowa, students reported:

- I understand University of Iowa COVID-19 guidelines. (77%)
- I know 1-2 academic success strategies. (70%)
- I can identify one campus resource that will be helpful to me. (70%)
FIRST GEN HAWKS

A collaborative initiative hosted by Orientation Services and Academic Support & Retention (AS&R) aimed at increasing the retention rates and overall academic success of first generation students at the University of Iowa. The First Gen Hawks Experience provides new Hawkeyes a way to engage in activities that enhance the college experience within and beyond the classroom through experiential learning.

Program Components:

✅ Engage with campus through a 1-credit hour first year seminar based on an assigned learning track area:
  • 1. Mentored Campus Employment
  • 2. Undergraduate Research
  • 3. Civic Engagement and Leadership

✅ Create Connections with a peer mentor
  • 20 peer mentors with 2-10 assigned mentees (depending on track)
  • 200 hours of intentional out-of-classroom interactions between mentor & mentee

✅ Exclusive Events just for First Gen Hawks participants
  • Unique On Iowa! Hawkeye Welcome and special swag
  • First Gen Fridays, Spooky Kahoot, Coffee & Civics, Homecoming Kahoot, Lunch & Learns, Virtual Yoga

✅ Enhanced academic support and coaching

Mentored Campus Employment 31 Participants
Undergraduate Research 31 Participants
Civic Engagement & Leadership 18 Participants
Leadership Skills (91.75%)
Communication Skills (91.66%)
Problem-solving skills (70.37%)
Ability to work with others (91.67%)
Awareness of my leadership strengths (89.82%)
Confidence in my leadership abilities (88.07%)
Campus network (64.22%)
Knowledge of campus resources (78.9%)
Knowledge of UI COVID protocols (91.74%)

“I think sending the emails to our caseloads was probably the most effective way to get students the information they needed. I liked having the introduce yourself surveys!”

“I think what worked well was having a bunch of options (events, programming) with multiple dates for students and their families to attend. I really think it was nice to have that because it brought time and "space" for having affinity spaces, which I think are very important and that we should try to have in the program!”

“I was very impressed with how OnIowa! was conducted with COVID and all of life's curveballs this year.”

“I really ended up having a lot of fun this summer, even though there was a lot that I feel like I missed out on.”

“ONE SKILL I GAINED WHILE BEING AN ON IOWA LEADER THIS YEAR WAS HOW TO BE A FLEXIBLE TEAM MEMBER. THROUGHOUT THE YEAR THE CHANGING OF PLANS PUSHED US AS LEADERS TO BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER AND PULL THROUGH WHEN SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE.”

After participating as an On Iowa! Leader, students indicated that they experienced an increase in:

- Leadership Skills (91.75%)
- Communication Skills (91.66%)
- Problem-solving skills (70.37%)
- Ability to work with others (91.67%)
- Awareness of my leadership strengths (89.82%)
- Confidence in my leadership abilities (88.07%)
- Campus network (64.22%)
- Knowledge of campus resources (78.9%)
- Knowledge of UI COVID protocols (91.74%)

190 On Iowa! Students leaders (150 new) volunteered 2660 hours helping with move-in and programming

40 Orientation Leaders hosted 476 office hours to support students in transition from May through August

“I think what worked well was having a bunch of options (events, programming) with multiple dates for students and their families to attend. I really think it was nice to have that because it brought time and "space" for having affinity spaces, which I think are very important and that we should try to have in the program!”

“I was very impressed with how OnIowa! was conducted with COVID and all of life's curveballs this year.”
Orientation Services Organizational Chart

Tina Arthur, Director

Kate Garrett, Assoc. Dir.

Brienne Schweer, Assoc. Dir.

Cara Wiebel, Assoc. Dir.

Linda Fountain, Office Manager

Suzette Blanchard, Asst. Dir.

Allison Daoey, Grad Intern

Cesar Perez, Grad Intern

Jacque Rockett, Grad Intern

Gen Kenah, Grad Intern

Kailyn Tauler, Program Coord.

First Gen Hawks Peer Mentor

First Gen Hawks Peer Mentor

On Iowaf Leaders

Exec Team and OI Team Leaders

Orientation and OIowaf Leaders

Student Receptionist

Student Assistant

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