MISSION & GOALS

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.

- 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.
Total number of students who completed online orientation: 5487
  - FY students online orientation: 4591
  - Transfer students online orientation: 1036
Orientation Leader small group sessions: 608
Webinars offered: 35
Hawkeye Hangouts offered: 29

In partnership with Admissions, Orientation offered in-person visit days in summer 2021. This provided opportunities for new students and their families to visit campus, see residence halls, and commit to being a Hawkeye.

- 9 programs in June and July
- 439 Students
- 723 Guests
- 1162 Total Attendees
"One important thing I took from this course is the idea of going to tutoring when you need help in certain classes. The idea that it is always okay to ask for help."

"Each stage I felt like I took away something important and gained some important knowledge I would need to know moving forward with Iowa."

Spring 2021 Completion
First-Year Domestic (50/52) 96%
Transfer Domestic (220/231) 95%
First-Year International (18/21) 86%
Transfer International (3/4) 75%

"I think Stage 3 was most the most helpful as it gave me tips on tackling online school along with how to navigate transportation and how to get involved on campus."
During On Iowa!, students are asked to identify which academic resources they will use in their first 3 weeks on campus.

As a result of attending On Iowa!...

I understand how to meet the Iowa Challenge (70%)

I met at least 1 person I will keep in touch with (60%)

I can identify 1 campus resource that will be helpful (75%)

I know 1-2 academic success strategies (69%)

During On Iowa!, students are asked to identify which academic resources they will use in their first 3 weeks on campus.

**Academic Resources**

- Office Hours - 49.7%
- Other (Syllabus, Peer) - 19.4%
- Supplemental Instruction & Tutoring - 12.3%
- Academic Advisor - 8.2%
- Resources (Writing Center, Math Lab) - 5.7%
- Online Resources (ICON, MyUI) - 4.7%
Student Leaders

26 Orientation Leaders
156 On Iowa! Volunteer Leaders

Orientation Leaders worked:

3559 hours from May-July
590 hours during On Iowa! week

On Iowa! Leaders volunteered
2574 hours

"I feel that I gained the ability to help people even if I am in a completely different circumstance than them. For example, I had a few students who would ask me questions about majors and clubs I was not a part of. Even though I didn't know the answers to some of their questions, I was able to answer them to the best of my ability and connect them with someone who could help them further."
The First Gen Hawks Experience is a collaborative program between Academic Support & Retention and Orientation Services that provides up to 200 new Hawkeyes a way to engage in activities that enhance the college experience within and beyond the classroom through experiential learning.

2020-2021 FGH Cohort

- 61 First Gen Hawks participants
- 19 Peer Mentors
- 4 HESA Grad Fellows
- 100+ hours of Academic coaching
- 600+ hours of Peer Mentor connections
- Fall to Fall Retention: 92% (compared to all first-year students: 88%)
- Term GPA: 3.3 (compared to all first-year students: 3.22)

“Being a part of the First Gen Hawk program has shown me how much the University of Iowa genuinely cares about each and every student enrolled here. No matter where you come from, you are capable of amazing things and you will have an abundance of support along the way!”

“A highly consistent finding across the focus groups, peer mentor notes, and final assignments was that interpersonal relationships developed through the FGH program constituted a major strength of the program. In particular, the peer mentors and the academic coach were integral members of students’ support networks”

*FGH data compiled and analyzed by Nicholas Bowman and Nicole Tennessen
Orientation Services Organizational Chart

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