

Transitioning to College: The University of Iowa's Comprehensive Approach to Student Success

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Challenges: Academic Preparedness

- Median ACT Composite 23-28
- 25% are first-generation students
- 18% receive a Pell-Grant
- Increase in academic rigor
 - Average GPA in high school 3.6
 - Average first semester at Iowa 2.9
- 12% are Open majors, 20% in a pre-professional major

Challenges: New Learning Environment

- Autonomy and independence
 - Time-management
 - Healthy choices
- Living and learning with other students
 - Sharing a room for the first time
 - Group work
- Iowa City
 - Viewed as a large city by some, small town by others

Transitional Programs for All Students

- Orientation
 - 2-day program for students and families during the summer
- OnIowa!
 - 4-day immersion program prior to start of the fall term
- Success at Iowa Course
 - Part 1: Prepare for orientation and registration for fall
 - Part 2: Prepare for move-in
 - Part 3: Provide support resources
 - Part 4: Assess student's transition

Transitional Programs Available

- Living-Learning Communities
 - 23 options; serves all on-campus students
- Courses in Common
 - 840 first year students
- First-year Seminars
 - 130 sections; 1800 first-year students
- Supplemental Instruction
 - Support for 24 courses; 2442 unique students; 13,621 visits
- College Transition Course
 - 48 linked course options serving 480 first-year students
- Specific sub-populations (Iowa Edge, Honors Prime-Time, etc.)

Advising

- First-year Advising
 - Academic Advising Center
 - Almost all students who are new to the University
 - Students trying to earn admission to competitive admission programs
 - Students uncertain about major at any point (one-stop shop)
 - Mandatory
 - Caseload based
 - Proactive
 - Intensive (5 meetings in the first year)
 - Teaching-oriented

Early-Intervention

- Early-Intervention Team
- Early-Warning Indicators
 - Excelling@Iowa
 - Non-attendance
 - Mid-Term Grades
 - Early-Registration
- College Success Seminars
 - For students who earn less than a 2.2 GPA in their first semester

After the First Year

- Ensuring course availability in key courses
- Sample 4-year plans now included in General Catalogue
- Curricular planning tool project is beginning
- Summer Hawk Tuition Grant
- Second or third year students move to department/college advisors
 - Mix of professional and faculty advisors (increasing number of professionals)
 - Mandatory advising for at risk students
 - Increased focus on time to graduation/gpa issues

Questions