SUMMER ADVISING AND ORIENTATION MARKS THE BEGINNING OF NEW UNDERGRADUATES’ ACADEMIC TRANSITION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON. IN IT, STUDENTS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE HUSKY EXPERIENCE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN THE UW’S BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES.

FORMING AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY — ONE NEW HUSKY AT A TIME

AN INTENTIONAL APPROACH TO ADVISING AND ORIENTATION

First Year Programs and Undergraduate Academic Affairs Advising develop and lead an intentional, academically-focused Advising and Orientation program in which first year students begin to shape their identity as learners, scholars, researchers, leaders and members of the University community.

First Year Programs collaborates with more than 45 University departments and programs to create a welcoming, informative, relevant and frequently customized orientation to the UW.

Advisers in Undergraduate Academic Affairs, the Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity and in departments across campus are long-term partners in students’ academic journeys, supporting students’ exploration, reflection and growth.

At Advising and Orientation, students learn:

How to fully engage in the undergraduate academic experience

> The UW’s academic breadth and depth, majors, academic systems and class registration are covered. Experiential, leadership and co-curricular learning opportunities and their benefits are introduced.

That the UW community is their community for life

> A range of resources, career-development opportunities, support structures for their well-being, and the UW’s community values are explained.

That their new freedom comes with a lot of responsibility, details and help

> Potentially complex topics of housing options, fiscal responsibility and technology are untangled.

CONTRIBUTING TO PERSISTENCE

94% Freshman retention rate for Seattle campus, freshman class of 2013

82% 6-year graduation rate for entering freshmen

(UW’s average time to degree is four years.)

QUICK FACTS

66 orientation sessions from mid-June — mid-September serve:

6,700 freshmen*

1,450 transfer students

3,500 parents

11,650 TOTAL SERVED

*(2015 anticipated)

98% of entering freshmen participated in advising and orientation sessions

95% of entering transfer students participated in advising and orientation sessions

(2014 data)
A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT’S PATH INTO THE HUSKY EXPERIENCE

Being able to navigate the institution, take classes that advance one's academic goals, develop friendships and find a sense of belonging are integral to a student's ability to thrive in their first year and persist through to graduation. Here are some ways First Year Programs and Undergraduate Academic Affairs Advising contribute to student success.

U101: MAKING THE MOST OUT OF ADVISING AND ORIENTATION

New for 2015, University 101 (U101) is a series of interactive, online modules that prepare students for orientation and make sure all students have equal knowledge about how college works. U101 helps first year students, specifically first-generation college students, define terms and begin to articulate their goals. On-campus orientation builds on U101 material through additional small group opportunities and interactive components.

ADVISING & ORIENTATION

Summer Advising and Orientation sessions lay the groundwork for continuing to connect students to their academic home and the UW community when they arrive for fall quarter.

DAWG DAZE

Dawg Daze programming — everything from “How to Succeed in CHEM 142” to the “HUB Crawl” — provides a dynamic all-student week of welcome from the entire campus.

FIRST YEAR INTEREST GROUPS (FIGS)

FIGs are peer-guided learning communities in which small groups of students take clustered classes together during their first fall quarter at the UW.

FIGs help students build a strong academic focus, find their community and explore professional pathways.

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Students continue their relationship with their assigned adviser, exploring opportunities and making academic plans.

COMMUTER COMMONS

Students who commute to campus find a “home away from home” at the Commuter Commons.

FIG QUICK FACTS

3,300
Number of first year students — about 50% of all first year students — enrolled in the FIG program

130
Upper-division students are FIG leaders

45
Departments offer courses as part of FIGs

28
Years since the FIG program started

22
Students make up the average FIG class size (2014 data)

FUN FIG FACT

Alexes Harris, associate professor of sociology, was a FIG leader when she was a UW undergraduate!