



# UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

New Student Orientation

# ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMER 2020



# SUMMER IN REVIEW

Dear Campus Colleagues,

When I started this position in December of 2019, I looked forward to a summer spent in Tate surrounded by the excited energy of incoming students. My staff and I planned the best way to answer the thousands of questions we would be asked throughout a typical orientation session. And we all counted the days to that first welcome, first small group, and first thank you from a nervous student or parent. Unfortunately, this summer turned out much more different than I could have ever imagined but I am so proud of what my staff, our students, and the New Student Orientation program was able to accomplish.

This past summer, New Student Orientation took these new obstacles as an opportunity to creatively impact and prepare our newest students to be successful at UGA. From various webinars, a new podcast, and hundreds of Zoom calls, our program was able to adapt and meet the needs of our incoming students in a way that never seen at UGA.

As a program, we are so grateful for all the support we have had in this process and thank you all for your flexibility, your grace, and your willingness to serve as important partners in our online orientation. We look forward to what lies ahead for New Student Orientation and to continue to welcome these students and families to the Bulldog Nation.

As Always—Go Dawgs!

Larry Cloud, M.Ed.



**LARRY CLOUD, M.ED.**  
Director of New Student Orientation

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Orientation is made possible due to the commitment and partnership of many across campus. Thank you to all that helped us make it possible this past summer. The presenters and panelists of each webinar and podcast, the academic advisors who held thousands of virtual advising sessions, and the various faculty and staff members who participated in videos all made our online orientation both engaging and impactful. And of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of all the amazing staff in the Office of Admissions including our team of orientation leaders who could have never imagined that the summer that they committed to would look like it did. Thank you for all for all that you do to support our incoming students and their families.



# SUMMER ORIENTATION BY THE NUMBERS

**320** Total Number of Small Groups

**7,544**  Total Number of Students

**60** Dawg Talk Webinars



**2** Total Staff

**823** Podcast Listens

**16** Orientation Leaders

**8** Instagram Live Sessions

**3** Grad Interns

**4,664** 

Number of Webinar Attendees

**19**

Undergraduate Admissions Student Panels

**1,871**

Number of Webinar Questions Answered

*“The UGA modules were great! I got a lot more information on things that I have been wondering about like study abroad programs and clubs! The more I did the modules, the more excited I was to start in the fall since I just fell more in love with UGA. I think these were a great alternative to in-person orientation, given our circumstances, although in-person orientation would be ideal since you could get a feel for campus. The online orientation, however, was great, and I definitely think it can be helpful in the future for students!”*

- Response from Post-Orientation Student Survey

**100+ HOURS**

Number of hours Orientation Leaders participated virtual training, team meetings, and preparation this past summer.

**9700** 

Number of families receiving monthly Orientation Family Newsletter with helpful tips and news about student transition.

*“I thought this program was an amazing alternative to in-person orientation. At first I was a little nervous and skeptical about participating online, but I absolutely loved it. I loved getting to know my orientation leader and all of the other firework fives. I must say that I feel more comfortable and less stressed about the college experience now. It makes me feel a lot better knowing that my OL has my back, and that I can contact her at anytime!”*

- Response from Post-Orientation Student Survey

# FIRST-YEAR ORIENTATION SURVEY

 **80.1%**

Of students strongly agreed or agreed that Online New Student Orientation helped them make a connection to another incoming student and/or their orientation leader.

 **95.3%**

Of students strongly agreed or agreed that Online New Student Orientation helped them gain knowledge that will help prepare them for their start at UGA

 **83.9%**

Of students strongly agreed or agreed that Online New Student Orientation helped them prepare to register for classes and for future academic advising appointments

 **84.5%**

Of students strongly agreed or agreed that Online New Student Orientation provided them with online information that was an useful alternative to in-person presentations

# TRANSFER/FY SUMMER START SURVEY

 **96.9%**

Of students strongly agreed or agreed that Online New Student Orientation helped them gain knowledge that will help prepare them for their start at UGA

 **90.3%**

Of students strongly agreed or agreed that Online New Student Orientation provided them with online information that was an useful alternative to in-person presentations

 **99%**

Of students strongly agreed or agreed that Online New Student Orientation helped them understand some of the resources and opportunities that are available for incoming students

*"I feel as though the modules were a great foundation before actually meeting with our orientation leader so that we could go into the session with questions in mind and knowledge already. It is also helpful that I still have access to the modules so that I can look back and reference information whenever I need to. Overall, the experience was great and very helpful!"*

- Response from Post-Orientation Student Survey

# ADVISING AND CLASS REGISTRATION

**97.6%**

Of transfer students strongly agreed or agreed that their academic advising appointment was helpful and prepared them for class registration

**88.9%**

Of transfer students stated that they were able to get a majority of the classes that they desired for their first semester at UGA.

Those who did not stated the reason they didn't get the majority of their desired was:

- 44.8% - Class was full, but did add self to waitlist
- 31% - Class was full and didn't add self to waitlist
- 17.2% - Class conflicted with other required courses
- 6.9% - did not fit into the rest of their schedule

**93.5%**

Of transfer students strongly agreed or agreed that the resources offered helped them in the advising and class registration process

**95.1%**

Of transfer students strongly agreed or agreed that their ability to be advised and to register for classes prior to first-year students improved their process

**98.3%**

Of transfer students strongly agreed or agreed that they are better prepared for future academic advising and class registration processes.



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