

## Enhanced Transition Programs Narrative

Broadening the opportunities we offer students to be introduced to the university culture, this initiative will extend the current one-day orientation program for new students into a series of activities throughout the first year, including options for freshmen and transfer students. The first of its four interrelated components is to develop and implement a Freshman Summer Success Program, a week-long event for at-risk FTIC students that will be held prior to the start of fall classes. One goal of this program is to introduce students to academic coursework by having them participate in sample courses such as math, composition, and reading. Other goals include having students understand the expectations of the university and become familiar with its resources and services. They will have opportunities to work with faculty, academic advisors, financial aid counselors, student ambassadors, and supplemental instruction leaders. The first day of this initiative includes parents and family members, recognizing their importance in students' achieving academic goals. Reinforcement activities will occur throughout the first year.

The second component of the transition initiative is to link selected Welcome Week activities to the curriculum by sponsoring student-faculty interactions on academic matters outside the classroom and offering workshops in topics such as study skills, time management, and learning style inventory. Some of these activities will be web-based to foster participation at the off-site locations. Establishing a Welcome Week Council with faculty, staff, and student representation reinforces the collaboration of student activities and academic affairs in front-loading resources that support student success.

Implementing a "re-orientation program" for returning and transfer students is the third component. Research reveals a concern by most universities that the initial orientation conveys more information than a student can assimilate effectively. By the time of a re-orientation, students are ready to reflect on their first semester and to consider the broader concepts of the university community. Such a program renews attention to policies and procedures as well as available resources and encourages reflection on earlier educational experiences. Re-orienting students will also provide an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the initial transition activities.

The final component of this transition initiative is to increase student engagement in the life of the University by creating an interactive web site. Entering students are accessing and synthesizing information in new ways. Introducing a higher level of interactivity in the UHD web presence has the potential to increase the extent to which incoming students assume responsibility for their own learning. This site will be designed to 1) foster increased student use of technology for communication and collaboration, including WebCT Vista; 2) provide strategies for a successful transition into the university; and 3) convey information in multiple ways of delivery such as computer simulation.

The expected outcomes of this initiative are that students will 1) increase their understanding of and compliance with the University's academic policies and procedures; 2) better appreciate the rationale behind the structure of the University curriculum, including its general education requirements; and 3) demonstrate improved study skills and active engagement in the learning process.

**Table III: Enhanced Transition Programs Timeline and Related Administrative Tasks**

Year	Tasks	Responsible Person or Unit
2006-07 Year 1	Coordinate activities to ensure coherence among transitional programs, introducing new students to the culture of the university (Fall)	Dean University College (UC) & VP Std. Affairs/Enroll Mgt
	Plan the 2007 Freshman Summer Success Program (FSSP), considering student and faculty evaluation of the pilot (Fall and Spring) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit faculty to teach sample courses</li> <li>• Select theme to apply to all curricular and co-curricular activities as well to the publicity materials</li> </ul>	Dean UC, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Hold follow-up activities for FSSP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite initial student cohort for a gathering prior to registration for the second semester and for one prior to registration for the third semester (Fall and Spring)</li> <li>• Invite parents for an evening gathering in the UHD coffee house to discuss student-support issues (Fall)</li> </ul>	Dean UC, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Redesign Academic Advising Center web site, providing guidance on transitioning into and through the university (Fall)	Director of Academic Advising & Webmaster for UC
	Establish a Welcome Week Council, including faculty members and representatives of the distant sites, to plan this event for future years, ensuring linkages between first-week class assignments and Welcome Week with options at all UHD sites (Fall)	VP Std. Affairs/Enroll Mgt & VP Academic Affairs
	Conduct self-reporting assessment: online survey on Welcome Week (Fall) and focus groups with FSSP cohort (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Administer Your First College Year (YFCY), a freshman survey instrument (Spring)	Assistant Dean UC
	Research WebCT Vista as a means of increasing options for student interactivity within an academic context (Spring)	Dean UC & Director of Distance Education
	Compile inventory of characteristics of successful students, using multiple delivery systems to convey this information as well as to identify university resources (Spring)	Coordinator of Academic Services, Director of Academic Advising, & Faculty
	Implement the FSSP, adapting the program based on results from student and faculty surveys as well as student focus groups	Dean UC, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Review and summarize assessment of transitional programs (Summer)	Assistant Dean UC
	Submit annual report to QEP Director and QEP Council (Summer)	Dean UC
2007-08 Year 2	Plan for the 2008 FSSP, using a thematic approach and expanding the activities to promote skill in use of technology for communication and collaboration (Fall & Spring)	Dean UC, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation

	Hold follow-up activities for 2007 FSSP students and parents (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Review samples of customized daily planners, consulting with students and suggesting elements for a UHD version to be provided FSSP participants (Fall)	Coordinator of Academic Services & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Conduct focus groups preparatory to designing an interactive web site that engages students in the life of the university, simulating processes such as registration, advising, and managing a schedule (Fall)	Dean UC, Assistant Director of Information and Orientation & Director of Academic Advising
	Redesign Academic Support Center web site, incorporating increased interactivity (Fall)	Director of Academic Support Center & Webmaster for UC
	Increase linkages between academic elements and Welcome Week (Fall)	Assistant Director of Information and Orientation & Dean UC
	Conduct self-reporting assessment: online survey on Welcome Week (Fall) and focus groups with FSSP cohort (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Announce Welcome Week schedule prior to developing syllabi for the following semester, encouraging course assignments that reinforce the linkage of co-curricular and curricular activities (Fall and Spring)	Assistant Director of Activities and Events
	Research best practices in designing a re-orientation, considering strategies to reinforce adherence to academic policies and procedures as well as to encourage accessing support services (Spring)	Coordinator of Academic Services & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Administer YFCY (Spring)	Assistant Dean UC
	Administer National Survey of Student Engagement (Spring)	Assistant Dean UC
	Develop a module teaching students to prepare their computers to work with WebCT Vista, piloting it in FSSP (Spring & Summer)	Director IT & Dean UC
	Implement the FSSP, piloting interactive initiatives using WebCT Vista (Summer)	Dean UC & Webmasters for UC & Std. Affairs/Enroll Mgt
	Review and summarize assessment of transitional programs (Summer)	Assistant Dean UC
	Submit annual report to QEP Director and QEP Council (Summer)	Dean UC
<b>2008-09</b> Year 3	Plan for 2009 FSSP, considering assessment data and incorporating links with the metropolitan area (i.e. using Light Rail to visit one of the museums related to the FSSP theme and designated as an assignment) (Fall & Spring)	Assistant Director of Information and Orientation, & Coordinator of Academic Services
	Hold follow-up activities for 2007 FSSP students and parents (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Establish team from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs/Enrollment Management to assist in design of interactive web site (Fall)	Dean UC, & VP Std. Affairs/Enroll Mgt

	Continue to craft for Welcome Week innovative activities that balance the co-curricular and curricular aspects of the university, establishing connections with the metropolitan area (Fall)	Assistant Director of Information and Orientation & Assistant Director of Activities and Events
	Conduct self-reporting assessment: online survey on Welcome Week (Fall) and focus groups with FSSP cohort (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Develop and implement a re-orientation, incorporating opportunities for assessing the first year experiences (Fall & Spring)	Assistant Director of Information and Orientation, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Director of Academic Advising
	Expand the use of WebCT Vista for interactive initiatives, fostering student communities (Fall)	Dean UC & Director of Academic Advising,
	Administer YFCY (Spring)	Assistant Dean UC
	Implement the FSSP, providing participants with a customized UHD academic planner, incorporating information on support services, university policies and procedures, and characteristics of successful students (Summer)	Coordinator of Academic Services & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Review and summarize assessment of transitional programs (Summer)	Assistant Dean UC
	Submit annual report to QEP Director and QEP Council (Summer)	Dean UC
<b>2009-10</b> Year 4	Plan for 2010 FSSP, considering assessment data and expanding the enrollment and the number of days as warranted (Fall & Spring)	Dean UC, Assistant Director of Information and Orientation, & Coordinator of Academic Services
	Hold follow-up activities for 2007 FSSP students and parents (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Connect themes of FSSP, Welcome Week, and re-orientation as a means of enhancing the sense of continuity as students transition into and through the university (Fall)	Coordinator of Academic Services, Assistant Director of Information and Orientation & Assistant Director of Activities and Events
	Conduct self-reporting assessment: online survey on Welcome Week (Fall) and focus groups with FSSP cohort (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Create interactive web site, incorporating simulation, ready for usability testing in FSSP (Fall & Spring)	Design Team & Webmasters for UC College and Std. Affairs/Enroll Mgt
	Administer YFCY (Spring)	Assistant Dean UC
	Implement the FSSP, continuing to expand enrollment and enhancements offered	Dean UC, Assistant Director of Information and Orientation, & Coordinator of Academic Services
	Review and summarize assessment of transitional programs (Summer)	Assistant Dean UC
	Submit annual report to QEP Director and QEP Council (Summer)	Dean UC
<b>2010-2011</b> Year 5	Expand plans for FSSP to include all students whose academic characteristics indicate the need for such reinforcement (Fall and Spring)	Assistant Director of Information and Orientation, & Coordinator of Academic Services
	Hold follow-up activities for 2007 FSSP students and parents (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC, Coordinator of Academic Services, & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation

	Continue to coordinate planning for FSSP, Welcome Week, and re-orientation, incorporating components that highlight UHD as part of a metropolitan and global community (Fall & Spring)	Coordinator of Academic Services, Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Conduct self-reporting assessment: online survey on Welcome Week (Fall) and focus groups with FSSP cohort (Fall and Spring)	Dean UC & Assistant Director of Information and Orientation
	Launch interactive web site for all students, continuing to work with design team on multimedia/simulations (Spring)	Webmasters of UC and Std. Affairs/Enroll Mgt
	Administer YFCY (Spring)	Assistant Dean UC
	Implement the FSSP, increasing the involvement of students in developing such elements as videos and interactive scenarios for future programs (Summer)	Dean UC, Assistant Director of Information and Orientation, & Coordinator of Academic Services
	Review and summarize assessment of transitional programs (Summer)	Assistant Dean UC
	Submit to QEP Director and QEP Council a report on the past 5 years of activities and assessment, analyzing the programs and recommending future directions (Summer)	Dean UC