



Collaboration and Extended Orientation for Commuter Students

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Orientation
at
UHD

Background

Making it
Happen

Introduction

What the
Data Says

Things to
Consider



Learning Outcomes

By the end of this presentation attendees will...

- Understand what theory and data say about commuter students
- Understand the extended four-day orientation utilized at the University of Houston-Downtown
- Understand how each academic college, their Deans, Assistant Deans, and faculty are included in the extended orientation planning and execution process
- Understand how cross campus collaboration plays a role in a successful extended orientation at a commuter campus
- Be informed of what students have said via assessment about participating in an extended orientation
- Leave with tips and ideas on how they can utilize campus and community collaboration

What Does the Data Say?

Ohio State University 2015 Student Life Survey

- 33% of commuter students were involved on campus compared to 63% on- or near-campus students.
- Commuter students were least likely to have relationships with other Ohio State students.
- Commuter students were least likely to feel like a member of the campus community.

Theme

- Commuter students are less likely to _____.
- Statistically speaking, the odds are against commuter students (*keep in mind this does not include the other statistical odds against many of these students*).

What Does Theory Say?

Schollossberg (2008) defines transition as "any event or nonevent that changes relationships, routines, assumptions and roles"

For commuter students...

- Transition seen as "non-event"
- Work and home life stay the same so not seen as "transition"
- Struggle with navigating their new territory

Institutions must...

- "...recognize these transitions, educate faculty and staff members about them, and provide appropriate supports."

Jacoby, B. (2015). *Enhancing Commuter Student Success: What's Theory Got to Do With It?* New Directions for Student Services.

Orientation @ UHD

Gator Start

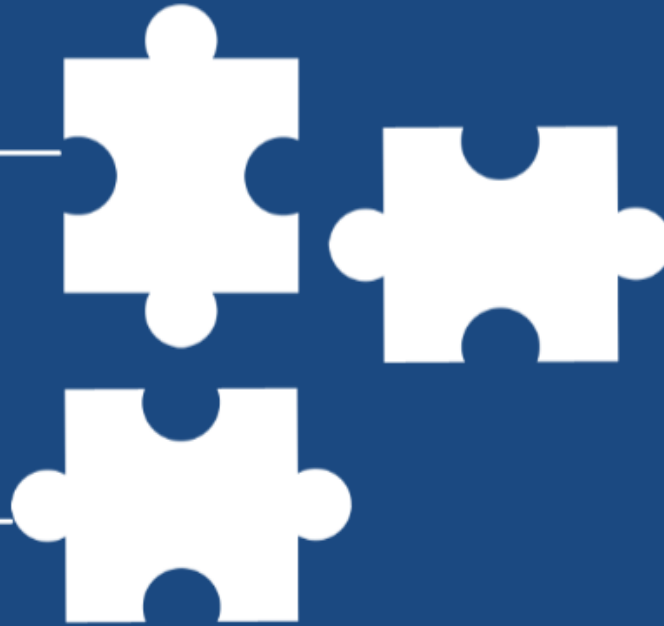
Online pre-orientation

Gator Gateway

Four-day academic college based orientation

Gator Ready

One-day transactional orientation including Academic Advising and course registration with parent program included



Gator Gateway Learning Outcomes

Guiding Principles:

- Acculturation and Cohort Building within the class of 2022, Colleges, and programs of study.
- Academic Preparedness and Self-Regulation

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will build relationships with incoming and current UHD students and will develop a sense of Gator spirit and pride.
2. Participants will build relationships with faculty, and staff; and with their college and program of study.
3. Participants will understand the student rights and responsibilities associated with being a member of the UHD community.
4. Participants will be able to articulate expectations of faculty and feel confident in utilizing campus resources to help achieve their academic and career goals.
5. Students will be able to identify and navigate the UHD campus, and be able to locate classrooms, academic resources, and other student services departments.

FTIC Student



**UHD, Academic
College & Major**

"This is How We Do It"

WIIFM: What's In It For Me?

High Impact Practices and Theory



Day #1

Classroom Experience

UHD 101

Team Building: Fears

College Success Inventory (CSI)

Community Engagement & Service Learning



Day #2

Classroom Experience

UHD 101

Team Building: Amazing Race

Downtown Community



Day #3

College-Based Classroom Experience

Academic College 101

College Showcase

Team Building: Priorities & 1st Year Tips



Day #4

Gator Personal Success (GPS) Conference

Team Building: Day # Fears

Closing Celebration



Provost
 Institutional Effectiveness
 Retention & Graduation Committee



Provost
 Retention & Graduation sub-committee:
 Dean of Students
 Assistant Dean, Enrollment Mgmt.
 Faculty



Orientation Co-Chairs:
 Mgr. Student Transition Programs
 Academic/FYE Staff Representative
 Student Affairs Staff Representative
 Department Business Administrator



Blackboard II



Orientation Work Group:
 Cross Campus Collaboration
 Faculty & Staff



Academic College
 Representatives



Classroom Experience



GPS Conference



UHD 101

Committees

"Teamwork makes the dream work!"

Cross Campus Collaboration

- Events & Reservations
- Chartwells Dining Services
- IT
- TTLC
- Parking
- UHDPD
- Sports & Fitness
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Veterans Services
- UHD Library
- Student Activities
- Disability Services

Student Feedback

2-year average 926 FTIC Gators

84%

The college classroom experience helped me understand what it takes to be successful in courses in my major

90%

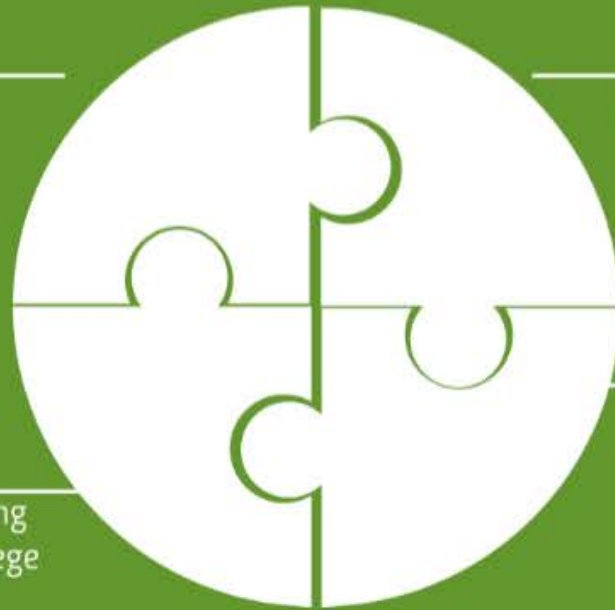
I understand the types of challenges that come from the differences between high school and college.

86%

I look forward to participating in activities offered by my college

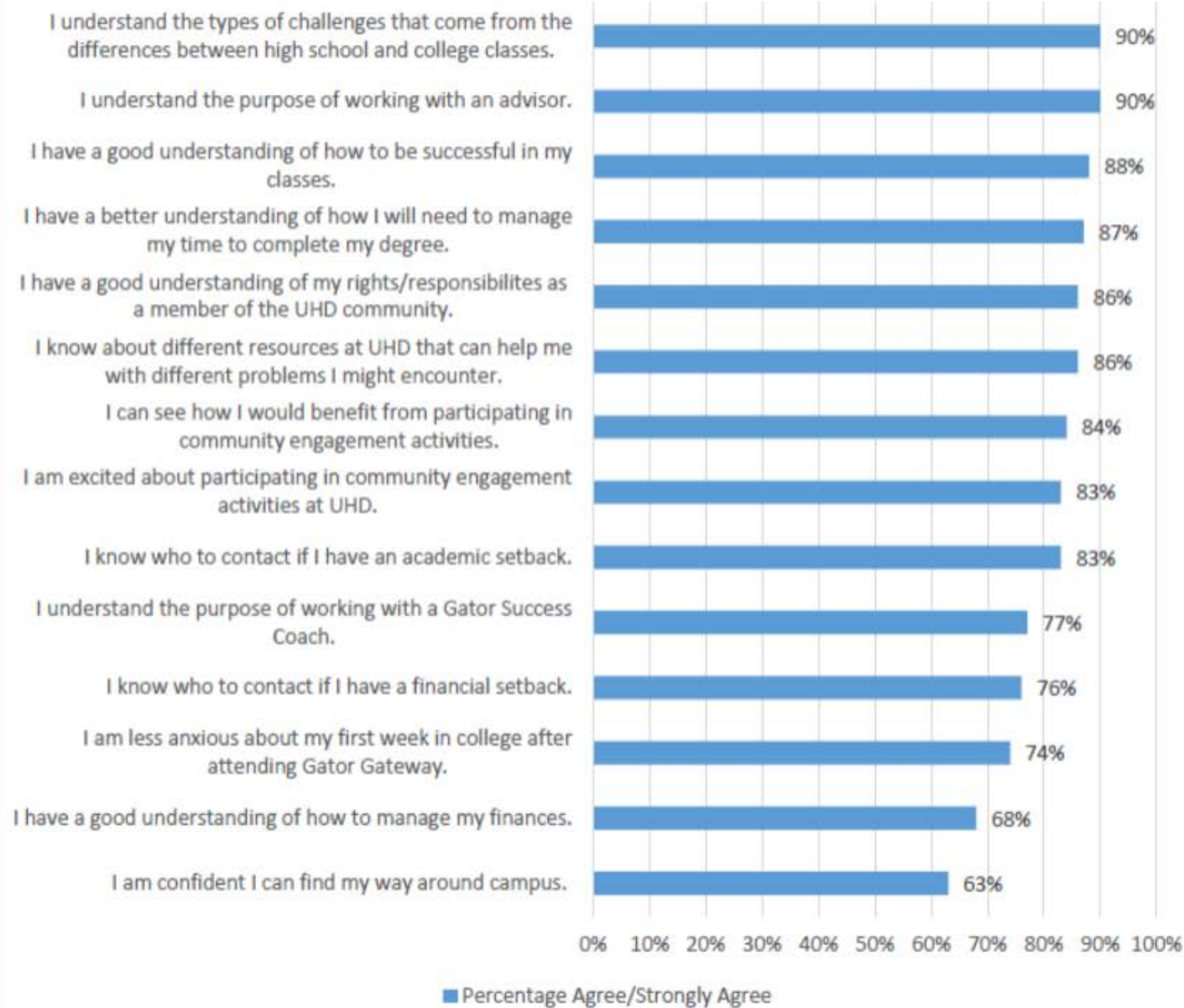
83%

I know who to contact if I have an academic setback



Thinking back over Gator Gateway activities, I agree/ strongly agree with the following:

Percentage Agree/Strongly Agree



Things to consider....

- Processes
- Logistics and capacities
- Budgetary constraints
- Assessment is vital to on-going success, longevity, and promotion

**“BEGIN
WITH
THE END
IN MIND”**

Gevey 1999

Stay Connected

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