

TO: Undergraduate Council

FROM: Enrollment Management Task Force and Orientation Task Force  
Subcommittee

DATE: September 7, 2007

RE: Undergraduate Council Proposal: Mandatory Orientation

RECEIVED SEP 11 2007

APPROVED OCT 17 2007

The Enrollment Management Task Force (EMTF) and the Orientation Task Force (OTF) recommend that Orientation for freshmen be required by 2008. Orientation is in the process of significant development. The 2007 Orientation incorporated a number of improvements including the transition to online Orientation registration and confirmation. Similarly, the transition to online Math placement testing in 2007 freed two hours for other programming opportunities and allowed advisors immediate access to test scores. The 2008 Orientation will benefit further from close analysis of the program content, schedule, and participants.

EMTF and OTF recommend that the Orientation policy be changed.

**Current Policy** (2005-2007 Undergraduate Catalog, page 33):

Orientation  
New Students

All new freshmen and transfer students are expected to attend orientation. The program is designed to acquaint new students with the campus and the many resources that can enhance both academic success and personal development. The orientation program focuses on several important areas, including the curriculum, academic advising, placement testing, campus activities, student organizations, and campus facilities. Registration also takes place at orientation. During orientation, new students have an opportunity to interact with upperclassmen, faculty, and university staff members. By attending orientation, new students will be best prepared for the start of the first semester.

Information about orientation is mailed directly to new students who have been admitted to the university. Questions about orientation should be directed to:

University of Houston  
Dean of Students Office  
252 University Center  
Houston, Texas 77204-3035  
713-743-5475  
[www.uh.edu/dos](http://www.uh.edu/dos)

### **Proposed Policy:**

#### Orientation

#### New Students

All new freshmen students are required to attend orientation. All new transfer students are expected to attend orientation. Orientation is designed to acquaint new students with the campus and the many resources that can enhance both academic success and personal development. The orientation program focuses on important areas including the curriculum, academic advising, college success, scholarships and financial aid, campus activities, student services, student organizations, Cougar Spirit, and campus facilities. Registration for coursework also takes place at orientation. During orientation, new students have an opportunity to interact with upperclassmen, faculty, academic advisors, and university staff members. By attending orientation, new students will be best prepared for the start of the first semester.

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