The Impact of COVID-19 on Summer Orientation

Results from an EAB Survey Conducted April 6-7, 2020
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Survey Respondents

We received 57 responses from 55 institution, representing both student affairs and enrollment leaders.

Bentley University  
Binghamton University  
Boston University  
Chapman University  
Clarion University  
Colorado School of Mines  
Drake University  
Fordham University  
Furman University  
Indiana University  
Iowa State University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kansas State University  
Keene State College  
Loyola University Maryland  
Miami University (OH)  
Millersville University of PA  
Missouri State University  
Muhlenberg College  
Northern Arizona University  
North Carolina State University  
Northern Illinois University  
Oakland University  
Ohio University  
Old Dominion University  
Plymouth State University  
Queen's University  
Robert Morris University (PA)  
Rutgers University  
Salisbury University  
Seattle University  
Seton Hall University  
Sonoma State University  
South Georgia State College  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Southern Illinois University Carbondale  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
SUNY Buffalo State  
Texas Tech University  
University of North Carolina - Charlotte  
University of North Carolina -Chapel Hill  
University of Arizona  
University of California - Davis  
University of Georgia  
University of Houston  
University of New England  
University of South Carolina  
University of Texas at Arlington  
University of the Fraser Valley  
University of Toronto  
University of Texas San Antonio  
West Virginia University  
Western University  
Widener University  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
York University
Establishing the Status Quo

How institutions approached orientation before the pandemic
1. Which of the following best describes the typical, pre-COVID-19 orientation at your institution?

- Orientation sessions take place across the summer on our campus. Most students attend one of these in-person orientation sessions.
- Most students attend in-person orientation shortly before classes begin (e.g. Welcome Week)
- Most students complete an entirely virtual or online orientation over the summer
- Other

n=57
2. When is your first orientation session?

\[ n=56 \]
3. Prior to this summer, has your orientation included substantial virtual components?

- No, our orientation is primarily face-to-face (45%)
- We require students to complete some online components (e.g., modules about the honor code) (32%)
- We offer complementary online components, but students are not required to complete them (13%)
- Other (9%)

n=55
4. Have you already hired student orientation leaders?

- Yes: 82%
- No: 4%
- Not sure: 4%
- Other: 10%

n=50
The Impact of COVID-19

How the pandemic has already changed orientation
5. Have you changed the date(s) of orientation in response to the pandemic?

- Yes, we have postponed orientation to later in the summer
- We are considering moving orientation, but we have not reached a decision
- No, we have not changed the dates

n=55
6. If you are considering changing the dates for orientation, when will you finalize that decision?

- This week
- Next 2-3 weeks
- We are waiting to see how the pandemic develops

n=15
7. Are you considering moving orientation to a virtual format in response to the pandemic?

- Yes, we have decided to move orientation to a virtual format
- Yes, we are moving to a hybrid virtual/in-person orientation
- Yes, we are considering doing so but have yet to make a decision
- No, we have decided not to move to a virtual format
- Other

n=55
8. If you are considering moving to a virtual format, when do you expect to finalize this decision?

- This week: 24%
- Next 2-3 weeks: 20%
- We are waiting to see how the pandemic develops: 12%
- Other: 44%

n=24
9. What is your greatest concern about virtual orientation?

- Scaling technological resources: 70%
- Decreased student engagement with the virtual format: 11%
- Lack of student access due to internet or bandwidth issues: 8%
- Supporting and training staff for new types of student interactions: 6%
- Other: 7%

n=52
10. Are you considering any of these components for virtual orientation?

- Virtual advising appointments: 86%
- Virtual activities with orientation leaders and small groups of students: 92%
- Asynchronous modules on topics such as university policies or student life: 96%
- Large format synchronous sessions: 69%
- Peer mentorship programs: 43%
- Other: 8%