

## **Student Development Services – New Student and Parent Orientation Program Executive Summary, Summer 2010**

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### **Freshman, Transfer and Re-Admit Student Orientation Program**

The new Student Orientation Program had a record breaking summer with a total of 4,582 students attending orientation, which represents a 3.2% increase over the 4,440 students in 2009. Of these students 3,159 were freshmen, 1,397 were transfers, and 26 were re-admits. Overall reservation numbers were also higher with 4,781 total student reservations which represents a 4.8% increase over the 4,562 student reservations in 2009. Below is a summary of the student program evaluation responses with 2009 comparative data in parentheses.

### **Freshman Student Experience**

94% of the freshman students felt that they had successfully registered for their Fall semester classes. (91%)

92% of the freshman students were satisfied with their academic advising. (87%)

79% of the freshman students indicated they were satisfied with their Fall semester schedule. (69%)

99% could successfully login to their UIC student account online. (97%)

71% of the freshman students indicated that they knew how to access their University bill online. (80%)

89% of the freshman students knew where to obtain assistance with writing papers. (92%)

88% of the freshmen indicated that they knew where to go to find a job on campus. (78%)

89% of the freshman students knew where to go for personal and career counseling on campus. (91%)

95% of the freshman students planned to earn their degree from UIC. (93%)

24% were the first to attend college in their family. (36%)

For those students surveyed who were not the first to attend college in their family, 79% had family members who had completed a degree. (60%)

95% of the freshman students stated that they felt comfortable attending their first semester at UIC as a result of their experience in the Orientation Program. (91%)

87% of the freshman students indicated that they felt that it was important to attend orientation in order to have a smooth transition into UIC; 9% responded neutrally. (90%)<sup>i</sup>

72% of the freshman students felt more connected to their peers as a result of their overnight experience; 18% responded neutrally. (87%)<sup>i</sup>

When surveyed, freshman students listed the following experiences as the most valued:

- Connecting with their Orientation Leader(s) and their peers
- Academic Advising and Course Registration
- Evening Activities

### **Transfer and Re-Admit Student Experience**

78% of the transfer/re-admit students felt that they had successfully registered for their Fall semester classes. (62%)

91% of the transfer/re-admit students were satisfied with the academic advising they had received. (87%)

75% of the transfer/re-admit students indicated that they were satisfied with their Fall semester schedule. (59%)

98% of the transfer/re-admit students could successfully login to their UIC student account online. (98%)

90% of the transfer/re-admit students indicated that they knew how to access their University bill online. (83%)

94% of the transfer/re-admit students indicated that they knew where to obtain assistance with writing papers. (91%)

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95% of the transfer/re-admit students indicated that they knew where to go to find a job on campus. (87%)

96% of the transfer/re-admit students indicated that they knew where to go for personal and career counseling. (92%)

97% of the transfer/re-admit students planned to earn their degree from UIC. (98%)

85% of the transfer/re-admit students surveyed indicated that attending orientation was necessary for a smooth transition to UIC; 9% responded neutrally. (86%)<sup>i</sup>

93% of the transfer/re-admit students stated that they were comfortable attending their first semester at UIC as a result of their experience in the Orientation Program. (92%)

When surveyed, transfer and re-admit students listed the following experiences as the most valued:

- Academic Advising and Course Registration
- Connecting with their Orientation Leader(s) and their peers
- Touring Campus

### Parent Orientation Program

The Parent Orientation Program had a total of 1,175 attendees. Of those parents, 969 (82.5%) were the parents of freshman students and 206 (17.5%) were the parents of transfer/re-admit students. We had a total of 1,223 reservations, 198 (16.2%) from the parents of transfer/re-admit students and 1025 (83.8%) from the parents of freshman students. Below is a summary of the parent program evaluation responses.

### Freshman Parent Experience

When surveyed, the parents of freshman students listed the following sessions as the most valued:

- **Lunch** (Buffet Style catering at Connie's or Pompeii restaurants.)
- **Academics 101** (Academic college welcome and conversation about graduation requirements.)
- **Student to Parent Discussion** (Orientation Leader discussion with parents addressing academic and student life related topics.)
- **On Campus: Residence Life Program & Tour** (Introduction to Campus Housing and brief residence hall tour.)
- **Off Campus: Commuter Student Resources** (Introduction to the brand new Commuter Student Resource Center.)
- **Welcome & Introduction to the University** (Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.)

### Transfer/Re-Admit Parent Experience

When surveyed, the parents of transfer/re-admit students listed the following sessions as most valued:

- **On Campus: Residence Life Program & Tour** (Introduction to Campus Housing and brief residence hall tour.)
- **Student to Parent Discussion** (Orientation Leader discussion with parents addressing academic and student life related topics.)
- **Lifestyle & Safety** (A UIC Police, Counseling Center, and Campus Advocacy Network session regarding personal safety and well-being.)
- **Academics 101** (Academic college welcome and conversation about graduation requirements.)
- **Welcome & Introduction to the University** (Transfer Student Assistance Office.)

### Conclusion

To conclude, the 2010 Summer Orientation Program welcomed and transitioned 4,582 new students and 1,175 parents/guests to the University. The students met with their academic advisors, successfully registered for fall semester classes, obtained their i-cards, learned about campus resources to ensure their success, and met fellow classmates during the overnight or one-day orientation experience. Their evaluations further highlight their satisfaction with the Orientation Program and their preparedness to begin the fall semester. Parent Orientation Program participants felt better equipped to support their student through the transition process after having attended their comprehensive one-day session.

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<sup>i</sup>This question contained an additional neutral choice of 'neither disagree nor agree.' Last year, those students would have had to agree or disagree, thereby redistributing the responses, which may explain the reduction in positive responses for this question.