26 New Student Orientation

26.1 Policy

All new degree seeking students (transfer and freshman) are required to attend an orientation/registration program in order to enroll in classes.

26.2 Rationale

Nationally and at Washington State University, students who attend an orientation program are retained at higher rates than students who do not attend. Requiring all new students to attend an orientation program provides Washington State University the opportunity to share with students and their parents/guests the university’s mission, goals, values, and academic expectations; discuss academic policies, procedures and programs; review costs, in terms of both dollars and personal commitment, and expose them to valuable resources and campus-support services aimed at student success, retention and graduation. Ultimately, orientation/registration programs create an atmosphere that minimizes anxiety, promotes student action and responsibility, and prepares students to succeed during their first days, weeks, and months.