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MISSION AND OUTCOMES

New Student Programs addresses the holistic needs of each new NC State student to create a foundation of success.

Based on the core value that people matter, we achieve this through:

+ Cultivating strategic partnerships across the University
+ Promoting an environment of personal responsibility
+ Fostering inclusivity through a shared campus identity
+ Partnering with parents and families
+ Preparing and empowering student leaders to serve the campus
+ Striving to be innovative in meeting the needs of our community

By participating in our programs, students should achieve the outcomes identified below.

**Objective 1: Academic Success**
+ Outcome 1a: Identify skills, university and college resources, and policies that promote academic success and engagement in co-curricular learning experiences

**Objective 2: Connection to Campus**
+ Outcome 2a: Develop a sense of community with fellow students, faculty and staff by engaging in shared experiences
+ Outcome 2b: Recognize the value of the different experiences of individuals within the campus community

**Objective 3: Community Expectations**
+ Outcome 3a: Examine the role of personal responsibility as it applies to the University's academic and behavioral expectations and policies
+ Outcomes 3b: Identify behaviors and resources that promote personal and community well-being and safety

**Objective 4: Transition to the University Environment**
+ Outcome 4a: Demonstrate the ability to navigate the day-to-day functions of collegiate life by utilizing the available resources

**Objective 5: Student Leader Development**
+ Outcome 5a: Apply effective leadership skills in interactions with students, families, New Student Programs staff, and campus partners
+ Outcome 5b: Utilize knowledge of campus to address the transitional needs of new students and families
CHANGES IN SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The following items may require a change in service environment in future years, beginning in 2021-2022.

+ **Changes to the Housing Residential Curriculum**: As conversations continue regarding the Residential Curriculum through University Housing and support for new first-year students, New Student Programs needs to analyze the programs and services offerings to ensure fewer duplicated efforts, if applicable. Recognizing University Housing’s live-on requirement and the role they play within a student’s transition to NC State via the residential component, it may necessitate New Student Programs reevaluating some of the programs currently being provided for future feasibility.

+ **Potential Increasing of Second Year Student Support**: As students return to campus following the 2019-2020 academic year, there is a renewed focus on the needs of and support provided to second year students. Specifically as their first years on campus looked dramatically to previous cohorts. With this in mind, these initiatives may impact the programs and services supported by New Student Programs as a means to continue the transitional period of students beyond the first year, especially given the unique circumstances of this second year student cohort.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The following programs and services were coordinated by New Student Programs during 2020-2021.

+ **New Student Orientation and Family Orientation Programs (NSFO)**: NSFO assisted in the virtual transition of approximately 5,100 undergraduate first-year students and 1,600 undergraduate transfer students during the 2020-2021 academic year through orientation programs. Additionally, Family Orientation programs hosted approximately 5,000 family members of new students. In connection to the strategic plan, transfer-specific orientation programs focus on introducing students to the campus culture while providing vital information on academic and co-curricular resources that aid in student success. Please see Addendum A or visit go.ncsu.edu/nspassessment for assessment data specific to New Student and Family Orientation programs.

+ **International Orientation**: International Orientation for international first-year and transfer undergraduate students, in collaboration with the Office for International Services, oriented approximately 30 new international students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting international student enrollment, numbers for this year’s international orientation sessions were significantly fewer than previous years. However, this program is designed to positively impact the transition of international undergraduate students into the culture of the United State and NC State University while promoting the integration of international students into the NC State community through cross-cultural peer exchanges with domestic undergraduate students.

+ **Summer Start**: In summer 2020, the Summer Start program continued providing an opportunity for new first-year and transfer students to enroll in summer session II courses while learning skills and resources to assist
in their academic and personal success, building smaller communities and connections with peers, including upper-division mentors, and engaging with faculty and advisors in a more intimate setting. Even though the program was held virtually in 2020, Summer Start provided over 90 co-curricular programs were offered in summer 2020 in collaboration with campus partners. In summer 2020, 227 first-year and transfer students participated in Summer Start, including approximately 14 Spring Connect students. The average GPA for Summer Start participants was 3.75 with an average course load of approximately 6 credit hours. Please see Addendum B or visit go.ncsu.edu/nsassessment for assessment data specific to Summer Start.

+ **Wolfpack Welcome Week (WWWW)**: Wolfpack Welcome Week is the university’s coordinated programming efforts from the point of Move-In to the Saturday after classes begin. With approximately 190 separate events taking place during the two-week period, WWWW promotes the various opportunities for students to connect with campus, including the Arts, academic programs and resources, student organizations, and health and wellness programs. Through WWWW, students will develop a sense of community with NC State, student organizations, and smaller peer networks, develop the skills needed to thrive in the classroom, and identify university expectations. As with other programs in 2020-2021, Wolfpack Welcome Week included a mix of in-person and virtual events to help connect students during COVID-19. Signature events hosted during WWWW include: New Student Convocation, Student Involvement Fair, College Connections events, Respect the Pack, and Moonlight Howl and Run.

+ **Winter Welcome Week**: In January 2021, New Student Programs coordinated Winter Welcome Week for incoming spring students and returning students in conjunction with campus partners. Over 100 events coordinated by New Student Programs and campus partners were held during Winter Welcome Week ranging in focus from health and wellness and social connection to academic engagement and arts and culture. As with Wolfpack Welcome Week in the fall semester, Winter Welcome Week events were held both virtually and in-person to increase accessibility for students residing on-campus and those participating remotely.

+ **Common Experience Program**: For the fall 2020 semester, the University created a Common Experience to support first-year students in engaging with CliftonStrengths for Students, an online assessment that measures students’ talents and sorts them into a unique rank of CliftonStrengths themes. With a focus on how first-year students can make the most of their talents to achieve their goals at work and everywhere else, CliftonStrengths for Students is a powerful starting place for understanding the strengths that shape the way an individual navigates life. While the Common Experience encompasses the entire NC State community, the CliftonStrengths for Students was taken by approximately 4,500 NC State first-year students, upper-level students, and faculty/staff in support of this initiative. Additionally in the fall and spring semesters, the campus programmed approximately 25 events related to CliftonStrengths.

+ **1887 Fellows**: 1887 Fellows is an exclusive cohort experience for fall and spring first-year and transfer students occurring in their first semester on-campus. The program aimed to create a foundation for success in their first semester while developing a Fellows community through a series of experiences that supported student growth as participants navigated their transition to NC State. The series of experiences included goal-based coaching, weekly socials with connections to campus resources, and reflection opportunities. As a part of the coaching process, each Fellow worked individually with a staff member to progress through the goal attainment process, reflecting upon their self-regulation, grit, and perseverance throughout the term. In 2020-
2021, approximately 50 first-year and transfer students participated in the 1887 Fellows program.

**Student Staff Employment:** To fulfill the mission and outcomes of New Student Programs (NSP), student staff members are recruited, trained, employed, and evaluated each academic year. In 2020-2021, NSP employed over 100 student staff members (approximately 90 first-time staff members and 10 returning staff members). Focusing on their development as student leaders and professionals, this process encompassed approximately 100 hours of comprehensive training culminating in their implementation of the summer orientation and Summer Start programs and work with incoming students and families.

### NEW INITIATIVES IN 2020-2021

The following new initiatives were implemented in 2020-2021.

**Common Experience Program:** For the fall 2020 semester, the University created a Common Experience to support first-year students in engaging with CliftonStrengths for Students, an online assessment that measures students’ talents and sorts them into a unique rank of CliftonStrengths themes. With a focus on how first-year students can make the most of their talents to achieve their goals at work and everywhere else, CliftonStrengths for Students is a powerful starting place for understanding the strengths that shape the way an individual navigates life. While the Common Experience encompasses the entire NC State community, the CliftonStrengths for Students was taken by approximately 4,500 NC State first-year students, upper-level students, and faculty/staff in support of this initiative. Additionally in the fall and spring semesters, the campus programmed approximately 25 events related to CliftonStrengths.

**Online Orientation Modules:** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Student Programs implemented a virtual orientation program during 2020-2021, including live virtual sessions via Zoom, as well as an orientation online module. The module (required for students and optional for family members) presented vital information related to understanding the University environment and the student transition to NC State. Encompassing approximately five hours of content, including videos and quizzes, the online module allowed New Student Programs to deliver important messages to students throughout the orientation period when on-campus events were put on hold. While required for students, the online modules were a university-wide effort required the work of approximately 30 campus departments to create and implement during 2020-2021.

### DIVERSITY INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

The following diversity initiatives were implemented by New Student Programs in 2020-2021 (listed in alphabetical order).

**Building an Inclusive Community:** As part of the orientation online modules, incoming students received a presentation about what it means to join a diverse community of scholars, including reflection on their own experiences, as well as information about the support services available at NC State.
Diversity Coordinators Website: Launched as a means to connect new students to the Diversity Coordinators within their colleges, New Student Programs continued promoting a webpage (newstudents.dasa.ncsu.edu/colleges) listing the names and contact information for each college’s Diversity Coordinator.

ImPACKting Your Community: ImPACKting Your Community, presented by the Title IX Committee, was presented virtually to all New Student Orientation participants to provide education and awareness to incoming first-year and transfer students around sexual assault and interpersonal violence prevention. ImPACKting Your Community empowered students to create an environment free of sexual assault and violence by intervening and supporting survivors.

International Orientation: International Orientation for international first-year and transfer undergraduate students, in collaboration with the Office for International Services, oriented approximately 30 new international students during the 2020-2021 academic year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting international student enrollment, numbers for this year’s international orientation sessions were significantly fewer than previous years. However, this program is designed to positively impact the transition of international undergraduate students into the culture of the United State and NC State University while promoting the integration of international students into the NC State community through cross-cultural peer exchanges with domestic undergraduate students.

NC State Hearts Transfers: NC State Hearts Transfers, held virtually during Wolfpack and Winter Welcome Weeks prior to classes, aids transfer students in creating a sense of community through peer connections and identifying available resources that support their collegiate success.

Out-of-State Student Welcome: The Out-of-State Student Welcome, hosted virtually during Wolfpack Welcome Week prior to classes, promoted the successful cultural and social transition of new out-of-state undergraduate students. This session provided opportunities to engage with an out-of-state peer network, learning about available campus resources, and learn about the culture of North Carolina.

Veteran Student Information: The Military and Veteran’s Resource Center, in conjunction with virtual orientation programs, provided a virtual session (via the orientation online module) specifically aimed at student veterans and their families to facilitate a smooth transition for veterans and families utilizing the G.I. Bill to pay for their education at NC State.

PROFESSIONAL & STUDENT STAFF LEADERSHIP AND RECOGNITION

Changes in Staffing:

- Coordinator of New Student Programs (Julianne Britt) left NC State in January 2021
- Assistant Director of New Student Programs (Genna Martella) left NC State in May 2021
Leadership Positions in Professional Organizations:

- Annual Conference Advisory Committee Member, Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education (NODA) (Cameron Hill, Associate Director)

- Extended Orientation Network Co-Chair, Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education (NODA) (Molly Basdeo Mountjoy, Coordinator)

- General Board Member, Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education (NODA) (Michael Coombes, Director)

Participation on NC State Affiliated Committees:

- Academic Advising Strategic Planning Committee (Cameron Hill, Associate Director)

- Division of Academic and Student Affairs Communications and Technology Committee (Cameron Hill, Associate Director and Meredith Harms, Administrative Support Specialist)

- Division of Academic and Student Affairs Finance Committee (Meredith Harms, Administrative Support Specialist)

- Division of Academic and Student Affairs Return to Work Working Group (Cameron Hill, Associate Director)

- Military Affairs Working Group (Michael Coombes, Director)

- NC State Wellness Strategic Planning – Academia Workgroup (Molly Basdeo Mountjoy, Coordinator)

- University Housing Opening Committee (Cameron Hill, Associate Director)

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE

Recommendations for the Future

Restructuring Departmental Initiative for Long Term Success: In response to the COVID-19, New Student Programs has begun examining the programming provided by the departmental and it's feasibility for continued delivery. One recommendation for the future is to identify the various first-year initiatives occurring on-campus and how they impact the programming coming from the department to eliminate duplications of programs, resources, etc. while ensure continued support for new students.
Concerns for the Future

Current and Upcoming Staffing Changes: In planning for summer 2021, New Student Programs is undergoing staffing changes that may have long term impacts related to personnel, structure, and program delivery. As the department looks into the next academic year, it does so looking to fill multiple vacancies, which may impact departmental initiatives, while also providing opportunities for a reexamination of programs and staff responsibilities.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE NC STATE STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL 1: Enhance the success of our students through educational innovation

New Student Orientation and Family Orientation Programs (NSFO): NSFO assisted in the virtual transition of approximately 5,100 undergraduate first-year students and 1,600 undergraduate transfer students during the 2020-2021 academic year through orientation programs. Additionally, Family Orientation programs hosted approximately 5,000 family members of new students. In connection to the strategic plan, transfer-specific orientation programs focus on introducing students to the campus culture while providing vital information on academic and co-curricular resources that aid in student success. Please see Addendum A or visit go.ncsu.edu/nsassessment for assessment data specific to New Student and Family Orientation programs.

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+ **GOAL 2: Enhance scholarship and research by investing in faculty and infrastructure**

+ **GOAL 3: Enhance interdisciplinary scholarship to address the grand challenges of society**

+ **GOAL 4: Enhance organizational excellence by creating a culture of constant improvement**
  
  + **Summer Start:** In summer 2020, the Summer Start program continued providing an opportunity for new first-year and transfer students to enroll in summer session II courses while learning skills and resources to assist in their academic and personal success, building smaller communities and connections with peers, including upper-division mentors, and engaging with faculty and advisors in a more intimate setting. Even though the program was held virtually in 2020, Summer Start provided over 90 co-curricular programs were offered in summer 2020 in collaboration with campus partners. In summer 2020, 227 first-year and transfer students participated in Summer Start, including approximately 14 Spring Connect students. The average GPA for Summer Start participants was 3.75 with an average course load of approximately 6 credit hours. Please see Addendum B or visit go.ncsu.edu/nspassessment for assessment data specific to Summer Start.

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+ **GOAL 5: Enhance local and global engagement through focused strategic partnership.**