

START THE

UF

TRADITION

PREVIEW

TRADITION THAT MATTERS

UF

Dean of Students Office

Division of Student Affairs

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

- 1974** ... year the Preview tradition began.
- 2** ... days dedicated to student and family transition.
- 15:2** ... student to advisor ratio (national best practice).
- 50** ... student leadership/employment opportunities.
- 2.5** ... miles of campus exploration during Preview.
- 300** ... financial waivers provided to students & families.
- 95%** ... first year student retention rate.
- 84%** ... 6 year FTIC cohort graduation rate.

ORIENTATION IN THE NEWS

“At many colleges summer orientation is mandatory, and for good reason. Important transitions take place at orientations... It will make the beginning of the new semester go much more smoothly for everyone.”

-College Parents of America (July 2011)

“College Orientation sessions are a terrific way for new students and their [families] to learn about academic and student life.”

-youngadults.com

“Successful Orientation programs have been linked with student retention. Richard Mullendore (2011) states, ‘the literature for the past 30 years has been clear that it is equally important to understand that it is the combination of academic and social integration that is critical to student success and retention, and a student’s comfort level with a college is often established during orientation.’”

-higheredjobs.com

NATIONAL LEADER

Below are statistics collected from an anonymous benchmark survey administered by the *National Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention* in 2014.

I - Lowest | 4 - Highest

University of Florida

National Average

what extent did orientation give you useful information on campus support services

3.44

3.31

if you could start over again, would you go to the same college

3.45

3.34

how likely is it that you will be enrolled at this college next semester

3.88

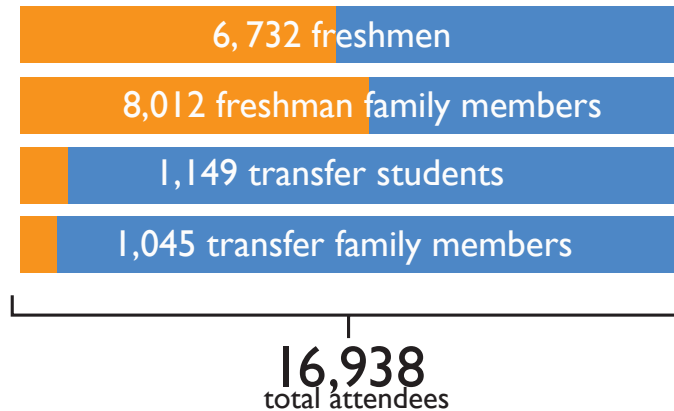
3.83

WHY PREVIEW?

The University of Florida Family

To accomplish its goal of becoming a top ten public institution in the country, UF has developed a comprehensive transition program for students and families.

BY THE NUMBERS (SUMMER 2014)



99% of students felt the community of UF was welcoming.

97% of family members felt the community of UF was helpful.

95% of students felt the community of UF showed genuine interest in helping them succeed.



"Preview Staffers were incredibly outgoing, energetic, enthusiastic, informative and, perhaps most importantly, calming to the many anxious parents who bombarded them with questions for two full days."

-Parent, UF Class of 2018



"Serving on Preview Staff was an invaluable experience. Not only did I gain leadership skills but also the confidence to effectively and quickly respond to any situation thrown my way to the best of my abilities."

-Tiffany Cheatham
Preview Staff 2014

STRONG BEGINNINGS

Preview supports UF's very high **first year retention rate of 95%**. This is also seen in UF's 6 year graduation rate for FTIC cohorts, which is among the nation's highest, at nearly 84%.

6 Comprehensive 2 day program provides:
**HOURS OF ACADEMIC, MAJOR
AND CAREER PLANNING.**



Nationally, UF's orientation provides students with a better understanding of academic requirements.

| 1 - Lowest | 4 - Highest

University of Florida

3.35

National Average

3.17



"Preview has allowed me to explore many different majors and has helped me feel secure about my major and what classes I am planning on attending."

-UF Class of 2018 Student

ADVISING THAT WORKS

New students work one to one with a professional advisor/faculty member as well as a peer Orientation Leader to develop intentional first semester schedules.



99% of students now understand UF's academic expectations.

97% of students felt their one to one advising appointment provided guidance in selecting courses.

96% of family members believe that their student will be academically successful after attending Preview.

NATIONAL LEADER

As a result of academic advising at Preview more than **98%** of all UF students were successfully starting their academic careers "on track."

*Recognized by peer institutions as a national best practice. UF has regularly hosted colleagues from other institutions to help recommend enhancements to their current programs. For example the *University of Texas - Austin Retention Task Force Final Report* highlights UF's process.

COMMITMENT TO RETENTION

Preview focuses as much attention on academics as it does to developing a supportive community to promote student engagement and retention.

97%

of students plan to get involved in at least one organization during their first semester at UF.

97%

of students felt that it is their responsibility as a Gator to reach out to Gators in distress.

96%

of students understood their rights and responsibilities as a member of the UF community.



"Thank you for a great Preview! I am confident my daughter is better prepared to start at UF"

-Bob Lynch
Father, & UF Class of 1985

SUPPORTIVE CONNECTIONS

A top supporter of student success is the presence of a positive academic role model. Preview connects each student with a peer mentor (Orientation Leader) and Professional Academic Advisor.



94%

 of students felt comfortable contacting their Preview orientation leader for advice after classes begin.

97%

 of students felt comfortable contacting their Preview faculty advisor for advice after classes begin.


"...you made the experience, and completely and totally showed me that UF will be a great home for me, and it's where I belong."

-Daniel Knight
UF Class of 2018



"Preview has been an amazing tool in getting me ready for UF. I know I have a large support team who will be here for me if I need them."

-Parent, UF Class of 2018

NOT JUST A NUMBER

Below are a sampling of unsolicited feedback provided by Preview attendees.

“We found all aspects of Preview very helpful and informative... Preview confirmed for me as an educator that we are on the right track, and I found the process provided me with a unique insight that probably more high school administrators and guidance counselors should experience.”

-Jill Kolasa

Assistant Principal, Central High School | Brooksville, FL

“Let me begin by letting you know how deeply impressed I was with this program. It was incredibly informative for both students and parents, and it was a great way to get our kids acclimated to the UF ‘lifestyle.’ The [Preview Team] was incredibly knowledgeable, friendly, and made the unnerving process of ‘letting go of our kids’ A LOT easier.”

-John Wiegand

Father, Class of 2018 Student

“I just wanted to take a minute to say THANK YOU to you and your team for the wonderful, informative orientation this past weekend.”

-Linda Lombardi

Mother, Class of 2018 Student

“I just wanted to drop you a note to tell you how impressed my wife and I were with your Preview Staff... my wife and I are both UF alums and avid supporters. Without sounding too sappy, your staff gives us hope that the future of UF is going to be in good hands for the next generation.”

-Patrick and Kirsten Tealan

Parents & UF Class of 1989



98% of students would recommend the University of Florida to a friend as a result of attending Preview!



VALUE UF's current orientation cost is the least expensive in the country amongst top ten public institutions.



