

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

## Freshmen

All newly admitted freshmen are required to participate in a Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) session before being permitted to register for classes. SOAR is designed to assist students in making a successful transition to USU. In addition to registering for classes, students have the opportunity to receive individual advice about degree requirements, as well as vital information about student services, campus life, and athletics. SOAR also gives students a chance to make new friends. New students should be aware that a registration hold is placed on their file until some form of orientation and advising are completed. After admission to USU, students will receive information about SOAR programs.

## Transfer Students

A student is considered to be a transfer student if he or she has completed at least 24 semester credits of post-high school work at another institution. This does not include concurrent enrollment or AP credits. This does include credits a student is currently taking at another institution.

Newly admitted transfer students are required to contact their academic advisor before registering for classes. Transfer students are not required to participate in orientation.

## On-Campus Orientation

Utah residents and out-of-state students who live within 400 miles of USU are required to attend SOAR at one of the on-campus sessions. Out-of-state students living further than 400 miles from USU are not required to attend SOAR on campus, but are encouraged to do so if they are able. Online Orientation and Orientation-by-Mail options are available for students who are unable to attend in person.

The primary objective of SOAR is to provide new students with the opportunity to register early for classes. Students will begin participating in SOAR according to the following schedule:

<u>Term Entering USU</u>	<u>SOAR Month(s)</u>
Fall	June - July
Spring	November
Summer	March

Academic advisors and student facilitators will be present to help students develop their class schedules. After the desired classes are chosen, the students may register over the Internet or in person. Once courses have been scheduled, tuition and fees must be paid by the fee payment deadline or the student will need to reregister. The summer

program provides an opportunity for students to become familiar with campus, look for housing, be introduced to University programs, etc.

## On-Campus SOAR Options

There are several SOAR options. Each of the options are similar in that they each meet the same central goals of preparing students to attend USU. Some students come to SOAR simply to meet with an advisor and register for classes, while others seek a more comprehensive orientation to the University. Students may select the SOAR option that best meets their needs. Students who sign up for the earlier SOAR sessions are more likely to obtain the class schedule they desire. SOAR sessions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Express Orientation** is the most concise orientation option for new USU students. At Express SOAR, students will meet with an advisor in their areas of academic interest and register for classes. In addition, students will have the opportunity to tour the campus, as well as learn about registration procedures, student services, policies, and campus life. Students will also be able to attend their choice of workshops on subjects such as Financial Aid, Housing, Living in Logan, and Deciding on a Major. Students will have their pictures taken for their student identification cards. They also have the options of purchasing a campus parking pass; meeting with representatives from various campus clubs, organizations, and offices; and obtaining answers to all of the questions students may have about USU and campus life.

**Extended Orientation** is designed for incoming students who prefer a more thorough and comprehensive orientation to USU in a more relaxed setting. Extended Orientation offers all of the services provided by the Express Orientation and more. During the course of this two-day orientation session, students will be able to spend more time getting to know the campus, learning University policies and procedures, and meeting other incoming students. Students will stay overnight in the USU residence halls and have meals provided by USU Food Services. Plenty of activities are planned to make students' time fun and productive.

**Outdoor Orientation** is a four-day program that allows students to experience the beautiful natural setting surrounding Logan, while learning about Utah State University and college life in a casual setting with a small group of other incoming students. Outdoor Orientation offers all of the services provided by the Express Orientation and more. Students will spend three nights at the Bear Lake

Training Center. Due to the popularity of this program, space is always very limited. Only the first 30 students to register for Outdoor Orientation will be able to attend.

**Returning Adult Orientation** is for students who have a gap in their education of five years or more. This program runs concurrently with Express Orientation and includes special workshops addressing the needs of returning adult students. Students will have opportunities to ask questions of current returning adult students, to receive an introduction to the Reentry Student Center, and to receive all of the orientation materials included with Express Orientation.

## Online Orientation

Students will not have their registration hold cleared until they have satisfied both the orientation and advising requirements. Prior to the published SOAR dates, Online Orientation is available only to out-of-state students who live more than 400 miles away from USU. After the on-campus SOAR date(s) have concluded, Online Orientation is the only orientation option available for new students.

Students who participate in Online Orientation are still required to communicate with an advisor prior to registering for classes. It is the advisor's responsibility to determine if the advising requirement has been met. Advisors may provide information to students in person, over the telephone, or via the Internet.

## Parent Orientation

Parent Orientation is available for parents of incoming USU students. Parent Orientation runs concurrently with Express Orientation and Extended Orientation sessions. Parent Orientation is designed to introduce parents to the changes they can expect in their lives. Parents will have the opportunity to meet with school personnel to discuss the programs the University offers to students and parents.

## The A-Team

The A-Team is a group of students who have received training to assist other students through every step of the orientation process. These students know a lot about USU, know how to have fun, and are willing to help students in any way they can.

## SOAR Packets

SOAR packets will be given to all students who pay their orientation fee, whether they attend an On-Campus Orientation or sign-up for Online Orientation.

The SOAR packet includes a *Schedule of Classes*, a *General Catalog*, advising materials, and other helpful information for new students. The packet also includes a voucher for a student ID card.

## Registration Holds

Registration holds are cleared for freshmen only after a student has satisfied both the orientation and advising requirements. Students who have attended a SOAR session on campus will have met both requirements and will have their registration hold cleared by the SOAR Office.

Registration holds are cleared for transfer students only after a student has satisfied the advising requirement.

**If a freshman does NOT attend an On-Campus Orientation session**, an advisor, after advising the new student, should look up the student on Screen 148 in SIS Plus. Screen 148 will likely show one of the following two holds:

**Hold 91, Orientation and Advising Required.** Advisors should add a note to indicate that the student has been advised. It is helpful for the advisor to type in the advisor's name and the date the advising took place. **Advisors MUST NOT clear Hold 91.** The SOAR Office will clear Hold 91 after the following three conditions have been met:

1. The first possible date that the student may register has arrived.
2. The student has purchased an orientation packet and has signed up for either Online Orientation or Orientation-by-Mail.
3. Screen 148 indicates that the student has been advised.

**Hold 94, College/Departmental Academic Advising.** If a student has met only the first two conditions listed above, the SOAR Office will clear Hold 91 and put on a new Hold 94. A Hold 94 is automatically placed on the record of all new transfer students. **Advisors may clear Hold 94** immediately after meeting with the student.

Advisors who do not have access to update Screen 148 in SIS Plus should e-mail John Mortensen ([john.mortensen@usu.edu](mailto:john.mortensen@usu.edu)) to request access. The e-mail should include the advisor's name and four-digit SIS Plus operator number.

## Earliest Possible Dates A New Student May Register For Classes

**Freshmen** may not register for classes until both the orientation and advising requirements have been satisfied. Once both of these requirements have been satisfied,

students may register for classes according to the following priorities:

**Transfer Students** with 24 or more credits may have their registration holds removed immediately after meeting with an advisor and may register according to the priority registration schedule and the number of credits earned.

**New Freshmen who attend SOAR** will have their registration holds removed on the day they attend SOAR.

**New Freshmen (out-of-state students who live more than 400 miles from USU)** will have their registration holds removed on the first freshman SOAR date.

**New Freshmen (Utah residents or out-of-state students who live within 400 miles of USU and do not attend SOAR)** will have their registration holds removed the day after the last freshman SOAR date.

## Contacting the SOAR Office

Questions relating to registering a student for SOAR, or any other general questions that are student specific, should be referred to the SOAR Office at (800) 606-4878 or 797-0283. Advisors and University staff should direct their questions to Lisa Hancock at [lisa.hancock@usu.edu](mailto:lisa.hancock@usu.edu) or 797-1125.