

# New Student Orientation and University Connections

## New Student Orientation

### New Freshmen

Newly admitted first-year students must 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. New students should be aware that a *registration hold* is placed on their file until some form of orientation is completed. After admission to USU, students will receive information about SOAR programs.

### University Deposit

All new freshmen are required to reserve their spot at USU by paying a \$100 deposit. The \$100 will be applied toward a student's account. It will cover the cost of the SOAR option selected, and any remaining balance will go toward tuition and fees.

### Early Registration Request

Students who pay the \$100 deposit and register for SOAR prior to the posted deadline will be able to submit an Early Registration Request. The earlier students submit their deposit and register for SOAR, the more likely they are to get the classes of their choice and the orientation date of their choice. Students will *not* be allowed to modify their schedules until they participate in SOAR.

Students who miss the posted deadline must still pay the University deposit and register for SOAR. However, they will not be able to submit an Early Registration Request.

For further information or to receive more information about SOAR, call New Student Orientation at (435) 797-0283 or (800) 606-4878, or visit the SOAR website at: <http://www.usu.edu/soar>

### Mathematics Placement Test

Students who have a valid Math ACT score of less than 23, who *do not* have a valid Math ACT score, or who have *not* taken a Math course (e.g. MATH 1050 College Algebra) are required to take the Math Placement Test. The fee for this test is \$10, and students attending SOAR will be given the opportunity to take this test while attending SOAR on campus at USU. The results of this test will be used to advise new students into appropriate mathematics or statistics courses.

### 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. During the summer, the SOAR office does provide a half-day nonmandatory informational session for transfer students.

### Academic Advising

Upon admission to USU, all new students are assigned to an academic advisor. During New Student Orientation, students meet with their advisors, plan their class schedules, and register for classes. Advising

is the process encompassing development and delivery of accurate and up-to-date information regarding career options, educational programs, courses of instruction, resources, policies, and procedures to aid students in pursuing their educational goals.

Each student should consult with his or her academic advisor on a regular basis, and as needed, until the student's program of study is completed. The advisor can help the student to select, plan, and complete a program of study which is consistent with the student's interests, abilities, and needs, and can assist the student in selecting appropriate courses in the proper sequence to complete all requirements for graduation.

Each student is responsible for learning and completing graduation requirements for academic programs selected. Major Requirement Sheets showing University, college, and departmental requirements for each academic program are available at:

<http://www.usu.edu/majorsheets/>

For information about the Office of University Advising, as well as details about the advising structure and contact information for each of the seven colleges, see page 12.

An *Advisor List by Major* is available on the web at:

<http://www.usu.edu/advising/advisors/>.

## University Connections

University Connections is a course specifically designed to ease the transition to Utah State University and prepare students for an exciting collegiate experience. This unique course focuses on developing critical college study skills, time-management techniques, and test-taking strategies. Through this course, students are connected to the University environment, including academic expectations, policies and procedures, resources, services, and physical layout. Through a common literature experience, students are provided with an introduction to the challenging academic environment of the University. Students are also introduced to extracurricular activities designed to enrich their overall educational experience. Most importantly, Connections allows students to develop a support network of classmates, faculty, and staff to help ensure a successful beginning to their academic experience.

### Course Format

Connections classes have 25-30 participants per class. The **traditional model** (for which students earn **2 credits**) includes pre-semester sessions held the week before the semester begins, and three one-hour sessions held after the semester begins. The three semester sessions are designed to provide additional support during the student's transition to the University environment, including crucial information necessary to academic success. In the **extended model** (for which students earn **1 credit**), students meet for one hour, twice per week during the first eight weeks of the semester. This option caters to students who are unable to attend Connections during the week before school starts. This includes (but is not limited to) students participating in band and athletics, as well as international students.

### Registration

Students attending SOAR will be provided with an opportunity to register for Connections during their orientation session. Registration may also be accomplished online by logging into Banner at:

<http://www.usu.edu/myusu/>

For more information about University Connections, visit:

<http://www.usu.edu/connections/>