

Annual Report

2019 - 2020

OFFICE OF ORIENTATION & TRANSITION



Our Mission

The Office of Orientation & Transition welcomes each new University of Utah student and their family and connects them to personalized support and meaningful opportunities by promoting academic excellence and successful transitions.

Our Core Values

EMBRACE AND DRIVE CHANGE We intentionally adapt to the shifting world of higher education to better serve students, their families, and community partners. As campus leaders, we base progressive change on an awareness of student needs, best practices, and current research. We encourage a growth mindset for ourselves and others.

WORK AS A TEAM TO BUILD COMMUNITY We foster an environment where people respect and invest in each other. We value honest communication and encourage active listening within our team to build trust and understanding. We support a culture of care for each student and their connection to the greater campus community.

PURSUE GROWTH AND LEARNING We encourage lifelong learning through personal and professional growth. As an academic community, formal and experiential education shape student and professional development. To best serve the needs of our campus, we encourage knowledge and skill acquisition through learning opportunities.

ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Our office is an inclusive space where our differences become learning opportunities. Advocating for social justice is about demonstrating change for a more equitable society. Our intersecting identities, experiences, families, communities, and histories shape who we are and how we interact with others. Through brave dialogue and action, we encourage authenticity and positive change.



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Introduction

The Office of Orientation & Transition Programs welcomes University of Utah students and their families and connects them to personalized support and meaningful opportunities by promoting academic excellence and successful transitions. The staff believes each student deserves to have a positive college experience and focuses on orientation, transition, and retention to promote student success. Key activities include communications, orientation and welcome programs, first-year and second-year programs and courses, transfer student programs, and parent and family programs. We aspire to create an environment where all students feel empowered by their unique talents and identities, find a sense of belonging and support, and have positive social and emotional experiences that lead to personal growth and academic excellence. We aim to inspire a shared vision of student success with students, their families, campus partners, and community leaders.

To achieve the mission and vision of the Office of Orientation & Transition staff rely on the core values of the office for meaningful decision making and strategic planning. The values include:

- Embrace and Drive Change
- Works as a Team to Build Community
- Pursue Growth and Learning
- Advocate for Social Justice

o-ri-en-ta-tion

/,ôrēən'tāSH(ə)n/

Deliberate programmatic and service efforts designed to facilitate the transition of new students to the institution; prepare students for the institutions educational opportunities and student responsibilities; initiate the integration of new students into the intellectual, cultural, and social climate of the institution; and support the parents, partners, guardians, and children of new student (CASHE, 2009).

tran-si-tion

/tran'ziSH(ə)n,tran'siSH(ə)n/

The process students go through (typically lasting up to one year) when entering a particular institution of higher education and/or entering the same institution for a new purpose. This may include, but not limited to, entering college as a first-year (freshman) student, transferring to a college from a different institution, and/or entering a college or university for a subsequent degree (e.g. entering graduate school). Successful transition results in student integration into the institution and, ultimately, in retention and/or achievement of personal educational objectives.

New Student Orientation (NSO)

In March 2020, the Office of Orientation & Transition was faced with the implications of a global pandemic. Nearly every program was impacted by Covid-19. This provided us the opportunity to think critically about our programs and quickly engage in ways to continue to support successful transitions when in-person connections were limited. This annual report demonstrates ways we adapted to engage in meaningful connections with our current and incoming students.

New Student Orientation (NSO) is a mandatory program for ALL incoming students at the University of Utah. Orientation programming is intentionally structured to assist students in their transition to the U and encompasses academic advising and course registration.

Based on when students matriculate at the University of Utah, whether they are a first-year (FY) or transfer (TR) student, and if any extenuating circumstances are disclosed, students' orientation experience and format may differ. Typically, NSO formats include a 1-day in-person program, 2-day in-person program, or a virtual option called Transition Modules. As a result of the global pandemic, we embraced the opportunity to change our programming (see table below for an overview of the NSO formats offered during 2019-2020 academic year):

| New Student Orientation Programming | | First-Year NSO | Transfer NSO |
|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Spring NSO | Takes place during fall semester and welcomes students who plan to matriculate in the beginning of the spring semester | 1-Day, on-campus program | 1-Day, on-campus program |
| Summer NSO | Takes place during spring semester and welcomes students who plan to matriculate in the beginning of the summer semester | Virtual experience | Virtual experience |
| Fall NSO | Takes place during the summer semester and welcomes students who plan to matriculate in the beginning of the fall semester | Virtual experience | Virtual experience |



Virtual Experience: Overview

In response to the global pandemic, New Student Orientation (NSO) shifted to a completely virtual experience for the first time at the University of Utah. The safety of our students and campus community remained our top priority.

Components of this online experience were as follows:

Virtual Orientation

Students received an invitation for their virtual orientation two weeks prior to the start of their registered NSO session. This invitation was sent to both their preferred and UMail. This included the Canvas course invitation and instructions for their Virtual Orientation.

Academic Advising

All students were required to connect with their academic college for First Semester Course Planning. Their academic college reached out to students via UMail with additional details as each college had different processes. Students were informed of their Academic Advising hold on their account. This was a new process implemented by the Office of the Registrar for first-year students. Once students completed both virtual orientation and virtual First Semester Course Planning their respective holds were lifted to be able to register for classes.

Course Registration

Within the virtual orientation Canvas course, students were instructed on how to successfully register for courses. The Office of Orientation & Transition contacted students individually to answer any questions related to the registration process and transitioning to the University of Utah.

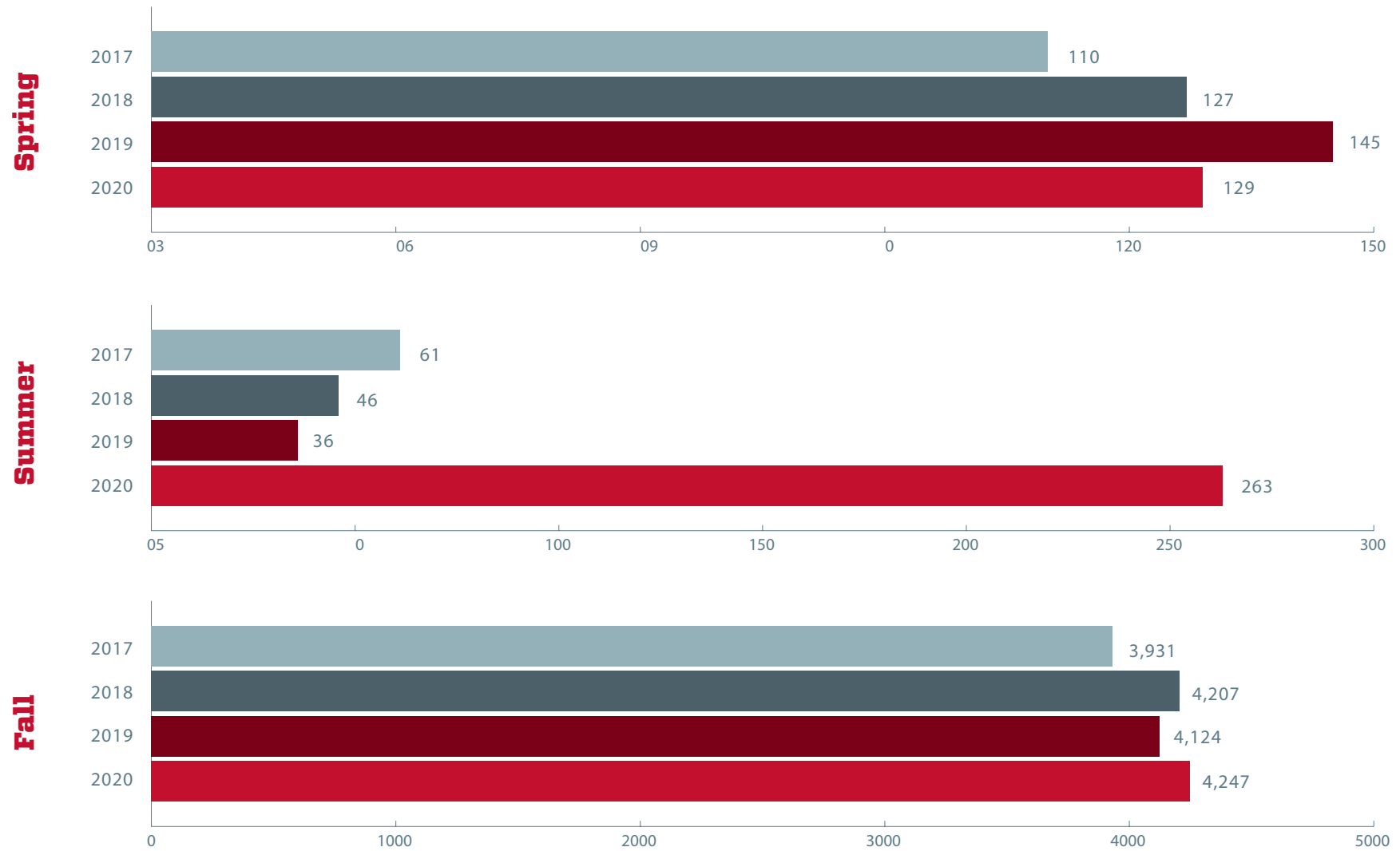
Virtual Events

Throughout the summer, in collaboration with the Student Success Advocates (SSAs), the Office of Orientation & Transition hosted a series of virtual events to introduce students and families to resources and opportunities across campus. These events were facilitated via Zoom.

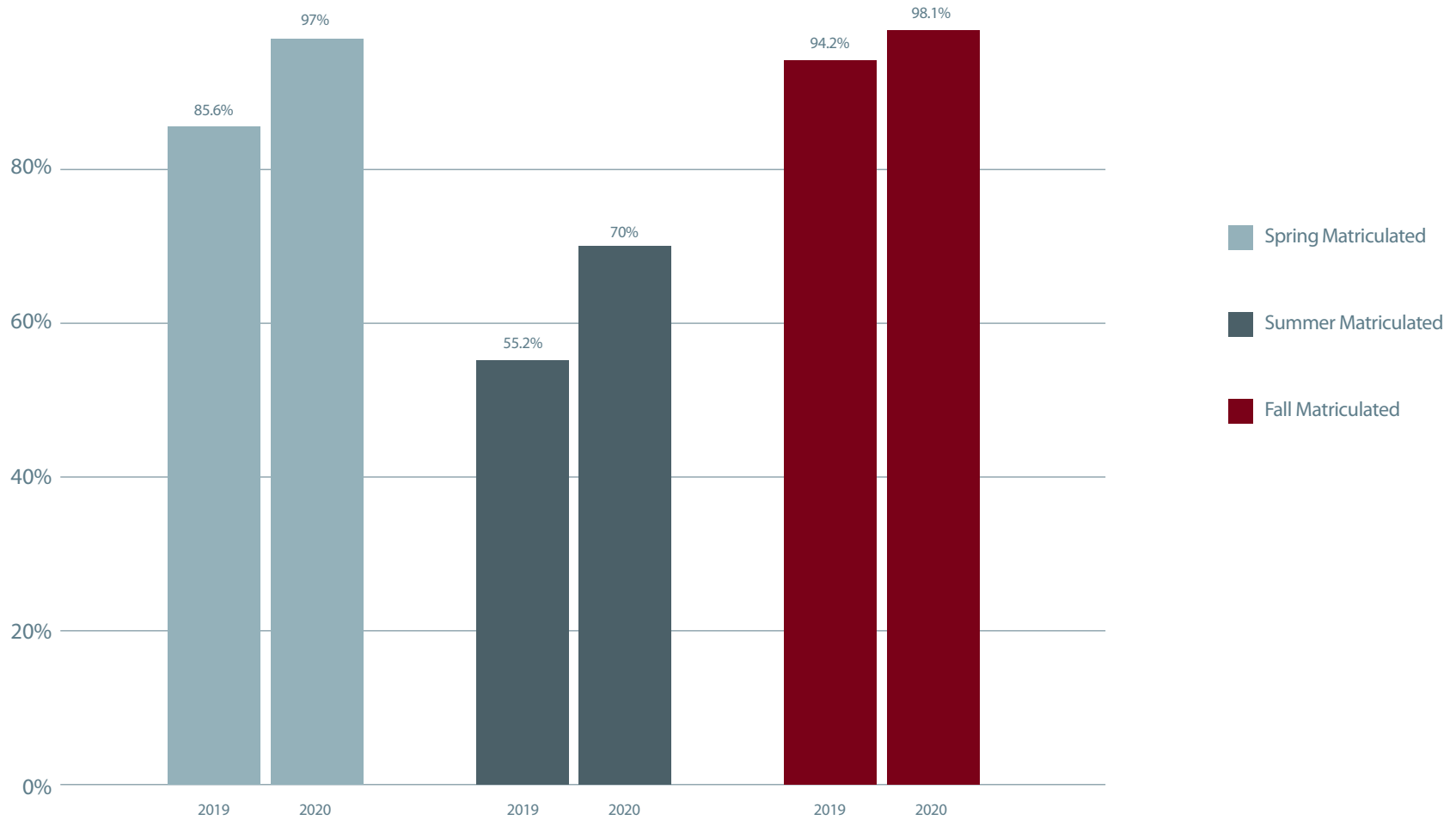
The updated cost of New Student Orientation was \$30. If students previously registered for NSO and paid the original \$60 fee, automatic refunds were processed.

First-Year NSO

Orientation Attendance: Matriculating First-Year Students



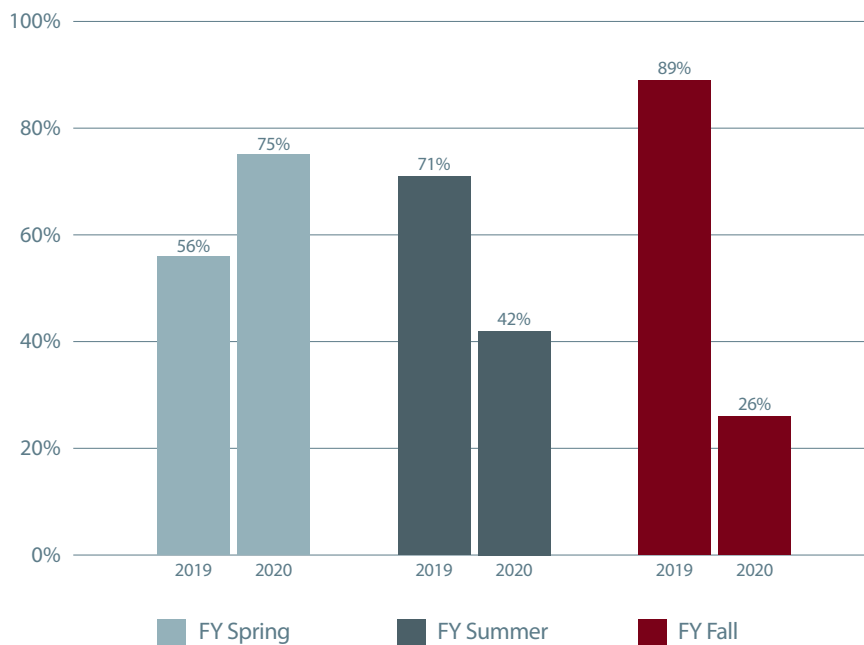
NSO Attendance in Relation to Admissions Data: First-Year Students



NSO Experience: First-Year Students

The following qualitative data were pulled from the first-year New Student Orientation responses. Fall 2020 assessment response rates were significantly impacted by the shift to a completely virtual New Student Orientation experience. Previously, during in-person programming, students completed the assessment as a step of the check-out process – students completed the assessment prior to receiving their UCard which resulted in a high response rate (> 75%). During our virtual orientation, assessment was distributed electronically once a student had successfully completed New Student Orientation. Below are overall assessment response rates:

Assessment Response Rate 2019 - 2020



Matriculating Spring 2020

- **97%** of students felt welcomed to and part of the University of Utah community
- **87%** of students strongly agreed/agreed that they had the opportunity to connect with other incoming students

Matriculating Summer 2020

- **94%** of students strongly agreed/agreed that the virtual orientation modules on Canvas were informative

Matriculating Fall 2020

- **97%** of students felt welcomed by the Office of Orientation & Transition
- **93%** of students strongly agreed/agreed that the virtual orientation modules on Canvas were informative



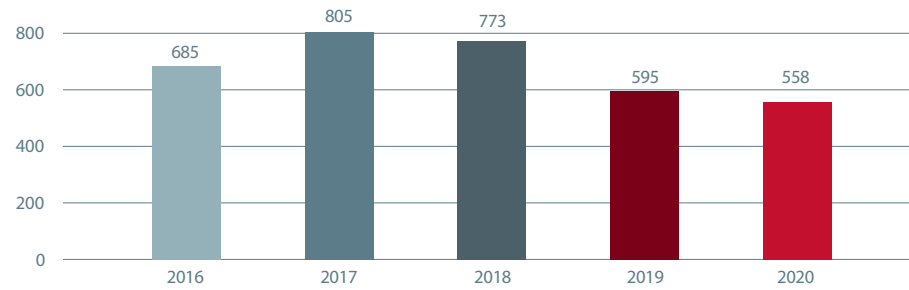
Transfer NSO

Transfer NSOs all have a similar format, regardless of the semester that a student is matriculating. Transfer NSOs are all 1-day on-campus programs that consist of required information & resource presentations in the morning and first semester course planning in the afternoon. The morning information includes a required presentation from the Office of the Dean of Students & Center for Student Wellness, information about degree requirements from the Academic Advising Center, and a presentation about the transfer student programs presented by the Office of Orientation & Transition. Additionally, 2 half hour breakout session blocks are included to allow students to personalize their NSO experience. Breakout session topics include Internships, Learning Abroad, Scholarships & Financial Aid, and other presentations from campus partners. Students have the opportunity to visit more campus partners during our Information & Involvement Fair, which runs during lunch.

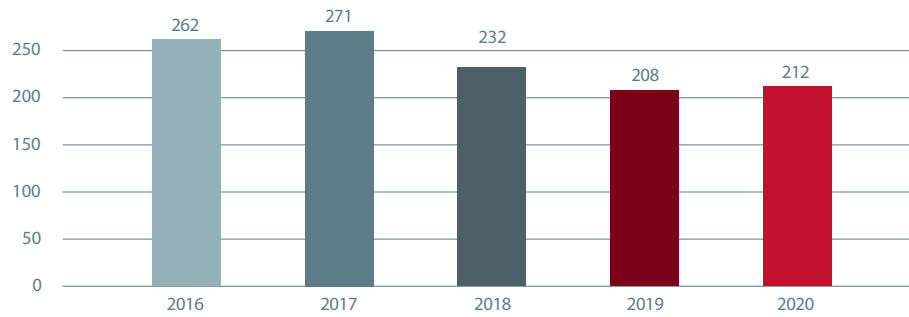
In order to improve the effectiveness and participation with the Office of the Registrar's Office presentation, new students no longer learn how to register for courses as one large group, but instead, students are split into 4 small groups (based on academic college). At this time Orientation Leaders present about the registration process in order to give a student perspective and answer questions based on the student experience. Students are then dismissed to meet with their academic college and register for classes. Once complete, student check out of NSO by completing our assessment and picking up their UCard.

Transfer NSO Attendance:

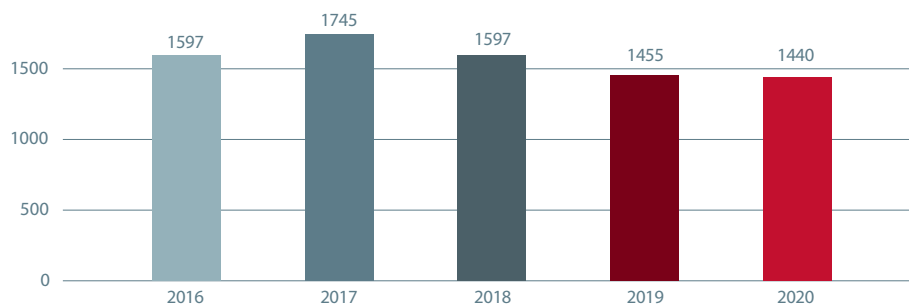
Spring Matriculating Students



Summer Matriculating Students



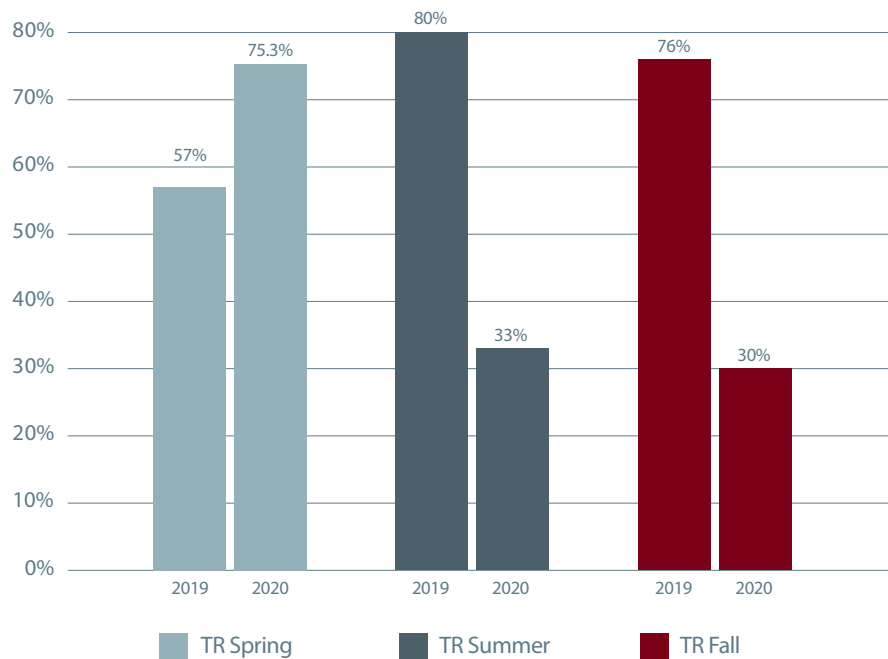
Fall Matriculating Students



NSO Experience: Transfer Students

The following qualitative data were pulled from the transfer New Student Orientation responses. Fall 2020 assessment response rates were significantly impacted by the shift to a completely virtual New Student Orientation experience. Previously, during in-person programming, students completed the assessment as a step of the check-out process – students completed the assessment prior to receiving their UCard which resulted in a high response rate (> 75%). During our virtual orientation, assessment was distributed electronically once a student had successfully completed New Student Orientation. Below are overall assessment response rates:

Assessment Response Rate 2019 - 2020



Matriculating Spring 2020

- **97%** of students felt welcomed to and part of the University of Utah community
- **96%** of students had at least one specific idea about how they might get involved on campus

Matriculating Summer 2020

- **96%** of students strongly agreed/agreed that the virtual orientation modules on Canvas were informative

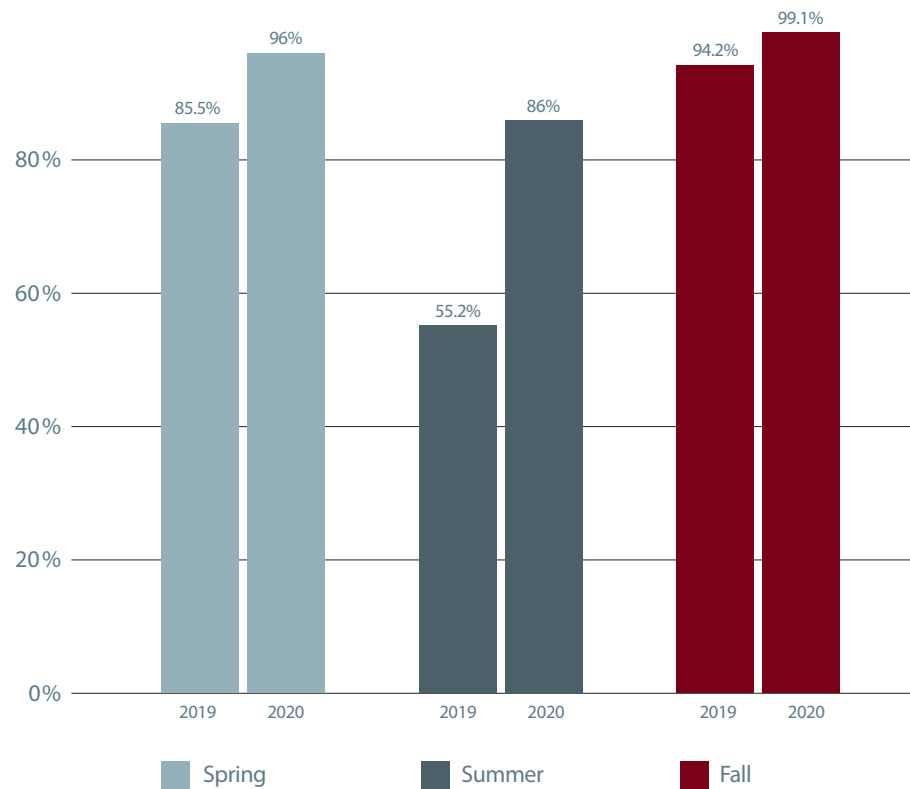
Matriculating Fall 2020

- **93%** of students felt welcomed by the Office of Orientation & Transition
- **90%** of students strongly agreed/agreed that the virtual orientation modules on Canvas were informative

Course Registration

Registering for classes is one of the most important aspects of New Student Orientation, and our staff works hard to insure that students have registered for at least one course before the orientation session ends. The following information was gathered through our program assessment, which 76% of new students completed.

Fall Transfer Student Enrollment 2019 - 2020





Parent & Family Orientation

Parent & Family members are an integral part of the University of Utah Community. Successful transitions to the University of Utah often include Parent & Family Members and is aided by our Parent & Family Orientation programs. Parent & Family Orientation is usually offered in-person and runs in tandem with our New Student Orientation Programs. The cost of our classic Parent & Family Orientation is \$60. Fee waivers are not offered.

This year, we had the exciting opportunity to move Parent & Family Orientation to a Virtual Format. It followed a similar format as our Virtual New Student Orientation as an asynchronous Canvas course. Parents signed up for Parent & Family Orientation using our website. They were then sent a Canvas Course Invitation as well as an informational email with step-by-step instructions on how to set up their Canvas profile. Engaging Parent & Family Members in the virtual space was a new and exciting challenge. This is the first year that there was no cost associated with virtual Parent & Family Orientation. We were thrilled to be able to offer this service at no cost.

Topics covered in Virtual Parent & Family Orientation included: Academic Support Services, FERPA, Financial Information, University Safety, the Parent & Family Handbook, New Student Checklist, and information on various academic and co-curricular resources.

**Total Course
Participants**

802

**Average Time
Spent in Course**

**10 hrs.
51 mins.**

**Average
Logins**

11

**Average Views
Per Page**

602

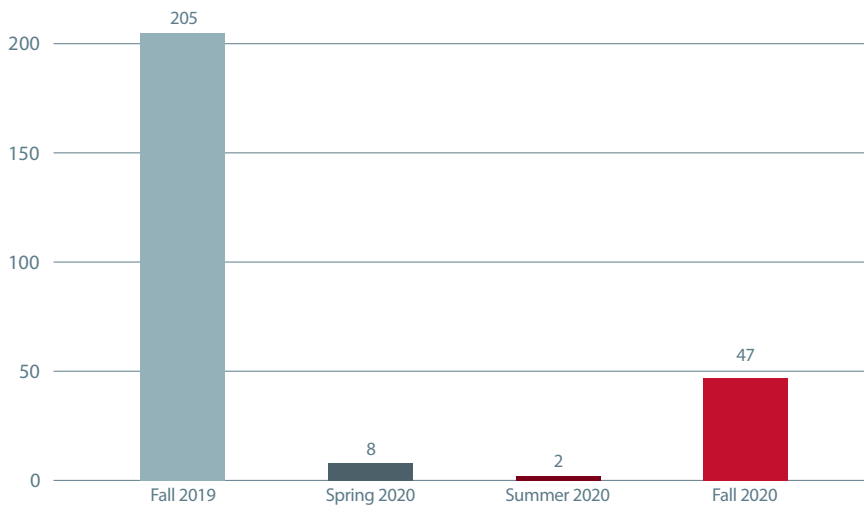
Orientation Programs

Fee Waivers

Fee Waivers are set in place for students who face financial barriers. We look at these students on a case by case basis as they submit documentation to support their request.

Fall 2020 had low fee waiver requests, that is in part due to the For Utah Scholarship. The For Utah Scholarship program ensures four years of tuition and fees are covered by grant and scholarship assistance for Utah residents who are eligible for the Pell Grant. This includes students NSO fee. In total we had 906 of 1131 students who qualified for the scholarship, register for and attend NSO.

Students Qualified for Fee Waivers



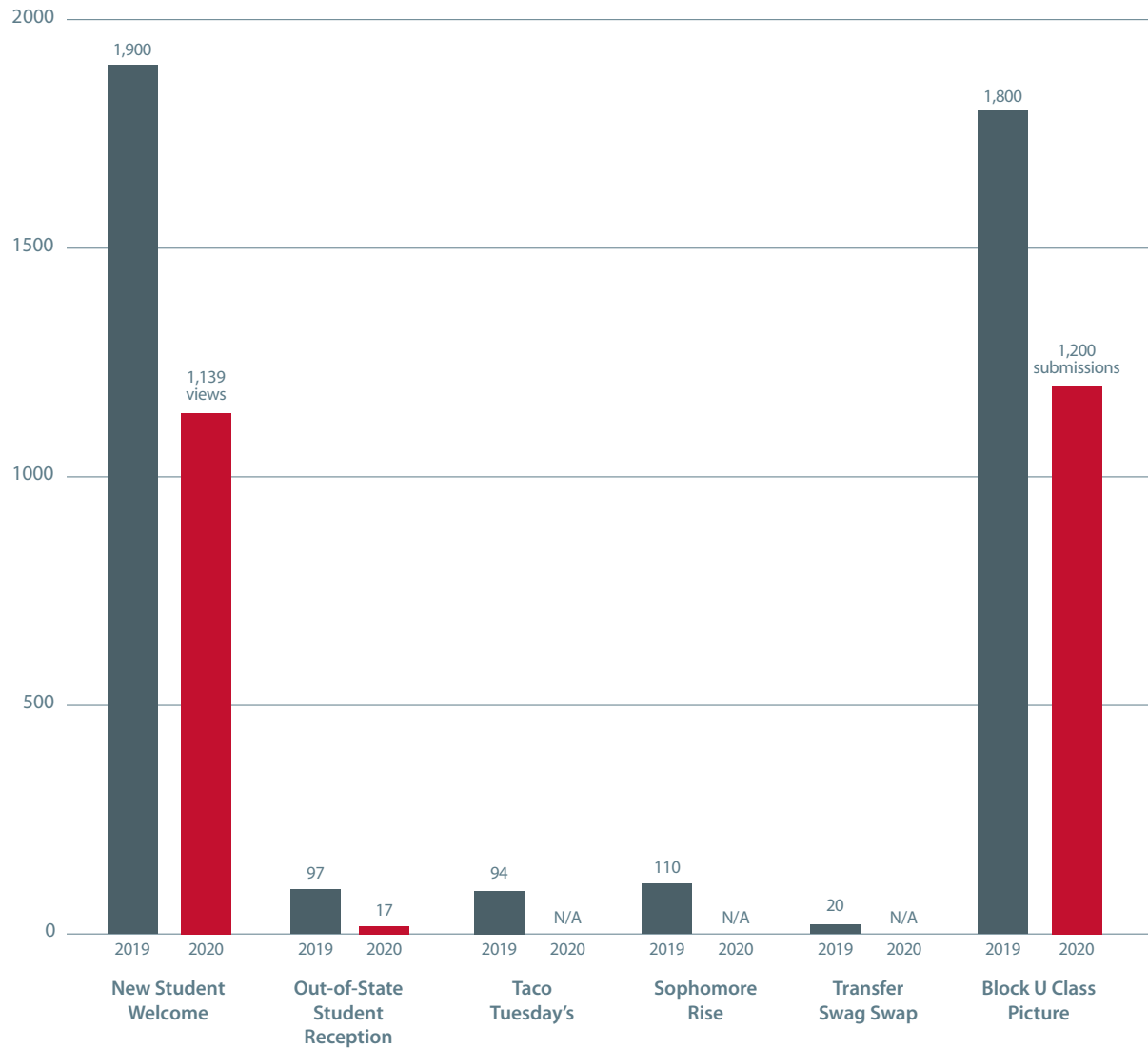
Welcome Programs

Weeks of Welcome (WOW)

Weeks of Welcome (formally know as Welcome Week) is a series of events to welcome new and returning students to the University of Utah during the first few weeks of Fall and Spring semesters. In years past Weeks of Welcome took place nine consecutive days in August leading up to the start of the academic year. This year, we have not only changed the name to Weeks of Welcome, but we have also extended WOW programing to end two and a half weeks into the academic year. There are several signature events offered during Weeks of Welcome that are planned and managed out of the Office of Orientation & Transition. Some of the following events will take place on campus, while some newer events will take virtually to accommodate students who will not be taking classes on campus. The New Student Welcome, Out-Of-State Student Reception, Taco Tuesday's, Sophomore Rise, Deferred Student Reception, Transfer Swag Swap and Class of Block U Picture just to name a few, to the multitude of events that take place on campus and marketed through the Mobile U app.



Weeks of Welcome Attendance



CLM Kick-Off 2020

123

Colleging 101 2020

3

CM Kick-Off 2020

44

Transfer Scavenger Hunt 2020

16

Transfer Paint Night 2020

6

First Year Paint Night 2020

9



First Year Programs

Swoop Camp

Swoop Camp is a once in a lifetime Extended Orientation program designed to further ease the transition of new students to the University of Utah. In partnership with Campus Recreation & Outdoor Adventures, Swoop Camp provides the unique opportunity for students to become acquainted with Utah's Great Outdoors before school starts in the fall. At Swoop Camp, students form connections with their peers, develop intentional leadership skills, share Utah history and traditions, and are provided resources for involvement and success. Swoop Camp positively contributes to student engagement, retention, community and connectedness. Generally, the Office of Orientation & Transition offers four types of Swoop Camp, each cater to a different outdoor skill-level: Swoop Camp Adventure, Swoop Camp Backcountry, Swoop Base Camp, and for incoming transfer students: Swoop Camp Crimson.

Due to COVID-19, the Office of Orientation & Transition made the difficult decision to cancel all Swoop Camp programs for Summer 2019. Before this cancellation, all Swoop Camp's catered to First-Year students were filled to capacity, or projected to fill to capacity by mid-July. Adventure, Backcountry, and Crimson participants were notified of program cancellation on April 8th, 2020 while notification of Base Camp cancellation followed on June 1st, 2020.

At the time of cancellation notification (April 8th or June 1st, respectively), numbers for each camp were as follows:

Adventure 1 & 2: 15; Adventure 3: 12; Crimson: 2; Backcountry 1 & 2: 11; Backcountry 3: 6; and Base Camp: 60 (32 persons placed on waitlist).

Campus Life Mentor

Campus Life Mentor is a peer mentorship program designed to promote a successful first-year. First year students are paired with undergraduate student mentors who have made the most of their University of Utah experience. Our team of mentors are experienced upper-class students who are ready and willing to assist first-year students with their transition. Mentors engage with students and facilitate 1:1 connections to build meaningful and lasting relationships with their mentees.



2019 - 2020 Mentor Metrics

Average
GPA

3.6

Academic Colleges
Represented

13

Average Credits
Enrolled

13

“Being a Campus Life Mentor has helped me grow as a leader and feel prepared to confidently help my students. I love being a CLM because I feel like I am making a change in my mentees life.”

Over the past five years, Campus Life Mentor has undergone changes and had opportunities for growth to ensure that the program is intentional and impactful. For the past year, we have been pairing Mentees with Mentors who are in the same college or have a similar major as them. This change has substantially increased enrollment of Mentees, as illustrated by the chart above.

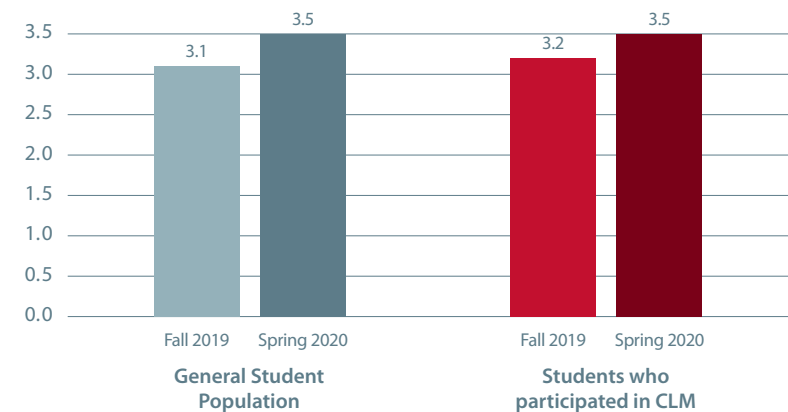
Campus Life Mentor

Mentees have the opportunity to make the Campus Life Mentor program exactly what they need to be successful. Mentors and mentees are carefully paired together based on their academic pursuits. On average, first year students who participate in the Campus Life Mentor Program have a higher GPA than their peers who do not participate as shown below. (TBD for 2019 - 2020)

Campus Life Mentor has continually undergone changes that contribute to the development of the program. Our goal is always the same: to meet students exactly where they're at. Where are students at now? Their phones! This was a primary driver for the program to implement Mongoose: Cadence during the 2019 - 2020 academic year.

Mongoose: Cadence is a platform built specifically for engaging students in a virtual space through text messaging. Cadence allowed mentors to stay in-touch with their students by sending at least two personalized weekly text messages. These messages were used to highlight events or resources on campus and create space for meaningful 1:1 conversations. From August 15th, 2019 to May 15th, 2020, Campus Life Mentors sent over 30,000 combined text messages to their groups of mentees!

GPA Comparison



- **87.1%** of mentees strongly agree or agree that their Campus Life Mentor helped ease their transition to the University of Utah
- **87.3%** of mentees strongly agree or agree that their Campus Life Mentor assisted them in finding academic support
- **89.24%** of mentees strongly agree or agree that their Campus Life Mentor introduced them to campus resources and engagement opportunities

***“I know I will always have someone who can help me when I need it.
Campus Life Mentor is a great program that every student could benefit from”***

Picture Your First Year

Picture Your First Year (PYFY), now in its eighth year, continues to provide a creative outlet for first year students to track their individual and collective transition through art. PYFY was created in order for students to be able to visually express their human skills and appreciate the beauty and emotional power of art. PYFY is offered to first year students as a credit/no credit course during the fall semester of their first year.

During the 2019 New Student Orientation summer, PYFY was so popular amongst the first-year students, we opened two sections of 20 seats each in order to accommodate the demand of popularity. During each weekly class session, participants connect with the other new students, which helped them find support from their peers and facilitator, and learned more about programs and resources that will help them overcome barriers or concerns that they share through their art and reflection papers. Additionally, we found the 2018 field trips to be so popular, that we continued to integrate those in the syllabus. These field trips included, Photoshop Basics Workshop with Marketing & Communications, a docent lead tours of the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Marriott Library, and Lassonde Studios. These outings were strategically chosen in order to show our student the many resources that are available on campus, and also allow them to learn more about art and what they can capture through their art.

The 35 participants who joined and completed the course in the 2019 fiscal year had an average GPA of 3.32 (an increase from 2018 average of 2.91) compared to the average GPA of 3.19 at the end of the first year for students who were not a part of the PYFY course. Additionally, 29 participants returned to the U in their second year, enrolled as full-time students.



“I overcame my fear of talking in front of the class. I also learned more about the able sources.”

“The assignments were easy and fun. The assignments gave me an opportunity to reflect on myself.”

“The content was fun and interesting.”

Transfer Programs

Crimson Mentors

The Crimson Mentor (CM) program is designed to engage new transfer students with the University of Utah, and provide an immediate connection to the surrounding campus community during their first year. New transfer students are paired with a trained upper-class transfer student mentor who provides guidance, resources, advice, and support as transfer students navigate their first year on campus.

For the fall semester of 2018, 651 transfer students signed up to be matched with 15 Crimson Mentors, resulting in a 43:1 ratio. These students were directly recruited at summer new student orientation and signed up online before the fall semester began. The CM program offered a small group event each month, a study session each month, and opportunities to connect one-on-one with their Crimson Mentor. Students were also invited to participate in monthly small group events organized by their assigned Crimson Mentor. Additionally, mentors were expected to have at least two points of contact with their students each month. During the academic year, each Crimson Mentor was expected to meet with their supervisor to ensure they were being supported throughout the program.

For fall 2018, the CM program promoted Transfer Workshops, Crimson Transfer Honor Society, and small group monthly events. The variety of programs offered to mentees are numbers related to Exceptional Educational Experience: meaningful experiences, integrated general education, engaged faculty, engaged staff, and effective communication.



Crimson Mentors

There were also great developments through the perspective of the mentors. Assessment data shows that they felt they had an impact on new transfer students' academic and social integration and included comments like:

“Knowing I had someone to reach out to that knew about resources and understood what I needed.”

“I enjoyed having another person I could talk to because as an out of state transfer, it’s harder to make connections. Since the pandemic happened, I haven’t had many opportunities to be on campus and it was nice having my CM reach out every now and then.

“I have learned that you can still have a good impact on someone’s life even if you don’t see the immediate results or have no contact with your peers. The fact that you are there and you care is enough sometimes.”

“I have learned about the many resources available for the students at the U. I also got to learn more about the different types of transfer students. Some are non-traditional and are returning after many years away and some have just a semester of college experience so it has been fun to assist them and give them advice.”

For spring semester 2020, 130 transfer students signed up (an increase from 2019) and were paired with 14 Crimson Mentors, resulting in a 9:1 ratio. While this decreased the mentee load on mentors, we know it allowed for more frequent and meaningful interaction with individual students.

Students selected to be Crimson Mentors learned about campus resources, mentoring skills, and ways to interact with new students at a day and a half long training. Many Crimson Mentors were former mentees, and they benefited from an extra year with the program.

Mentor Breakdown

- Mentor-led small group events: **Group meals, Coffee, Attending U of U events**
- O&T sponsored events: **3**
Fall Kick off, Starbucks coffee meetups at the beginning of the semester & Taco Tuesday
- Mentor-Mentee emails: **At least 1 per month**
- Mentor-Mentee text messages: **At least 1 per month**
- Mentor-Mentee 1:1 meetups: **As students requested (5 Spring 2020)**

| Mentee GPAs | Mentor GPAs | General Student GPAs |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Spring 2019 ... 3.25 | Spring 2019 ... 3.67 | Spring 2019 ... 3.25 |
| Fall 2019 3.30 | Fall 2019 2.92 | Fall 2019 3.19 |
| Spring 2020 ... 3.54 | Spring 2020 ... 3.47 | Spring 2020 ... 3.50 |

Transfer Workshop Series

In its seventh year, the Transfer Workshop Series continues to support student success and graduation. Workshops are held on varying dates & times during the week to allow flexibility with student class schedules, and each workshop provides food to attendees. 8 workshops were held in the fall of 2019, and 5 more in spring 2020. Examples of workshops held in the 2018-19 year are Undergraduate Research, Financial Aid, Mindfulness & Meditation, and Resume Building.

Workshop Attendance Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Fall 2019

Learning Abroad (8/27/2019): **32**

Writing Center (9/4/2019): **20**

Outdoor Adventures (9/19/20): **20**

Financial Aid (10/2/2019): **17**

Academic Advisors (10/24/2019): **17**

Bennion Center (11/6/2019): **13**

Student Success Advocates (11/24/2019): **20**
(12/4/2019): **14**

Spring 2020

Learning Abroad (1/14/2020): **3**

Personal Money Management Center (1/29/2020): **4**

Transfer Panel (2/10/2020): **8**

Student Wellness (2/20/2020): **10**

Involvement Ambassadors (3/3/2020): **17**

Participants at 2+ Workshops Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Fall 2019: **33**

Spring 2020: **6**

New transfer students who attend 2 or more workshops while maintaining a 3.5 GPA in at least 12 credit hours are eligible to join the Crimson Transfer Honor Society.

*Note data isn't comparable due to COVID interruption and differing transfer numbers in fall and spring semesters.

Most Popular (attended) Sessions for Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Fall 2019: **Learning Abroad**

Spring 2020: **Involvement Ambassadors**

Unique Attendance Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Fall 2019: **89**

Spring 2020: **36**

Total Workshops

Fall 2019: **7**

Spring 2020: *(add information we informed students with in order to still qualify for CTHS without attending a second TWS).*

Fall 2019: **8**

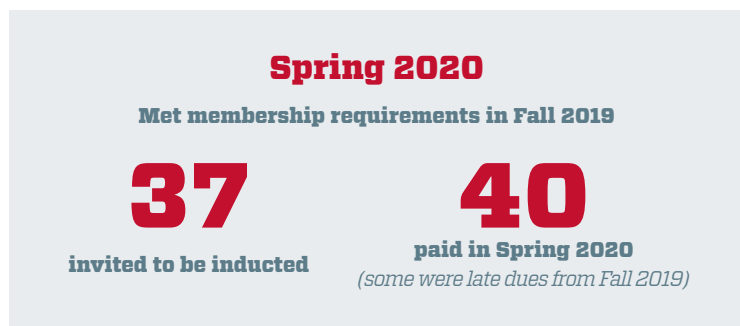
Spring 2020: **5**

Students could submit a paper on a resource of their choosing if they only attended one workshop prior to COVID interruption

2 essays were received

Crimson Transfer Honor Society

Established in 2016, the Crimson Transfer Honor Society (CTHS) recognizes the academic excellence of transfer students. As mentioned in the Transfer Workshop Series section, new transfer students that attend 2 Transfer Workshops and earn a 3.5 GPA in their first 12 credit hours are eligible to join CTHS. In 2019-20 57 students joined CTHS.



Members showed their passion for getting involved with the community, volunteering across 6 different service events.

Parent & Family Programs

Parent & Family Weekend 2019

Parent and Family Weekend takes place each fall during Homecoming. Parent & Family Weekend aims to bring students and their families back together after kicking off the academic year. In 2019, we saw our highest attendance ever from Parent & Family Weekend!

Friday: Parent & Family Welcome Reception

Parent & Family Members checked in for the weekend with the Office of Orientation & Transition for our Welcome Reception. The reception included music from K-Ute Radio and catering from local favorite, J-Dawgs! Parents also received a visit from President Watkins.

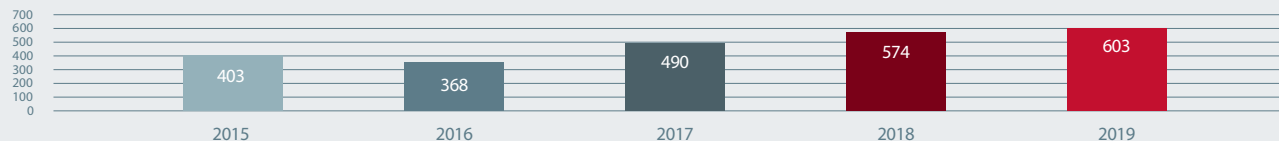
Saturday: Parent & Family Tailgate and Homecoming Football Game

On Saturday, Parent & Family Members joined the Alumni Association for a pre-game tailgate catered by Red Robin to prepare to cheer on Utah Football as they took on the Washington State University Cougars. Utah Football made our parents & family members proud with a 38-13 win over the Cougars.

Sunday: Brunch at the Peterson Heritage Center

To conclude Parent & Family Weekend, parent and family members had the opportunity to join their students for a complementary brunch at the Peterson Heritage Center.

5-Year Attendance Rates of Parent and Family Weekend

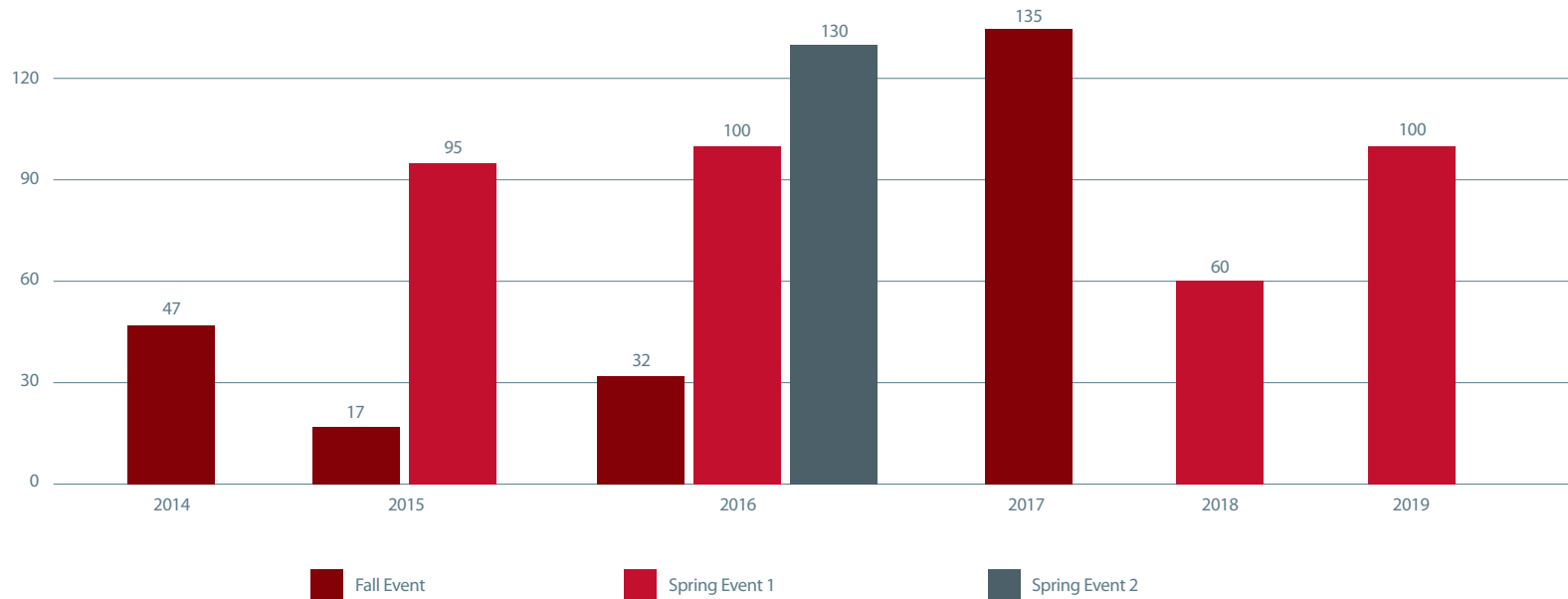


Mom and Dad's Night

Many parents and families want to continue to be involved with their student's education and experience at the University of Utah during the year. Moms & Dad's Events are great ways for parents and family members to support their student and meet other families. Mom and Dad's events range from arts to athletics.

As can be seen in the following chart attendance at Mom and Dad's nights has increased from 2014. In 2016, the most Mom and Dad's events occurred.

Attendance of Mom and Dad's Nights



Parent & Family Welcome Social

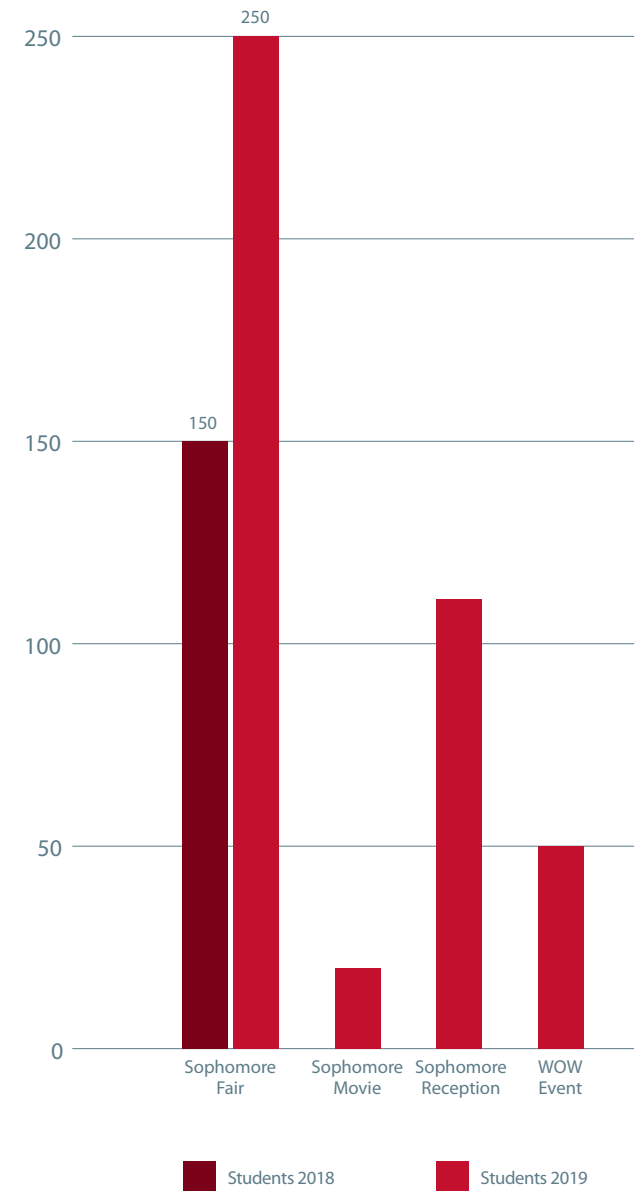
In response to COVID-19, The Office of Orientation & Transition made the difficult decision to cancel the Parent & Family Welcome Social. With an average of over 1,000 attendees, we could not safely provide the space for an in-person event.

Sophomore Rise

In the 2019 fiscal year, Sophomore Rise went into its third year of serving students who have entered their second year or third semester. The Office of Orientation & Transition, under the support of Undergraduate Studies, implemented a Sophomore Appreciation Week during the second week of September, which included a Sophomore Fair to kick-off the week, a Sophomore Celebration at Rice Eccles Stadium and a Sophomore Movie Night. Through this initiative we are able to create awareness to our students about Sophomore Rise through intentional programming.

The Office of Orientation & Transition implemented a Sophomore Welcome Social during Weeks of Welcome (formally known as Welcome Week), to not only create buzz about the Sophomore Appreciate Week, but also to inform second year students of all the resources that are available to them beyond the first year. We called this event Day 2, Year 2. In the 2019 fiscal year welcomed 50 second year's students to meet each other and learn about the Sophomore Appreciate Week.

The Sophomore Fair engaged students with tabling from deeply engaged campus resources, such as, Student Success Advocates, Learning Abroad, internships, and more. Student were able to de-stress with games, photo booth and food, all provided during the fair. In the 2019 fiscal year, the Sophomore Fair saw 250 participants compared to 150 in 2018. The Sophomore Movie Night was a new initiative that was implemented and welcomed 20 students who relaxed on McCarthy Field for Marvel's, Antman and the Wasp, and the culmination of the week with the Sophomore Rise Reception held at Rice Eccles Stadium. This red carpet event celebrated each student through a pinning ceremony where they were recognized by their College Dean.



Staff Excellence

The 2019 - 2020 academic year showcased many professional accomplishments made by the Office of Orientation & Transition staff members. In addition to serving on and chairing campus-wide or division-wide committees, the staff also took on...

Nomani Satuala, Director

- 2020 Utah First-Year Experience (FYE) Conference Co-Chair
- Presented at Pasika Scholars Summer Institute 2020

Erin Sine, Associate Director

- NASPA Western Regional Planning Committee, Marketing Co-Chair
- Utah NASPA Planning Committee
- University of Utah Staff Council Member, Academic Affairs District

Sydney Magana, Assistant Director

- Published in Journal of College Student Development – JCSP special issue on Indigeneity, Race, and Relationship in Student Affairs in Higher Education (Nov/Dec 2020 issue)
- Utah First-Year Experience (Utah FYE) Conference Planning Committee
- Presented at 2019 UT NASPA

Madaline Bird, Assistant Director

- Awarded Staff Council Salute U

Miranda Klausmeier, Administrative Assistant

- Served on the Senate Consolidated Hearing Committee for Faculty Disputes
- Served on the OEOAA Hearing Committee

Deepika Shah KC, Graduate Assistant

- Graduated with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership & Policy

Lauren Ashton, Graduate Assistant

- Graduated with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership & Policy

Jessi Gerowitz, Graduate Assistant

- Utah First-Year Experience (Utah FYE) Conference Planning Committee

Feliz Luna, Graduate Assistant

- Nominated for Roald F. and Della J. Campbell Fellowship Scholarship



200 S. CENTRAL CAMPUS DRIVE, SUITE 280, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84112

801.581.7069

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