First Year Experience & Orientation

Benchmark Results and Roundtable

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The Why ✖

✖ Extension of the 2020 Student Engagement Benchmark study

✖ Establish new practices to improve FYE and orientation programming

✖ Collect and discuss best practices for ACSD institutions

01 ✕

Demographics & Organizational Structures
The "Who", the "Where", and the "How"

Meet the Respondents

Mostly private-faith based institutions

Suburban

Enrollment < 1500

Traditional Students

39 Schools Responded

Organizational Structures

First Year Experience

01 ✕ **47%**
Have either faculty OR student development office primarily oversee FYE curriculum

02 ✕ **58%**
Have either faculty OR student development staff teach FYE course

Orientation Programming

03 ✕ **46%**
Have either student development OR student engagement coordinate orientation programming

04 ✕ **51%**
Have either admissions OR student engagement manage communication

02 ✕

First Year Experience Findings

The First Step on the Journey

Notable Quick Stats

01 ✕ **87%**
Currently utilize an FYE Course

02 ✕ **91%**
Require all new students (⅔ include transfers) to take the course

03 ✕ **30%**
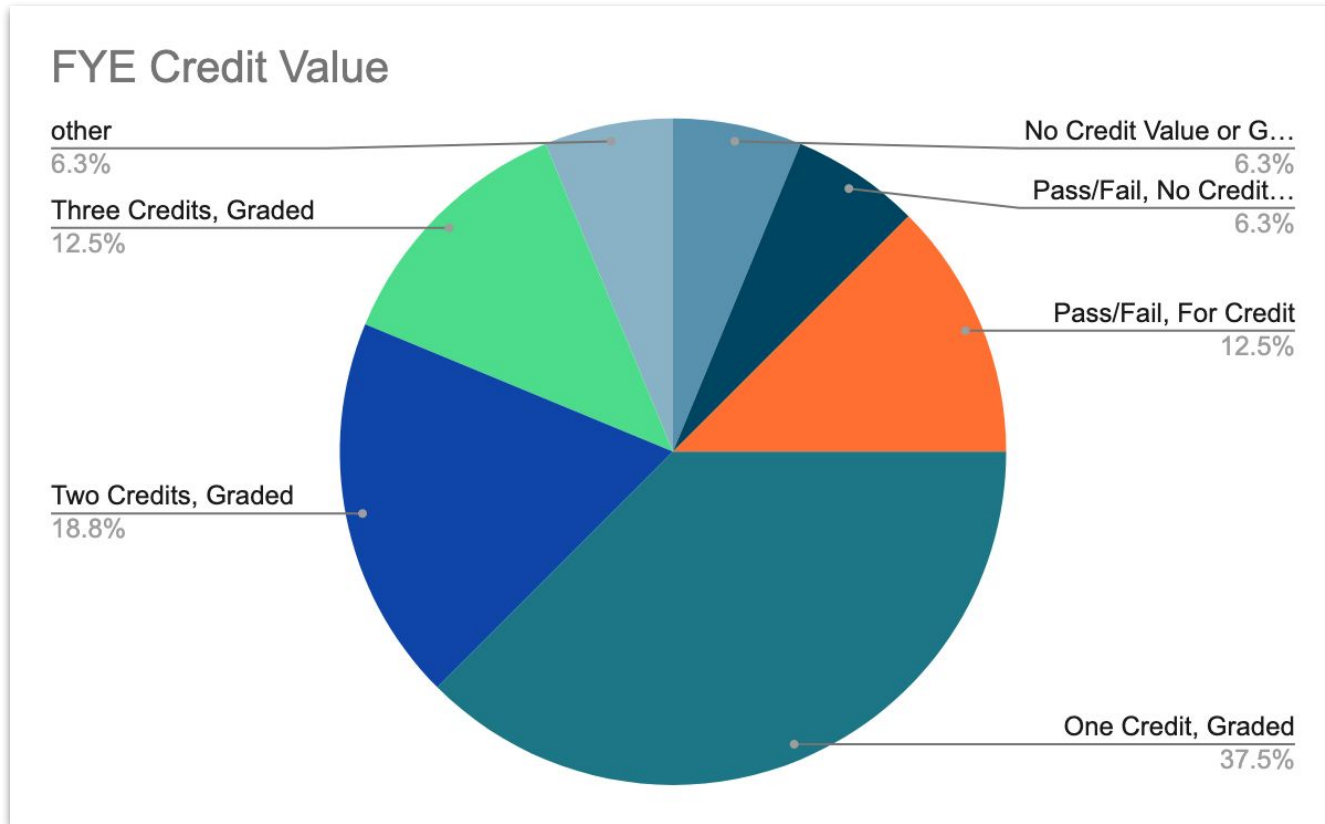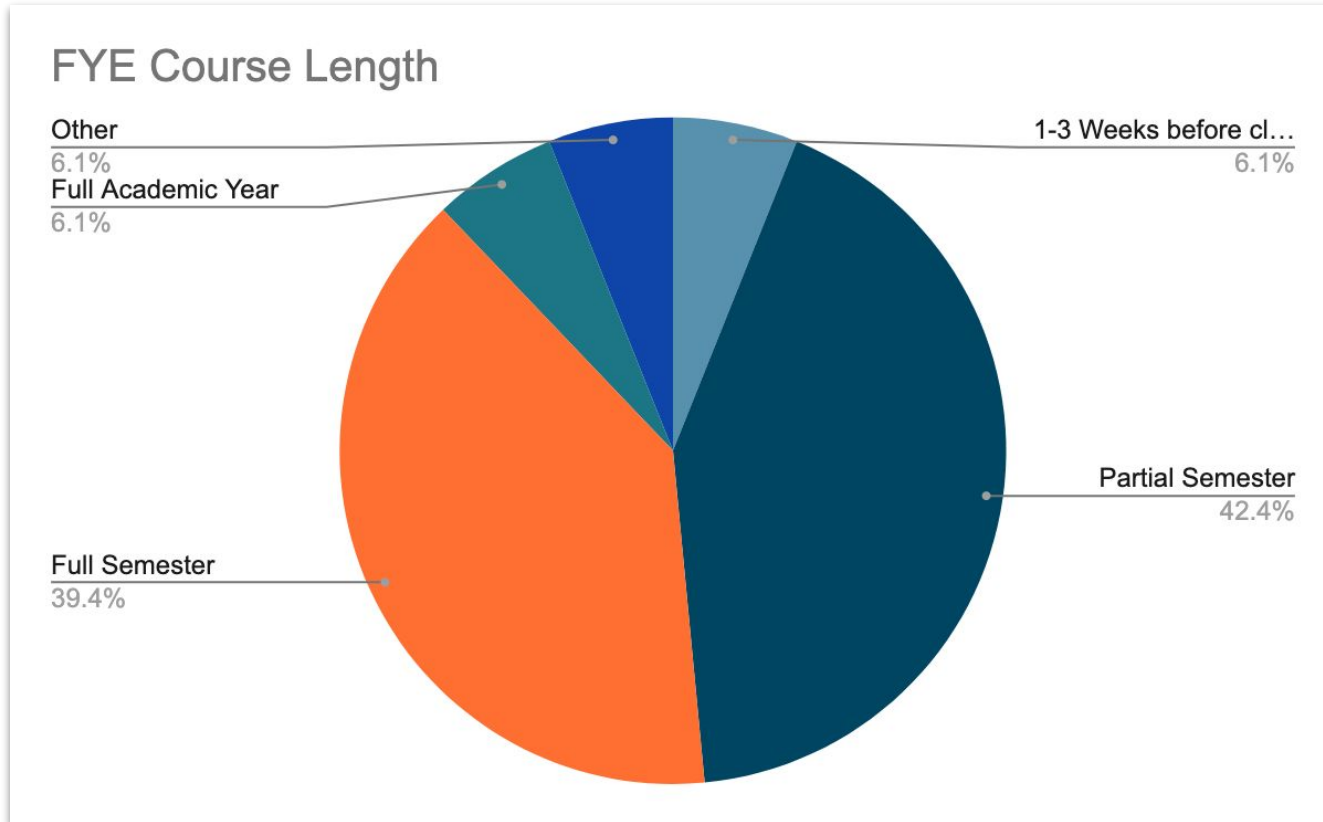Have separate curriculum for transfer students

04 ✕ **Majority**
Assess FYE curriculum and content yearly
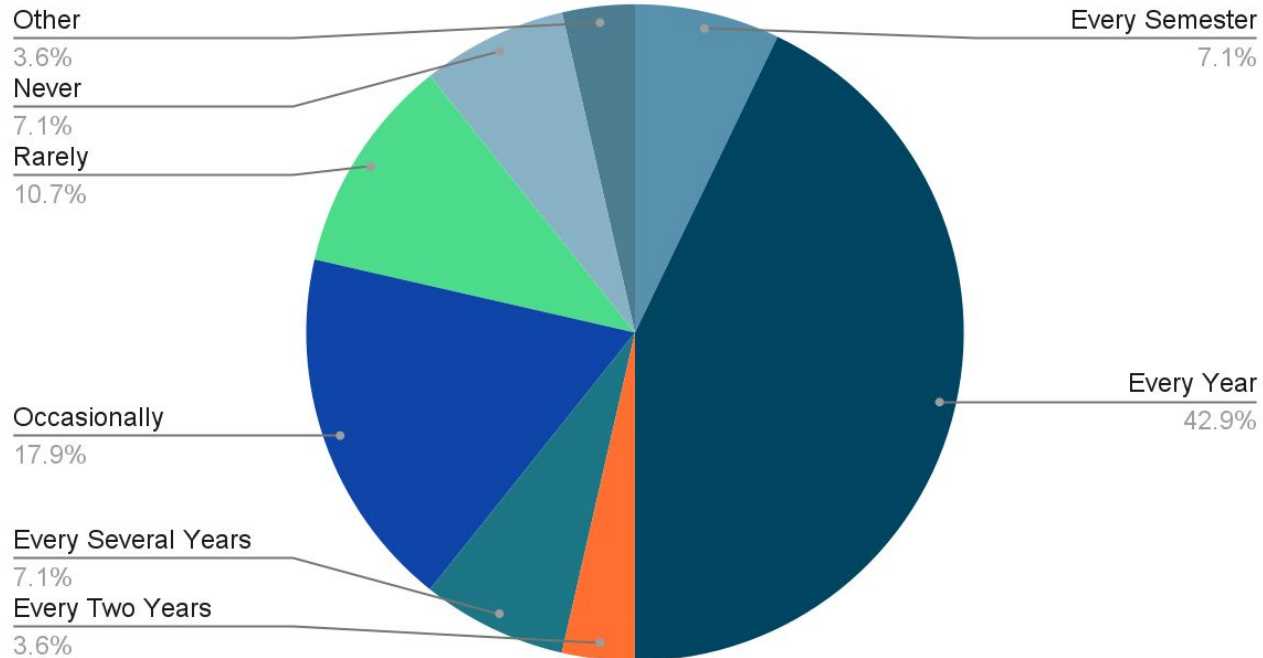
Best Practice Mixed Bag: FYE Credit Value

FYE Credit Value

- other — 6.3%
- Three Credits, Graded — 12.5%
- Two Credits, Graded — 18.8%
- No Credit Value or G... — 6.3%
- Pass/Fail, No Credit... — 6.3%
- Pass/Fail, For Credit — 12.5%
- One Credit, Graded — 37.5%

Best Practice Mixed Bag: FYE Class Length

FYE Course Length

Other
6.1%

Full Academic Year
6.1%

1-3 Weeks before cl...
6.1%

Partial Semester
42.4%

Full Semester
39.4%

Best Practice Mixed Bag: FYE Program Asessesed Against Institutional Learning Objectives

FYE Assessed Against Institutional Learning Outcomes

Other
3.6%

Never
7.1%

Rarely
10.7%

Occasionally
17.9%

Every Several Years
7.1%

Every Two Years
3.6%

Every Semester
7.1%

Every Year
42.9%

FYE Course Readings ✖

53%
Built-in Required Reading

39%
No Required Reading

(7% selected "other")

✓ **CliftonStrengths** - Tom Rath

✓ **Transforming Culture with Truth** - Len Munsil

✓ **What the Best College Students Do** - Kenneth Bain

✓ **Scatter** - Andrew Scott

✓ **Thriving in College** - Alex Chediak

✓ **Now What on Earth Should I Be Doing**? - Quentin Schultze

✓ **Virtuous Minds** - Philip Dow

✓ **The Sun Does Shine** - Anthony Ray Hinton

3 Major FYE Course Themes

CONNECTION ✖

Developing connection to institution, neighbor, and resources for success

✖ RELATIONSHIPS

Strategically built-in opportunities for students to get to know each other and faculty/staff

SELF-AWARENESS ✖

Engaging in activities centered on discovering strengths, values, etc.

03 ✕

Orientation Findings

First Impressions That Matter

Notable Quick Stats

01 ✖ **89%**
Require August/Fall orientation for incoming students

02 ✖ **39%**
Require a fee towards their orientation program

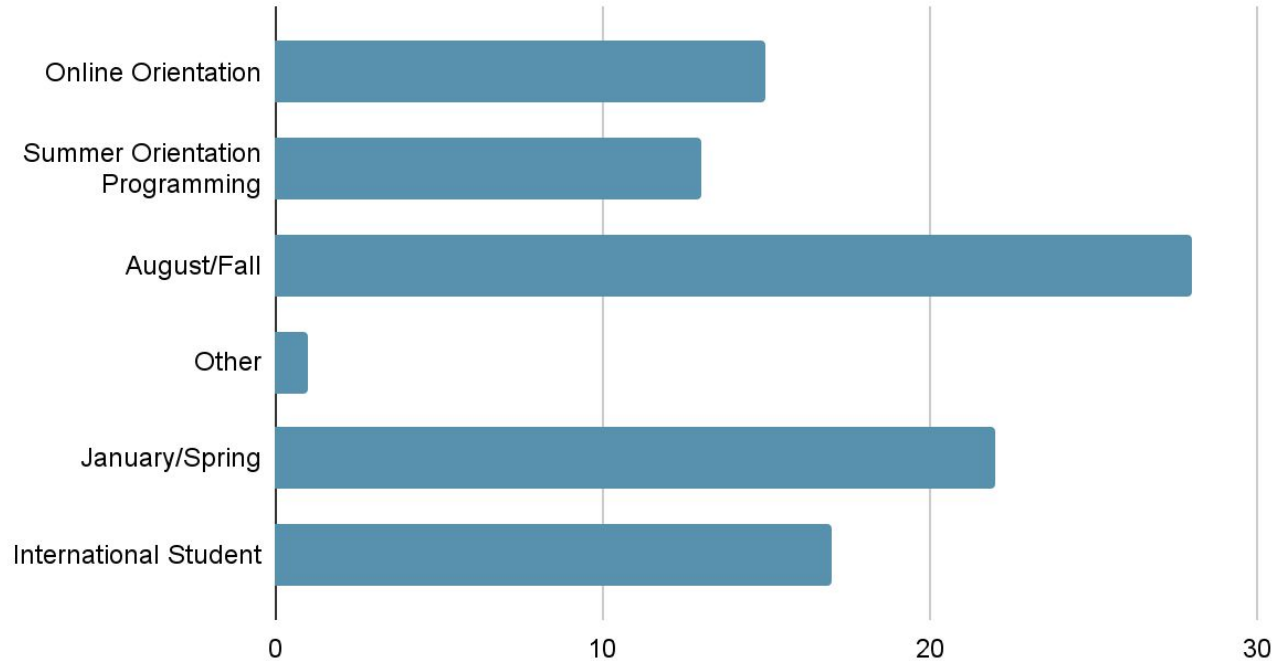**03** ✖ **78%**
Tie FYE with orientation programming

04 ✖ **$0-$200**
Avg. cost per student for orientation budget
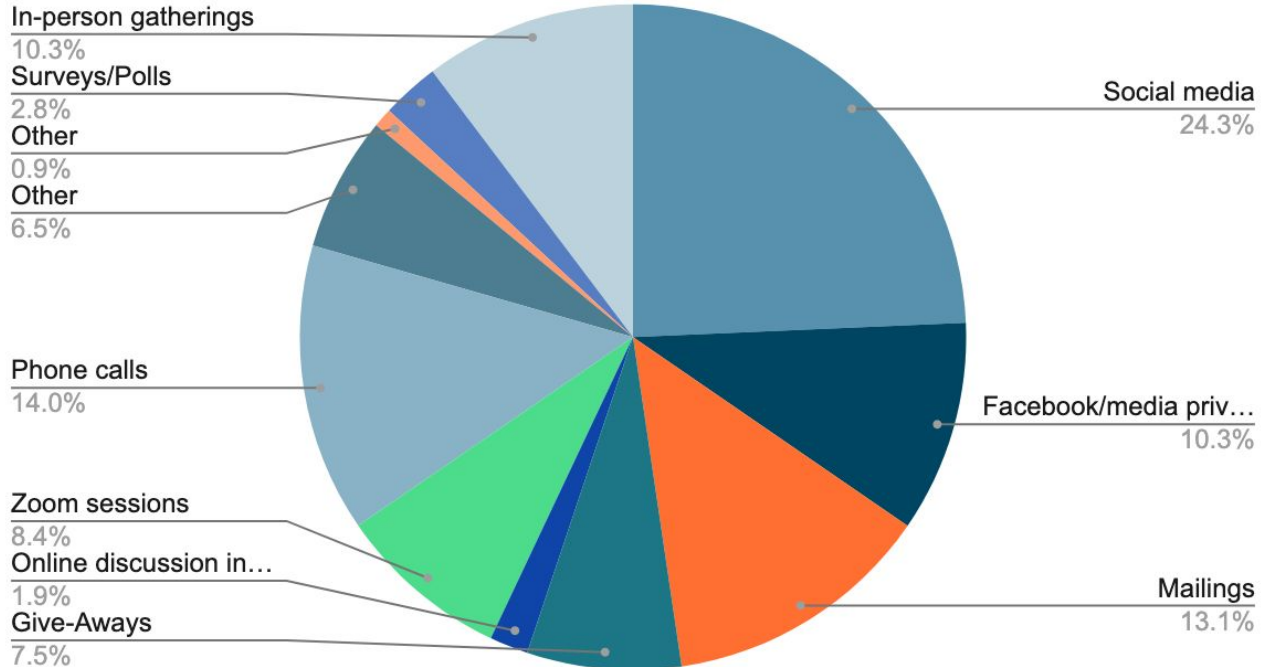
Forms of Orientation Provided

✖ TOP 5 ORIENTATION TOPICS ✖

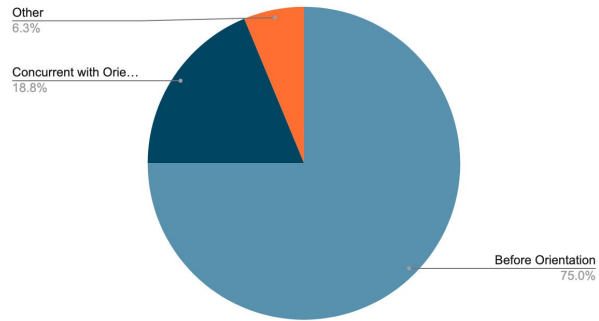| Online	Summer	August/Fall
Campus Resources	Financial Aid	Campus Engagement Opportunities
Campus Safety/Title IX	Campus Resources	Campus Resources
Campus Engagement Opportunities	Connections with Peers	Connections with Peers
Campus Policies	Billing/Clearance Process	Residential Policies and Procedures
Academic Success Tools/Training/Access/Practice	Academic Items (Scheduling and Other Procedures)	Campus Policies

Pre-Orientation: New Student Engagement
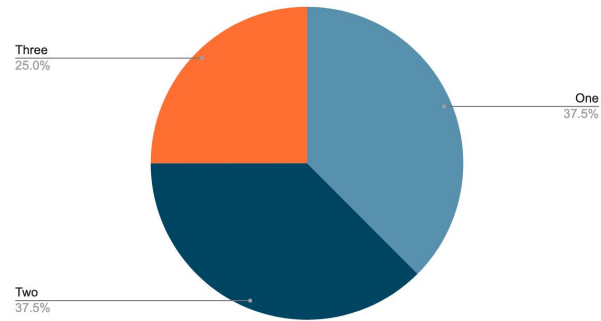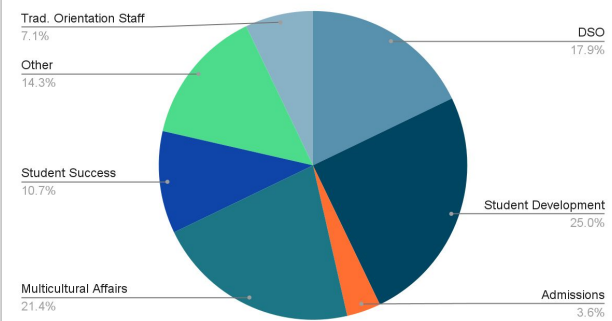

New Student Engagement

- In-person gatherings — 10.3%
- Surveys/Polls — 2.8%
- Other — 0.9%
- Other — 6.5%
- Phone calls — 14.0%
- Zoom sessions — 8.4%
- Online discussion in… — 1.9%
- Give-Aways — 7.5%
- Social media — 24.3%
- Facebook/media priv… — 10.3%
- Mailings — 13.1%

International Student Orientation

04 ✕

Student Leaders

The Ones Who Make It Happen

Student Leader Information

FYE Peer Leaders

01 ✕

✓ **Top Compensation**

✓ **25%** - Leadership experience, joy of serving others, (non-financial compensation)

✓ **25%** - Hourly minimum wage

✓ **17%** - Stipend over $250

02 ✕ **19%** Involve Peer Leader in the teaching/facilitation of FYE course

Orientation Leaders

03 ✕ **40%** Are compensated by Leadership experience, joy of serving others, (non-financial compensation)

04 ✕ **55%** Select leaders in the middle of the previous semester

Orientation Leader Training Topics ×

01

Fostering Belonging

02

Team Building Skills/Activities

03

Campus Resources

04

Mental Health Resources

05

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

06

Effective Communication Strategies

05

Final Thoughts

The Welcome That Matters

Areas of Curiosity

✖ **LACK OF SPIRITUALITY IN FYE**

✖ **ANTI-RACISM / D.E.I. WITHIN FYE**

✖ **FRAGMENTED OWNERSHIP**