

Family, Spanish, and Special Programs – Orientation, Transition and Retention

1. Department Purpose and/or Mission Statement

This program exists to advocate for, create, and support equitable programming and resources for Spanish-speaking families, to expand orientation options for online students and reach all students with online programming, and to promote overall family engagement in the student experience

2. List of Major Departmental Programs

- **SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration) Guest Program** – A concurrent program for family members and guests who attend SOAR with their student(s). Program consists of presentations given in collaboration with various institutional campus partners and connection to campus resources including Roadways, C2, Counseling Center, Access Center, Financial Aid, Dean of Students, Phoenix Center, Campus tours, faculty, and more.
- **Orientación familiar/Spanish Programming** – Spanish-language orientation programming for family members and folks in a student’s support system. Consists of orientation programming similar to the SOAR Guest Program, bilingual/Spanish campus visits and community workshops.
- **Online Orientation** – Online platform for orientation and services offered to transfer students consisting of the onboarding process, student resources, and advising.
- **Family Day** – In collaboration with Athletics and Student Activities, a day for students and their families to enjoy an athletic event with complementary food, family-friendly activities and a scholarship giveaway for students.

3. Departmental Fast Facts

- Number of employees – 1
- Annual Budget – 10,000
- Number of students/support system folks served per year (fall start-summer start)
 - SOAR Guest Program - 1,238
 - Family Day - ~130
 - Spanish programming - ~200
 - Online Orientation ~ 4,000

4. Unique departmental attributes/characteristics

- One of few offices on campus with active Spanish-language programming.
- One of few offices on campus with dedicated family/support system programming.

5. Noteworthy accomplishments/highlights

- Implemented Comevo as the new online orientation platform, including coordinating the production of new videos and quizzes.
- Created structure to offer Orientación Familiar, in Spanish, concurrently with two Student Orientation Advising and Registration (SOAR) sessions.

6. Most salient departmental challenges

- Equitably offering Spanish-language programming to folks in a student’s support system.
- Appropriate programming as it relates to ever-changing student/parent/guest needs.
- Lack of campus resources and information available in Spanish.
- Lack of Spanish-speaking professional staff in certain areas.

7. Brief description of how program impact/efficacy is assessed - Comprehensive surveys are given to participants of guest/family programming to assess utility and helpfulness of programming, which is then discussed and used to make changes/improvements to programming.