

Academic Advising Council (AAC) Recommendation on Major/Course Recruiting at START Orientation

Recommendation Statement

1.1. The AAC recommends that the **START Orientation** include no **extraneous** primary major **recruitment** activities or course recruitment activities as part of its programming.

1.2. Recognized double degree programs that are supplemental to a primary major and thus draw their students from all other undergraduate programs are an exception and would be permitted to have access to space on the START program in the Optional Presentations, Open Houses, and Tours section of the agenda.

Reason for Recommendation

2.1 START Orientation is designed to be a focused program to complete the recruitment cycle and prepare students for their first term at OSU.

2.2 START Orientation has narrowly defined outcomes in service of this design. After active participation in START Orientation, students will:

- A. START building a sense of belonging to the OSU community and an understanding of the expectations of being a college student
- B. START to identify OSU success networks related to academics, student involvement, and student life
- C. START developing skills to navigate Oregon State
- D. START to strengthen connection with a major or areas of academic/professional exploration

2.3 The program for START orientation offers targeted time on the schedule for information sharing that aligns with these outcomes. This includes:

- A general academic overview (outcomes A, B, and C)
- A college-specific academic presentation (outcomes C and D)
- A Resource Fair to educate students and families on resources and services that positioned to support students' transition, retention, and success (outcomes A and B)
- Optional Presentations, Open Houses, Tours (outcomes B and C)
- Advising and Class Registration with a primary major advisor (outcomes A, B, C, and D)

2.4 With regard to information about major options at OSU, students are provided with a comprehensive list of OSU majors in the form of an OSU Colleges and Majors document in their START folder, and they have access to a Change of Major table to consult with an advisor from University Exploratory Studies Program if they are considering a change in direction.

2.5 With regard to course selection options, students will interact with advisors (and perhaps peer ambassadors) during the Advising and Class Registration period. Those advisors, equipped with knowledge of the schedule of classes, baccalaureate core, and major requirements are in a good position to promote options that connect with students with possible interests.

2.6. Students already take on an abundance of new information and context at START. Active recruitment towards major or course participation has the potential to overwhelm and confuse students to the detriment of the START program outcomes, particularly the initial connection a student is making with their primary major and advisor.

2.7 Colleges, Schools, Departments, and Programs have other venues throughout the academic year to promote majors, coursework, and academic opportunities (see **Procedures** section below).

Scope of the Recommendation

3.1 This recommendation applies to OSU units and entities that offer and/or coordinate academic majors, minors, certificates, options, and individual coursework.

Definitions

4.1 **START Orientation** is defined as the formal institutional onboarding program for incoming first-year and transfer students.

4.2 **Extraneous** is defined beyond the boundaries of the defined spaces at START for providing information about primary majors and academic course options (Academic Presentation; Advising and Registration)

4.3 **Recruitment activity** in this instance is defined as a representative of an OSU unit actively trying to sway students towards an academic major or course opportunity affiliated with said unit.

Procedures

5.1 Those units or offices that, by virtue of their role on campus, are not automatically slotted into the program channels described in 2.3 are invited to reach out to New Student Programs and Family Outreach apply for participation in the START Orientation program.

5.2 Units may have large initiatives open to all undergraduates that are inclusive of both co-curricular and classroom activities, and they may want to apply promote these initiatives during either the Resource Fair or the Optional Presentation section of the agenda. It is acceptable to promote gateway course opportunities at these sessions, provided it is in service of promoting the larger initiative.

5.3 Units wishing to promote departmental course offerings are encouraged share course details and information with their college Head Advisor or another departmental advisor, who in turn can share that information with the broader advising community via the Canvas for Advisors site.

5.4 Units wishing to promote academic pathways (majors, minors, options, certificates) to current OSU students are encouraged to offer open and invitational programming during the school year (tours, open houses, info sessions) and/or participate in the OSU Meet the Majors event that happens during fall term.

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