

Recommendation for Required Student Orientation 4/25/25

Informed by faculty and staff input from Senate discussions, Scheduling Summits, ACME Professional Day, the Online Task Force, and collaboration with CT State leadership, the CT State College Senate recommends the implementation of a required student orientation. A structured, mandatory orientation will improve student success and retention by ensuring all students begin with a shared foundation of essential skills, resources, and community connections. The current optional model results in uneven preparedness and access to support that is critical to student success which is currently limited by and subject to campus funding and support.

Recommendation

Implement a required student orientation program to enhance student readiness, engagement, and persistence. All students will receive consistent exposure to academic and support services, including financial aid, Guided Pathways, accessibility, advising, and career services. CT State will demonstrate its commitment to student success through funding orientation as a statewide initiative – not subject to campus-based funding – sufficient to establish and maintain a student orientation that meets our students needs to be successful.

Orientation will establish shared understanding of academic integrity, conduct policies, and campus support systems. The orientation will incorporate an introduction to skills and best practices (e.g., time management, research tools, Blackboard navigation, accessing IT support) routinely associated with academic success advising connections, and introductions to services and faculty and staff. Delivery should be flexible with modules available in-person, online, LRON, and must be completed within the student's first semester. An exemption process should be available but used sparingly.

The program should be developed collaboratively by the College Senate, Deans Councils, and Academic and Student Affairs, and launched in the 2027–2028 academic year. It will include:

- Collegewide core modules
- Campus-specific customizations

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