

New Student Experience

The University's New Student Experience program is designed to help new students achieve success in college. It has seven equally important components:

University Visits

For high school students, and for college students considering transferring, deciding on a college requires comprehensive information about that college's campus, faculty, staff, students and programs. SSU provides this opportunity at its Saturday Open Houses, held monthly throughout the academic year. Prospective students also may learn about the University during weekday visits arranged through the Admissions Office. In either case, prospective students learn what they need in order to make an informed choice.

Preview (Summer Advising and Course Registration)

All new students come to the campus for one day in the summer and participate in discussions on campus life, academic and career planning, and registration for the fall semester. Information is provided about financial aid, dining service, housing, parking and student organizations.

New Student Orientation Seminars

All new students and transfer students with fewer than 24 credits enroll in a brief orientation in which they learn important academic skills, become aware of campus services and organizations, and develop supportive relationships with others in the campus community. Students may complete this requirement through several alternative experiences in the summer before beginning their freshman year or in a classroom setting on campus during their first semester at SSU. No credit toward graduation is awarded for this course.

Welcome Week

The Office of Student Activities and Organizations seeks to provide events that will allow new and current students an opportunity to become involved with campus life, complement the classroom experience with co-curricular activities and aid in forming relationships with the students.

Fall Convocation

Fall Convocation marks the beginning of each academic year. Music, the procession of the faculty in academic regalia and a special address by a faculty member mark this traditional ceremony designed to encourage new students to reflect on the meaning of a college education and the challenges facing them. Fall Convocation is held in the auditorium of Holloway Hall and culminates "Welcome Week Activities."

Family Weekend

Family Weekend is planned for the families of new and returning students. Held in October, this event provides family members an opportunity to visit the campus, meet with professors and staff, sit in on class sessions typical of the University's course offerings, and attend special events in order to observe firsthand the transition new students make to University life.

Honors Convocation

Each year during the spring semester, an Honors Convocation is held. At this event, public recognition is given to students who have made outstanding contributions to campus life and who have distinguished themselves academically. Information on all awards is available from the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs.