

Undergraduate New Student Experience

www.salisbury.edu/newstudexp

The University's New Student Experience program is designed to help new undergraduate students achieve success in college. It has eight 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. SU 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 or winter and participate in discussions on campus life, academic and career planning, and registration for fall or spring semesters. Information is provided about financial aid, dining services, housing and residence life, parking, and student activities, organizations and leadership.

▶ **New Student Seminars (Orientation)**

All new students and transfer students with fewer than 24 credits enroll in a brief orientation seminar 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 or winter before beginning their freshman year or in a classroom setting on campus during their first semester at SU. No credit toward graduation is awarded for this course.

▶ **Opening Week (Fall and Spring Semesters)**

All new students and transfer students with fewer than 24 credits attend academic and social events that are planned exclusively for them prior to returning student move-in. Students and family members are formally welcomed by the president, provost, Student Affairs Office staff members and the president of the Student Government Association. A signing-in ceremony takes place where students sign a class register that forever places them in the history of that class. A Family Farewell Picnic is provided to give family members an opportunity to share a meal with their students prior to their leaving. Academic and social opportunities are provided for 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.

▶ **New Student Reader**

The New Student Reader program is designed to provide a common experience for incoming students, to enhance participation in the intellectual life of the campus through stimulating discussion and critical thinking around a current topic, and to encourage a sense of community between students, faculty and staff.

▶ **Welcome Week**

The Office of Student Activities, Organizations and Leadership 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.

▶ **Family Weekend**

Family Weekend is planned for the families of new and returning students. Held early in the fall semester, 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.