

First-Year Orientation Programs Summer 2023

Nipissing University

Student Learning and Transitions

The Staged Approach

Orientation and Transition programs at NU take a staged approach to learning. In recent years, orientation is now being viewed as a comprehensive process, ranging from one day to weeks, using a variety of communication and other activities that engage students in a variety of ways, rather than as a singular program. The amount of information and type of experience that new students need during their transition can be overwhelming and anxiety producing. As a result, NU has staged programs that address the needs of the students in a 'just-in-time' information learning approach in line with the student life cycle - from post-admission communication, throughout their first year. (NODA, 2014; CAS, 2018)

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION (JULY)

Designed to address core administrative, entry and 'safety' pieces to ameliorate typical concerns that new students and their supporters have, including:

- Course registration
- Understanding degree requirements
- Finances
- Accessing technical programs
- Introduction to student services & supports
- Living Away from Home
- Addressing Supporter concern

Designed to be the first introduction to the University, how to get started, and outline next transitional steps.

LAKERS ORIENTATION WEEK (AUG/SEPT)

One week event that encompasses all the orientation & welcome programs:

- Residence Move-in
- Accessibility Transition Program
- NUSU Student Activities
- Safety & Consent
- International Orientation
- Faculty Engagement/Expectations
- Academic & Learning Skills

During this week, students engage with their communities and explore opportunities for development. It promotes student health and wellness elements and is also the foundation for where they will become familiar with the culture of the institution with regards to consent, safety, and academic expectations.

By participating in NSO, students will:

- Identify the academic requirements for their program and develop a schedule
- Understand the course selection and registration process
- Discover what University resources, supports & services are available and when and how to access them
- Discover potential housing options
- Become familiar with co-curricular learning and development opportunities
- Understand the academic structure of the University (Faculties, Schools, Deans)
- Become familiar with NU technology software & applications
- Identify relevant next steps (the 'what's next' re: Residence, Fees, LO)
- Become familiar with the NU student experience from current student leaders
- Demonstrate increased confidence in their ability to effectively navigate the University campus



By the end of Supporter Orientation programming, participating supporters will:

- Have an increased connection to the Laker community
- Understand their contribution to the Laker community
- Understand Nipissing University's departments and services that will help them effectively support in a balanced, timely, and relevant way

By participating in LOW students:

- Articulate the University's academic expectations and student responsibilities
 - Objective: Academic Transition: includes exposure to academic environments, relevant policies/procedures, expectations and connections with academic-related staff (faculty, learning support)
- Identify the resources and supports that promote safety, health and well-being and understand how to access
 - Objective: Health & Well-being: athletics, SVPE, Alcohol safety, MH supports, BIPOC supports, etc.
- Enhance relationships with other members of the Lakers community (faculty, staff, peers) through interactive and shared experiences and identify how they can engage in their campus communities and campus life.
 - Objective: Community Building & Engagement
- Explore the co-curricular learning and development opportunities available through their experience
 - Objective: Student Experience & Development
- Be able to distinguish amongst available campus services/resources and articulate how to access them
- Self-reflect on their own identities, culture, skills and personal abilities they bring, how they interact with those of other members of the Lakers community, and understand their role in promoting a safe and inclusive campus
 - Objective: Inclusive campus: EDI, Consent culture; students will reflect on personal biases and be introduced to new perspectives. Students will engage in meaningful conversations with others
- Become familiar with navigating the NB community, the NU campus, and their virtual and/or in-person learning platforms where applicable
 - Objective: Wayfinding



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Overarching Guiding Principles

- Orientation programming at Nipissing University is developed to support students and their families/supporters transition to university life and academic studies.
- The programming is designed to assist students in navigating the wide range of social, academic, and co-curricular services and supports available at the institution, and to learn about the wider North Bay community
- Through intentionally designed orientation and transition programming, we will support the forming and enhancing of support networks, as well as academic and life skill development which will assist new students in successfully navigating their academic careers
- Enhance and promote a sense of community, and provide opportunities for meaningful connections
- Recognize the diversity of the student population and enhance programming and supports to meet the needs of all students with a focus on accessibility, inclusivity, ethical practice, and diversity.