



Undeclared Student Success Freshman Workshop and Mentor Program

FALL SEMESTER 2018

The Undeclared Student Success (USS) Freshman Workshop and Mentor Program provides focused, sequenced workshops that introduce undeclared first time freshmen (FTF) to important SDSU resources and policies one at a time. Students who complete the entire series of workshops are honored at an end-of-school year reception, where they receive program polo shirts and a certificate of completion. These students are also invited to serve as mentors to the following year's undeclared FTF, both at summer orientation and during the following academic year's workshops.

SEPT | The Degree Evaluation

The degree evaluation is the single most useful WebPortal tool available to students. It lays out all graduation requirements and provides live links to the class schedule. Students who follow their degree evaluation will never be confused about their requirements, will never take classes they don't need, and, consequently, will graduate in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, the degree evaluation is not available at summer orientation, so it's impossible to teach students how to use it then. This workshop, held early in the first semester, will teach this incredibly important tool and instill good habits right from the start.

SEPT/OCT | Understanding and Satisfying GE Requirements

Undeclared FTF focus their attention largely on lower division GE requirements their first two semesters, but with multiple categories and roughly 43 units, the GE pattern can be difficult to comprehend and follow. This workshop will build on the previous one by using the degree evaluation, specifically, to chart a GE course. It will also address opportunities for students to explore potential majors while satisfying GE requirements.

OCT | Getting Involved on Campus

We want the SDSU experience to be more than just 120 units of course work. We want students to join student clubs and organizations; we want students to get involved with student government and programs like the SDSU Ambassadors. We recognize, however, that it's not always easy for students to learn about involvement opportunities on their own. This panel style workshop, which will include contributions from partners across campus, will introduce students to the opportunities for involvement, as well as individual people who can serve as contacts.

NOV | Understanding and Using the Class Schedule and Registration System

Searching the class schedule and creating a planner list of potential classes ahead of time can mean the difference between successfully enrolling in the classes a student wants/needs vs. being stuck with consolation classes. Shortly after the spring schedule is published, we will build on the previous workshops by showing students how they can create a planner list of GE and major exploration classes by using their degree evaluation. At the end of the workshop, students will submit their planner lists and receive individualized feedback from an adviser within 1-2 weeks.



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JAN | Understanding Academic Standing

Despite everyone's best intentions and efforts, the first semester at SDSU does not always go well for undeclared FTF. As a point of reference, after the Fall 2015 semester, 49 undeclared FTF were placed on academic probation. These students need to become thoroughly familiar with the rules associated with academic probation and the potential risks that it presents to their student success. This knowledge is also important for successful students who intend to be mentors in the future.

MAR | Exploring Prospective Majors

A wise choice of major involves much more than just a spin of a wheel. Undeclared FTF need to know not only what content a major covers, but also what its specific requirements are. These include, but are not limited to, unit requirements and impact GPA. Students who declare a major that they can't complete in a timely fashion because of unit requirements, or even at all because of GPA requirements, don't put themselves in a position to be successful. This workshop will focus on researching various majors' requirements.

FEB | High Impact Practices (HIPs)

Many studies show that HIPs, such as research, internships and study abroad promote student success. In addition to this benefit, HIPs can turn an ordinary undergraduate experience into an exceptional one. At this panel style workshop, we will invite partners from across campus to present the multitude of HIP possibilities to students to help them begin the planning process early.

APR | Career Services

SDSU's Career Services office can be an extremely useful resource for students, but only if they know about and take advantage of what Career Services has to offer. At this workshop, which will be cohosted by Career Services at their office, we will introduce students to Career Services' resources and have them begin the process of utilizing those resources.

APR/MAY | End of Year Reception and Recognition Ceremony for Qualifying Mentors

Students who attend each of the eight workshops throughout the year will be invited, along with their families, to an end-of-year reception at which they will be recognized through the presentation of a certificate of achievement and a program polo shirt. They will also be invited to serve as mentors for the following year's undeclared FTF, both at summer orientation and at the same academic year workshops that they attended through this program. In addition to this formal program mentoring, they will also serve as informal mentors, outside of the program's workshops, to the students who follow them.