

K Week

VISION STATEMENT

K Week will ensure that all students make a successful transition to the University of Kentucky and will be a model for welcome week programming around the country.

MISSION STATEMENT

K Week eases the transition of new students to the University of Kentucky through nine days of academic, social, and community-building activities, events, and programs.

GOALS

K Week will:

1. Facilitate successful academic and social transitions to the University;
2. Introduce students to important University values;
3. Foster a sense of belonging to the University community;
4. Engage the entire campus community in reaching out to new students;
5. Provide an alcohol-free social alternatives for students;
6. Address the needs of parents and families and involve them in their students' transition; and
7. Contribute to students' satisfaction with their college experience.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of active participation in K Week, students will:

1. Be able to articulate University academic expectations;
2. Be able to identify campus resources and how to use them;
3. Be able to express University history and traditions;
4. Demonstrate a knowledge of how to get involved on campus; and
5. Learn the importance of forming relationships with other students, faculty, and staff.

As a result of serving on the K Crew, students will:

1. Be able to facilitate small group exercises and discussions;
2. Be able to identify campus resources and explain how to use them;
3. Be able to articulate transition issues facing students, including first-year students, transfer students, international students, adult learners; and
4. Understand the impact personal attitude has on appropriate customer service.

ASSESSMENT EFFORTS

In order to improve K Week each year and to ensure that we are making progress on our goals and desired learning outcomes, we conduct a comprehensive assessment plan where we gather data and

use it to inform future programming decisions. We have done the following in the past several years:

- We worked with the Office of Assessment to create an online survey that is administered to a sample of new students at the conclusion of K Week.
- We have created an online survey that is administered through the UK Parent Association to get their feedback on the K Week experience.
- We have held meetings and focus groups with different constituents and partners around campus (Office of Student Involvement, Dean of Students Office, Office of Residence Life, academic college liaisons, Religious Advisors Staff, K Crew, etc.) who are involved with K Week to capture more feedback and ideas for improvement.
- We have sent a questionnaire to all of the presenters for each of our information and academic sessions to gather their feedback.
- We have had Super Crew track attendance and evaluate each information and academic session during K Week.
- Each year at the conclusion of K Week, the Office of New Student and Parent Programs staff holds a retreat to review the program in detail and discuss how well we addressed our goals and learning outcomes for that year.
- When possible, we have tracked attendance at K Week events.

RETENTION EFFORTS

In a review of the literature regarding student success and retention, the Office of New Student & Parent Programs has compiled a list of factors, frameworks, and best practices which we consistently refer to when developing and evaluating our goals, learning outcomes, and programs. In reference to this list, K Week strives to enhance the retention of UK students by:

- Introducing students to the University's expectations for student learning and student behavior.
- Assisting in their social transition to the University.
- Assisting in their academic transition to the University.
- Providing a comprehensive orientation experience.
- Providing opportunities for students to develop meaningful relationships with other students, faculty, and staff.
- Encouraging faculty-student contact outside of the classroom.
- Cultivating students' respect for diversity.
- Facilitating academic and social peer interaction.
- Informing parents of variables which will impact their students' success.
- Providing common intellectual experiences (Common Reading Experience).
- Introducing students to undergraduate research opportunities.
- Encouraging membership in campus organizations.
- Strengthening participation in campus activities.

DIVERSITY EFFORTS

Building community and introducing the issue of diversity on a college campus is a focal point of K Week. K Week participants currently explore diversity issues through the following events:

- *We Are UK*, a 4-hour celebration of who we are as a UK community

- *UK FUSION*, a large one-day service project introducing students to community issues
- *Religious Life at UK*, a session led by the Religious Advisors Staff
- *Wildcats at Worship*, a non-denominational Christian worship service led by the Religious Advisors Staff
- *Multicultural First-Year Focus Orientation*, an academic success orientation for various student subpopulations typically affiliated with a particular scholarship
- *CARES Fat Tuesday Open House*, an opportunity for students to learn about CARES resources and services
- *MLK, Jr. Cultural Center Welcome Back Cookout*
- *African Student Association Caribbean Party*

In addition, efforts are made to attract a diverse membership among the K Crew to more accurately represent the larger University community.