New Student and Parent Programs Overview

The Office of New Student & Parent Programs seeks to ease the transition of new students to the University of Kentucky through K Week, UK 101/201, the Common Reading Experience, and the K Book. We are also here to help UK parents and families support their sons and daughters through the UK Parent Association. For more information, visit www.uky.edu/nspp or call 859-257-6597.

UK Parent Association

The UK Parent Association believes that students' success is enhanced by well-informed parents and families. The Parent Association invites all parents and guardians of UK undergraduate students to join its membership. Much like the PTA, the Parent Association is a dues-based organization. While all parents and guardians of UK undergraduates can seek assistance from the Parent Association staff, participate in K Week family events and Family Weekend and access the Parent Association website and social media accounts, some benefits are available only to current members. Those benefits include receiving publications such as the Insider's Guide handbook for families of new UK students and the Cat Chat e-mail newsletter and having access to the member discount program. Students seeking a summer job on campus can apply to serve as Parent & Family Ambassadors; four students are selected every spring to assist the Parent Association with Summer Advising Conferences and on-campus events later in the school year such as K Week and Family Weekend. For more information on the Parent Association, including membership details, visit www.uky.edu/parents.

K Book

The K Book is the new student handbook written for students by students. Its contents include information on UK’s history, academic life, student life, campus resources, and life in Lexington. All new full-time undergraduates receive a copy; most students get theirs at University Orientations. Merit Weekend students and those starting during Summer I/II receive theirs in the mail over the summer. Students are asked to bring their copy to campus with them in the fall as a reference guide, and UK 101 instructors are encouraged to utilize the book in class. New members of the student editorial board are selected every spring. For more information, visit www.uky.edu/KBook.

UK 101 & 201

UK 101 & UK 201 courses, co-sponsored by Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, are offered to help new students transition to university life. UK 101 is designed specifically for first-year students, whereas UK 201 is designed for transfer students. There are typically 20 to 27 students registered for each section, and with the exception of a few specialty sections, there are never more than 27 students.
Instructors receive a $1,000 stipend through an overload (or through other means established by the Division of Undergraduate Education).

Advisors are encouraged to teach UK 101 & 201. Instructors must have earned at least a master's degree to be eligible to teach. The success of each section largely depends on the teamwork between the instructor and peer instructor. The peer instructor is an upperclass student who is an essential component of UK 101 & 201. His or her responsibilities include assisting the instructor, teaching specific class sessions, and interacting with the students during in-class and out-of-class activities. More information about the role of the peer instructor can be found at www.uky.edu/uk101.

All UK 101 & 201 instructors and peer instructors are required to attend a mini-workshop each April. First-time faculty/staff instructors also participate in a two-day training in May, and all peer instructors attend a training prior to the start of the school year in August.

Instructors are required to submit an original transcript of their most advanced degree, Conditions of Appointment form, and their course syllabus. For more information on applying to teach a UK 101 or 201 course, please visit the Undergraduate Education web site at: www.uky.edu/UGE/uk_101.html.

K Week

K Week is UK's fall welcome week for new students and is an opportunity for the entire University community to celebrate the start of a new school year. As the second step of the orientation process to UK, K Week eases the transition of new students through nine days of social, academic, and community-building events.

Students often comment that one of their favorite things about K Week is the chance to get to know other students, faculty, and staff. For this reason, K Week is an opportunity for you and your college or department to welcome new and returning students to campus. There are several ways for you to get involved with K Week as an academic advisor:

- Volunteer to help with move-in day in August (UKMovein@email.uky.edu);
- Volunteer with FUSION, a one-day community outreach event, by serving as a site leader (fusion.uky@gmail.com);
- or perhaps even perform at We Are UK (KWeek@lsv.uky.edu).

In addition, all colleges organize events during a designated College Meeting time on the day before classes begin. We also welcome our colleagues to organize and present a session during our academic and information sessions throughout K Week. The Office of New Student and Parent Programs will put a call out for events in May each year.

New Student and Parent Programs
Encourage your current students to stay involved with K Week by being a part of K Crew. The K Crew is the group of student leaders who help mentor all of our new students throughout K Week and beyond. Finally, encourage all of your new students (during Merit Weekend and University Orientations) to attend all of the K Week activities in order to have the best transition possible to the UK community.

Please visit www.uky.edu/KWeek to learn more about K Week, the schedule of events, and how you can get involved!

**Common Reading Experience**

The Common Reading Experience strives to unite the entire University of Kentucky community through a shared exploration of a single book and related themes and issues. Each year the incoming freshman class receives a copy of the book when students come to campus to register for classes; they are expected to read the book prior to returning to campus for the fall semester. The annual program kicks off with small-group discussions held during K Week, the University’s welcome week program, that are led by upperclass student leaders (members of the K Crew). Students then continue to explore the book through classes and related co-curricular programs throughout the year, including a lecture by the author. Visit www.uky.edu/commonreading to learn more.

**HOW ADVISORS CAN HELP**

All first-year students receive a copy of the CRE book at their University Orientation. Be sure to mention the book when you first meet them and remind them to read it over the summer. Ask your first-year students about the book throughout the fall semester, and encourage them to attend the author lecture as well as other CRE-related events throughout the academic year.