Department Mission/Vision Statement
The Office of New Student Orientation and First Year Programs assists incoming students by coordinating programs, services, and resources designed to successfully prepare and support students in the undergraduate collegiate experience at Bowling Green State University. Through active participation in programs, students are engaged in the campus experience and are introduced to strategies and resources that contribute to academic success, increase student persistence, and lead to timely degree completion.

2011-12 Executive Summary

Through strategic partnership and cross-divisional collaboration, the office was able to effectively maintain high level of service, efficient functionality and quality programming despite the programmatic transition and limited staffing. These partnerships also allowed for the creation of new programs and the development of high-impact initiatives that will impact the success and retention of all undergraduate students, particularly first-year student cohort. The office, which re-opened in October 2011 with joint reporting to the Divisions of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, was fully staffed by June 2012.

Key Highlights
1. Opened the office of New Student Orientation and First Year Programs to coordinate transition programs and enrollment/retention efforts.
2. Rebranded orientation program as Falcon SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising & Registration).
3. Developed four core “pillars” for orientation progress and coordinated program content/curriculum around these themes.
4. Worked collaboratively with the Department of Math, ITS, Registration and Records and Admissions to automate students’ math placement process.
5. Commissioned several departments to develop new instructional tutorials and informational videos related to student transition and support.

Program Participation and Usage Data/Key Performance Indicators
Orientation Attendance

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>3,967</td>
<td>4,317</td>
<td>4,368</td>
<td>3,005</td>
<td>3,201</td>
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<td>Guests</td>
<td>5,311</td>
<td>5,487</td>
<td>5,530</td>
<td>3,807</td>
<td>3,921</td>
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Retention Initiatives/Cohort Tracking Information
As a coordinating office charged to provide campus-wide leadership and support of student retention, no particular sub-population of students is tracked besides the fall cohort.

First-Time In College (FTIC)
- 2010-2011: 71.82%
- 2011-2012: TBD (projected: 70%)

Collaboration and Partnerships within Student Affairs
Collaboration with other Student Affairs departments produced some excellent results in programming and services for new and continuing students. Some highlights include:
- Summer Hall Director assigned to assist NSOFYP with various initiatives;
- Streamlined presentation during SOAR related to Residence Life, Dining and Center for Health;
- Deployment of “Alcohol Edu for College” for all entering first year students;
- Inclusion of a “community responsibility” session during Opening Weekend.

Collaborations and Partnerships with other BGSU Areas and the Community
A successful university-wide orientation program is dependent upon a high level of collaboration and investment in other departments and divisions across campus. Some highlights of partnerships and joint-initiatives with other BGSU and the BG community include:
- Use of the Library and Learning Commons for SOAR (AA & EM);
- Increased focus on students’ and family members’ fiscal responsibility (FA & EM);
- Increased promotion and inclusion of academic programming and engagement opportunities during transition programs (AA).

Awards and Recognitions (Departmental and/or Staff)
N/A

Proposed 2012-2013 Priorities
1. Successful implementation of successNET
2. Coordinate efforts to improve FTIC retention to 73% fall to fall
3. Optimize SOAR/Orientation and transition programs for additional student populations
4. Provide leadership and coordination among the advising community and streamline committee work related to first-year students and upper-class advising matters.
5. Successfully leverage division and other campus partnerships for student success.