Implementation and effectiveness of an animal sciences transfer student orientation course at NDSU & ISU

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First-Year Orientation

• Part of many college curriculums
• Meant to ease transition into college
• Is it important beyond freshmen students?
The Problem

- Rise in education costs and changing needs of students
  - Increased number of transfer students at 4-year universities

- Transfer students placed into freshmen class or no orientation class at all
  - Possible lack of engagement and connections
  - Transfer Shock?
Transfer Shock

- Defined as, “the temporary dip in grades and academic performance that some students experience during the first or second semester after transferring”
  (Hills 1965, Townsend 1993, Jackson & Laanan 2015)

- What resources are in place to assist students with their transition?
  – Is it enough?
Transfer-Specific Course

• Fall of 2018, ISU & NDSU created an orientation course specifically for transfer students.

• Some topics included:
  – Degree plan
  – Internships
  – Involvement
  – Resumes & cover letters
  – Finances
  – Major information, course substitutions, degree audits
• Survey at the end of semester:

*Please rate your level of agreement with each statement.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither agree or disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This course has helped my transition</td>
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<tr>
<td>I would recommend this course to future transfer students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall, the material covered was relevant to me</td>
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<tr>
<td>The material covered has already been covered by courses at my previous institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer shock has affected my adjustment</td>
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Survey Continued

- What factors contributed to transfer shock?
- What on and off campus resources have you used to overcome transfer shock?
- Most and least useful topics
- Topics not covered in enough detail
- Topics to add
Results

• NDSU (n=8) & ISU (n=34)

ANS 201 has helped in transition to North Dakota State

ANS 110 helped in transition to Iowa State
Results

- NDSU (n=8) & ISU (n=34)

I would recommend ANSC 201 to future transfer students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I would recommend ANS 110 to future transfer students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44.12</td>
<td>35.29</td>
<td>11.76</td>
<td>8.82</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

- NDSU (n=8) ISU (n=34)

Overall, the material covered in ANSC 201 was relevant to me
- Strongly agree: 75
- Somewhat agree: 25
- Neither: 0
- Somewhat disagree: 0
- Strongly disagree: 0

Overall, the material covered in ANS 110 was relevant to me
- Strongly agree: 32.35
- Somewhat agree: 44.12
- Neither: 11.76
- Somewhat disagree: 8.82
- Strongly disagree: 2.94
Results

• NDSU (n=8) & ISU (n=34)

ANSC 201 material has already been covered at my previous institution

- Strongly agree: 12.5%
- Somewhat agree: 0%
- Neither: 25%
- Somewhat disagree: 12.5%
- Strongly disagree: 50%

ANS 110 material has already been covered at my previous institution

- Strongly agree: 17.65%
- Somewhat agree: 26.47%
- Neither: 20.59%
- Somewhat disagree: 20.59%
- Strongly disagree: 14.71%
Results

- NDSU (n=8) & ISU (n=34)

- Over half of students were not familiar with the term “transfer shock” at both NDSU & ISU
Results

• Most useful topics:
  – **NDSU:** clubs, resumes, NDSU resources, pre-vet requirements
  – **ISU:** 2-year plan, course sub/degree audit, resumes, financial planning

• Topics to add:
  – **NDSU:** left 3 class periods open for students to choose; chose study habits, pre-vet requirements, upperclassmen “tips and tricks”
  – **ISU:** study habits, making a schedule, interviews
Summary

- The majority of students had never heard of transfer shock
- Many students said transfer shock affected their transition
- Overall, students found the class to be helpful and would recommend to future students
Future Directions

• Continue to develop curriculum:
  – **NDSU**: time management, more about transfer shock, give more opportunities for students to help determine curriculum
  
  – **ISU**: study habits, time management, strengths-based leadership

• **Facilitate collaboration with other interested institutions**