

SOAR at SBVC

New Student, Orientation, Advisement, and Registration

SOAR at CSUSB - It is a collaborative effort involving Admissions, Advising & Academic Services, Records, Registration & Evaluation, Student Leadership & Development, Colleges & departments, etc. Students get advised by faculty and participate in a variety of student orientation activities.

SOAR at Bucks Community College in Pennsylvania

<https://www.bucks.edu/studentlife/orientation/>

Designed for students that are starting at Bucks County Community College, New Student Orientation (NSO) will introduce you and your family to life at Bucks! Through engaging sessions with your academic area, informative panels and fun activities, we help ease your transition to college.

Proposed Scheduling:

Inservice Days in August and January.

1. Each day divided by CAPS
2. Morning and afternoon sessions to accommodate 2 CAPS per day

Proposed Days:

Day 1 (probably flex day)	Day 2 - Inservice	Day 3 - inservice
8am to 12pm: Arts, Communication and Design and Public Service, Culture, Society	8am to noon: Business, Information Tech, and Hospitality and Manufacturing, Industry and Technology	Session 1 – 8am to Noon: Health, Wellness and Athletics And Science, Engineering, and Math

Session Schedule:

1. Meet with various Departments of CAPs – tables for each department – Choose department – Welcome by Dean(s) -1 hour
2. Department Orientation (show MAPS), set ed plan, register for classes, complete, financial aid – 1.5 hours
3. Tour of campus – 1 hour

Notes:

Division and department meetings can happen in the afternoon.

Academic (instruction) can be department chairs or faculty that may want to use their flex hours to help. Liaison Counselors would also be involved. Plus, adjuncts as assigned per CAP. Also, this is a great task for peer mentors to help with triage.

Other in-services trainings can happen in the afternoons as well.

SOAR needs to be ongoing, check ins with peer mentors, instruction faculty (chairs), and counselor liaison meetings as needed. These check ins can, face to face, zoom, email correspondence, phone calls.

For those that come after day one of classes:

New Student week by the second of classes:

1. Include department tabling (geared towards undecided and late registrants, and all students in general)
2. On the spot ed planning and registration
3. Financial Aid workshops
4. Student clubs and other student resources and activities on display

Advantages of Such a Program:

1. Tailored Academic Support

- **Personalized Advising:** SOAR programs often include one-on-one academic advising to help students create achievable educational goals.
- **Tutoring Services:** Students gain access to free or low-cost tutoring in challenging subjects, improving their academic performance.
- **Skills Development:** Workshops on study strategies, time management, and exam preparation empower students to thrive academically.

2. Financial Assistance

- **Scholarships and Grants:** Many SOAR programs connect students to financial aid opportunities, helping them manage tuition and other expenses.
- **Emergency Funds:** Access to financial resources during crises ensures that unexpected challenges don't derail a student's education.

3. Focused Mentorship

- **Peer and Faculty Mentoring:** Students can build relationships with mentors who guide them through college life and career planning.
- **Motivation and Confidence:** Mentorship helps students build self-esteem, fostering resilience in the face of obstacles.

4. Holistic Support Services

- **Mental Health Counseling:** Many SOAR programs provide access to counseling and stress management services, addressing emotional and psychological needs.
- **Community Resources:** Programs may connect students to housing, childcare, or transportation services, reducing barriers to education.

5. Increased Retention and Graduation Rates

- By addressing the root causes of academic struggles, SOAR programs significantly increase student retention and graduation rates, helping more students achieve their educational aspirations.

6. Career Readiness

- **Resume and Interview Workshops:** SOAR programs often include career services to prepare students for internships and job opportunities.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Partnerships with local industries and businesses offer students pathways to employment after graduation.

7. Inclusive and Equitable Education

- **Support for Disproportionately Impacted Groups:** SOAR programs often target underrepresented populations, ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities.

- **Flexible Scheduling:** Many programs offer evening, weekend, or online support to accommodate working students or those with family responsibilities.
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8. Community Impact

- **Economic Development:** By equipping students with skills and credentials, SOAR programs contribute to the economic growth of their communities.
 - **Role Models for Others:** Successful participants inspire others to overcome challenges and pursue education.
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Community colleges that offer SOAR programs exemplify a commitment to breaking down barriers to education, fostering student success, and enhancing the long-term well-being of individuals and their communities.

Sources

Brookings Institute, Bakersfield College, UCI, and ERIC erid.ed.gov