

UNIVERSITY *of*
WASHINGTON

LANDING IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Lessons Shared Between Undergraduate and Graduate Student
Transitional Experiences

Ziyan Bai
Kelly Edwards
Carlos J. Guillen
Jaye Sablan
LeAnne Jones Wiles



NASPA Annual Conference

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Philadelphia Convention Center 109 B

SESSION GOALS



Transitional Needs

Compare the transitional needs of undergraduate and graduate students.

Strategies for Collaboration

Identify strategies for collaboration across units.



Explore:

fyp.washington.edu/fsresource

For references, downloads, and links to program websites

A graphic of a yellow notecard with blue horizontal lines and a red top margin line is tilted slightly to the right. The text is written on the notecard in a brown, sans-serif font.

On your notecard:
Name, Institution, Unit, Email

SESSION FLOW



- Overview of institution & departments.
- Examples of programs & services designed to respond to common student transitional needs.
- Process of implementing, assessing, and improving programs.



Explore:

fyp.washington.edu/fsresource

For references, downloads, and links to program websites

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



- Large, 4-year Public Institution
- 3 Campuses: Seattle, Bothell, Tacoma
- Research Intensive
- Innovation Mindset

30,475
Undergraduate
Enrollment



14,059
Graduate & Professional
Enrollment

82%
Six-Year Graduation Rate



5,191
Master & Doctoral Degrees
Conferred

4,578
International Enrollment



2,923
International Enrollment

29.6%
First-Generation Students
(Freshman Students)



21%
First-Generation Students
(Newly Enrolled)



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DEPARTMENTS



First Year Programs

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

- Advising & Orientation
- Dawg Daze Welcome Week
- FIGs: First-year Interest Groups
- Commuter & Transfer Commons

Core Programs

GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Strategies for Success
- Individual Development Plan
- Leadership Development
- Find Your People

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



Transitional support in higher education has often focused on the undergraduate student experience.

More information is becoming available about the amount of stress & anxiety new graduate students experience (Poock, 2004).

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



Elements of undergraduate transition programs:

- Learning communities
- Time spent on campus
- Early connections to faculty
- Clear academic expectations

In their first-year of graduate school, students ask...

“Can I do this?”

“Do I want to be a graduate student?”

“Do I want to do this for work?”

“Do I belong here?”

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



Why Do Students Leave?

University of Washington Retention Study, 2014

Undergraduate Students:

- Finances
- Mental Health
- Academic Performance

Graduate & Professional Students:

- Did Not Feel at Home in Department
- Realities of the Job Market
- Dissatisfied with Adviser

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



First 90 Days Initiative

- **Getting Connected** – welcoming & belonging
- **Demystifying Grad School** – roadmap of fall messaging
- **Bridging into Grad School** – find support, connect with peers

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



First-Generation Graduate Student Initiatives

Tri-Campus Engagement

- Student Life & Student Affairs Units
- First In Our Families
- Graduate Programs
- Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity

Programming

- Fall Receptions
- Resilience & Wellness Socials
- Professional Development
- Digital Storytelling Workshops

40⁺ Average attendance at First-Generation Events

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



First-Generation Graduate Student Advisory Board

- Leadership Development
- Peer Mentoring
- Event Planning

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



International Graduate Student Initiatives

Campus Engagement

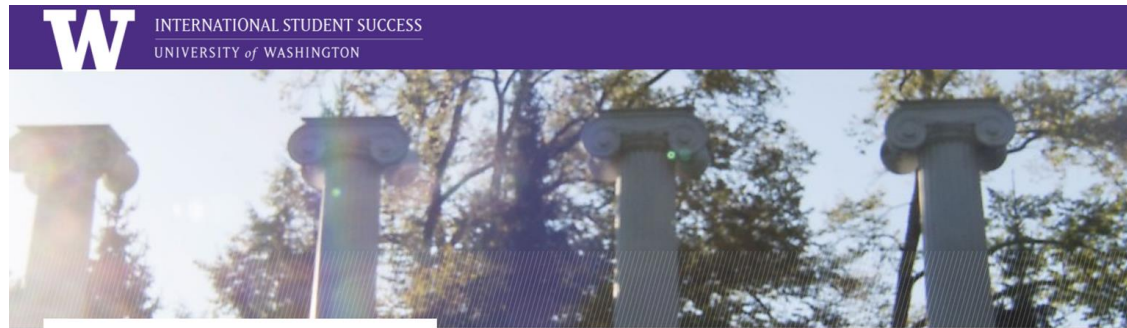
- International Student Success Committee
- Graduate & Professional Student Senate

Professional Development Workshops

- Communication Skills
- Communicating with Faculty
- Working in Industry with a Graduate Degree

80+ Average attendance at International Events

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



🏠 > First Year Programs > International Student Success

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SUCCESS

The UW is committed to cultivating cultural and global awareness, knowledge exchange, innovative research across national borders, and cross-cultural relationships.

Central to this commitment is the value of international education, including but not limited to the enrollment of international students and encouragement of study abroad, as a means to foster a critically informed and responsible student population prepared to engage in an increasingly globalized world.

Our international students bring diverse perspectives, knowledge, and experiences that strengthen our classrooms, research, and cross-cultural competencies of every UW student, faculty, and staff member. Their presence creates a deeper learning environment and generates innovative research that addresses local and global challenges.

This website was created and maintained by the [International Student Success Committee \(ISSC\)](#).

International Student Success Committee

- Origin
- Development
- Current State

fyp.washington.edu/issc

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



International Graduate Student Advisory Board

- Leadership Development
- Consultation
- Event Planning
- Research & Policy



TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



Undergraduate First Year Experience Initiatives

Flipped Orientation

- University 101 - foundation
- Advising & Orientation - application
- Husky Guide - expansion

+19.3%

Increase in ability to register for courses at A&O.



Population-specific affinity buttons.

Dawg Daze

- Engagement
- Welcome Week
- Population-specific events

45%

of Transfer students are First-Generation Students.

300+

Events offered during Dawg Daze.

TRANSITIONAL NEEDS



FIGs: First-year Interest Groups

- Exploration
- Peer-facilitated, clustered seminars

+6.11%

Increase in Six-Year Graduation Rates

+3.28%

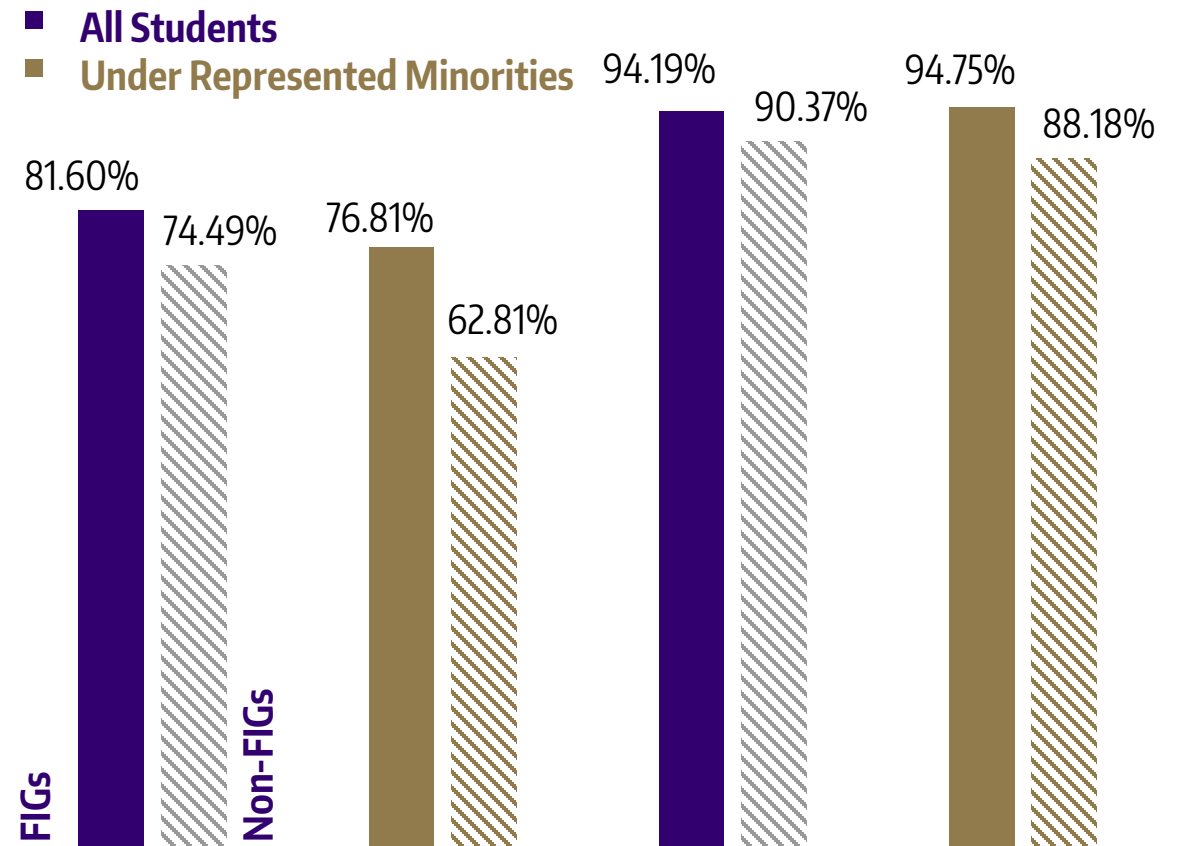
Increase in First to Second Year Re-Enrollment Rates

+14%

For URM Students

+6.57%

For URM Students



STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATION



The changing demographic realities of graduate students require rethinking and restructuring student services designed to support them (Polson, 2003).

How can we streamline efforts between undergraduate and graduate student affairs units to support student transition, persistence, and retention for both populations?

STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATION



Pair & Share

Leveraging Relationships

- What relationships currently exist?
- How does your institutional climate affect collaboration?

STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATION



Individually & In Small Groups

Worksheet:

- Organizational Readiness
- Personal or Organizational Assets
- Transitional Needs of your Students
- Action Steps

STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATION



Large Group Action Planning

- Ideas
- Questions
- Recommendations & Best Practices
- Action Steps

KEEP IN TOUCH



Takeaways

- First 90 Days Curriculum
- Online Resources (U101, U501)
- Tips & tools for collaboration

15% Solutions

- One thing you can do in the next month to put your plans into action

Exchange your notecard
with someone to follow up in 90 days.



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