

Nut and Bolts of Freshmen Orientation: Preparation for life for Generation iY.

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Agronomy Orientation

- Transferred from College of Agriculture to department level Fall 2012
- Practical, procedural approach
- Priority: Freshman to Sophomore retention
- Qualified graduates



Welcome to College!

Syllabus Professor Competition
University Secondary Graduation Credit
Money
Grading Records Management Course
Honors Drop Requirements Dismissal
Minor Dates
College Good Orientation Hours Prereg Admissions
Goal Final Exam Hour Center Standing Pass/Fail Decision
Making Lecture GTA Teams Calendar Registrars Content
Enrollment GPA Schedule Box Recitation Union
RA Lab Office Ag Procrastination Coping Scale Solving
Skills Email Thinking Plagiarism
Cum Sorority Department Clubs Dual Scholarships
Due Critical Extra-Curricular Add Library Student
Time Assignment Lafere
Deductive Tutoring Aid K-State Advisor
Problem Styles Tips Learning
Bookstore Balance Class Financial
URE Activities Major
Internship
Study Fraternity Disability Government
Sleep Mid-Term Instructor
Organizations Setting



Generation iY: Who are they?



- Younger Millennials, born after 1990
- Population defined by technology (iPod, iPhone, iPad, iTunes)
- For many, life is pretty much about “I”

A closer look

- Overwhelmed
- Overconnected
- Overprotected
- Overserved
- Energetic
- Confident
- Capable



24 Freshmen – Fall 2012

- 87% sure they wanted to attend Kansas State
- 62% positive they wanted to major in Agronomy



Course Outcomes

- Who are we?
- Why are we here?
- You are majoring in what?
- What does it takes to be a professional?
- What will you do when you graduate?
- Learning about learning.

Breaking it down

- Navigating campus and the community.
- Where to begin?
- Graduation is 127 hours away.
- So many activities, so little time!
- Learning beyond campus.
- Undergraduate Research Experiences.

Adding what counts

- Short, relevant reading, writing, reflection, resumes, career fair, and venturing out!

Thank
you letter

Deadlines

Attend a
meeting of
a club or
organization

Time
Management

Goal Setting –
With Advisor

Attendance
Expected

Where's Willie – Scavenger Hunt!



What we learned

- 50% reported studying less than 15 hours a week throughout their first semester
- Nearly half stated they felt stressed
- Most reported they procrastinated in completing assignments
- Yet They reported being highly motivated!

Freshman to Sophomore Retention

	2006*	2007*	2008*	2009*	2010*	AGRON 2012**
Retained at K-State	79%	78%	79%	81%	82%	88%
Retained in College of Ag	80%	80%	79%	80%	83%	88%
Retained in Agronomy (18/24)						75%

* Official Data – Planning and Analysis, All Students

** Agronomy Orientation Class Fall 2012-Spring 2013

Where did they go?

- 3 students transferred to Ag Bus
- 3 students were dismissed

**19 Students A or B in
Orientation**

1 on Warning

5 Students C, D, or F in
Orientation

All on Warning or
Dismissed

What they said ...

- “Although I might not pass this class, I now understand the importance and it has enabled me to mature a lot as a student and person.”
- “The topics covered were relevant; they covered important tips for studying and succeeding in college.”
- “I read the handouts and found most of them helpful. It also helped that we had to read them early before tests and things started rolling, that way I knew what to look for.”

They had more to say ...

- “Although the assignments initially seemed pointless and time consuming, I now understand the importance of doing things that might not seem like much in the beginning but end up teaching you some of the necessary traits you will need in order to be successful in the world.”
- “Spread out a few assignments. I know why you did it the way you did, but it was a little harsh.”

Reality for the future

- Generation iY learns on a “need to know basis”
- The less predictable your words, the more memorable they will be
- The first four minutes must grab their head or their heart
- The more “in your face” your words are, the more trust you will earn.

Reality for the future

- For your message to be remembered, keep the pace of change high, and call students to change
- Students today are both high-performance and high maintenance
- It is about connections and conversations.



Conclusion

- Work with students to simplify their lives and deal with stress.
- Communicate that there is meaning even in small, mundane tasks.
- Enable them to take control of their lives, to boss their calendars.



Final thought

“I am convinced that we who lead young people today must pay attention to the **way** we lead if we are to correct some of the damage that has been done to this generation.”

~ Tim Elmore

Questions?



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