

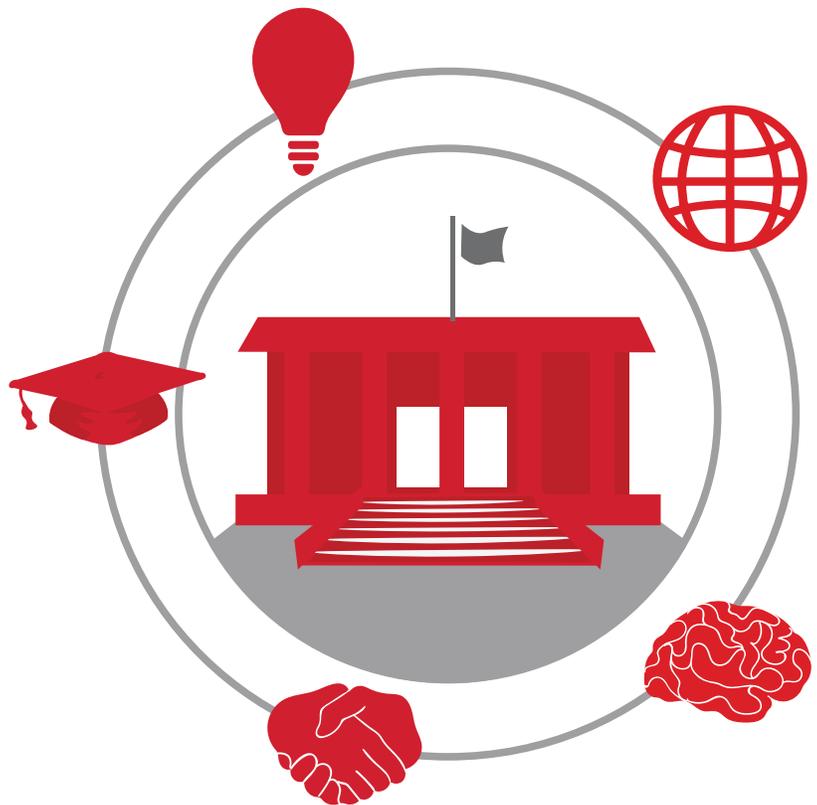
## INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

### Transfer Orientation

**THE GOAL OF NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION** is to support the continuous process of **integrating new students into the academic, cultural, and social context of CSUN.**

In keeping with the goal of New Student Orientation, the Office of Student Involvement and Development (OSID) has designed Transfer Orientation to meet the needs of incoming transfer students.

**IN THIS REPORT,** we share the preliminary findings of a collaboration between **OSID AND IR STAFF** in which we examined the impact of Transfer Orientation on transfer students' success at CSUN.



### Student Data

The data represented here include **1,142** incoming transfer students who participated in Transfer Orientation in the summer preceding the Fall **2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012** semesters. These data were merged with student data from the Office of Institutional Research.

Since participation in Transfer Orientation is voluntary, it is possible that students who choose to participate are different in meaningful ways from those who do not. For this reason, we used a statistical technique, propensity score matching, to match the Transfer Orientation participants to a similar group of non-participants.

Groups were matched on: race/ethnic group, cohort year, gender, Transfer GPA, parent education, and residence or non-residence in local area. In all, **1,142** Transfer Orientation participants were matched with **1,142** transfer students who did not participate in Orientation (out of **12,766** non-participants).

# Student Outcomes Data

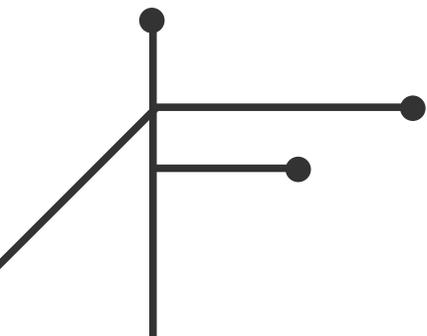
We then examined whether the participant group differed from the matched non-participant group on the following first-year outcomes: first-year CSUN GPA, academic standing after the first year, and persistence into the second year (re-enrollment in the third term), along with 2-year and 4-year graduation rates.

## Findings

Propensity score analyses indicated that, of all the variables, participation in Transfer Orientation was associated with a higher likelihood of continuation into the second year:

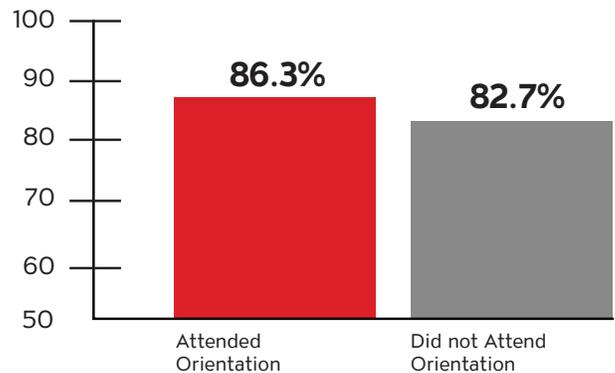
**STUDENTS WHO ATTEND** Transfer Orientation are 3.6%\* more likely to continue into the third term. Transfer Orientation participants are also 4.6%\* more likely to graduate in 4 years compared to those who did not attend Transfer Orientation.

Transfer Orientation participation was not reliably associated with first-year CSUN GPA, academic standing at the end of the first year, and 2-year graduation rates.

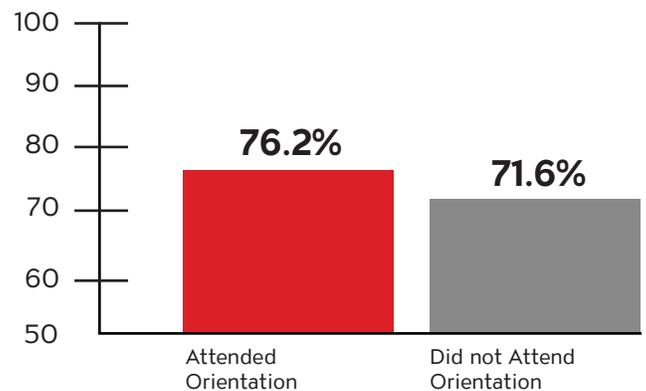


\* $p < 0.05$ : 95% confidence in a true group difference.

## Third-Term Continuation Rates



## 4-Year Graduation Rates



## Preliminary Conclusions

These results are promising as they show that participation in Transfer Orientation is associated with **increased persistence rates** and **increased 4-year graduation rates**, even after matching Transfer Orientation participants with similar students who did not attend Transfer Orientation.

OSID and IR staff will continue this collaboration to examine the outcomes associated with participation in this program, especially as we gather additional data, and as students continue in their career at CSUN.

For questions about this report, please contact us at [ir@csun.edu](mailto:ir@csun.edu)