Serving graduate and international graduate students at the University of Florida

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Graduate and professional students make up 32% of UF student body

Graduate and professional students receive 34% of discretionary Activity and Service Fee funding

46% of use of Student Legal Services is by graduate and professional students

Career Resource Center has many specific programs and resources
Graduate Student Council requests from Student Affairs:

- Airport pickups for international students from GNV airport and arrangement for other airports by UF staff
- Additional bus service from GNV during break weeks in August
- Provide welcoming and informational signage at GNV
- Add a full-time staff person to solely assist international and graduate students
2012 Graduate Student Transition Survey

- Survey focusing solely on transitional issues
- Drafted with input from GSC, UFIC, Graduate School, Student Affairs
- Deployed in January 2012
- Surveyed all graduate students with demographic breakout for international students
- Used graduate student listserv, international student listserv, and GSC
Arrival process: All respondents

- 1291 total respondents
- Nearly 41% drove themselves in their car
- Nearly 28% flew into GNV
- Nearly 13% flew into Orlando
Arrival process: International students

- 491 international students
- Nearly 56% flew into GNV
- Nearly 23% flew into Orlando
- 81.67% said they felt welcome upon first arrival to Gainesville
how easy was it to get information before you arrived about...GETTING TO GAINESVILLE

36.05% very easy
33.81% somewhat easy
18.53% neutral
8.76% somewhat difficult
2.85% very difficult

very easy
36.05%
somewhat easy
13.08%
neutral
7.85%
somewhat difficult
1.01%
very difficult
2.85%
international

domestic
After getting to the U.S., best description of your pickup...

- **Taxi/shuttle**: 15.90% international, 28.89% domestic
- **Bus**: 6.97% international, 6.67% domestic
- **Academic dept**: 5.93% international, 6.67% domestic
- **Friend/personal...**: 22.22% international, 29.19% domestic
- **Stranger arranged by...**: 6.67% international, 35.51% domestic
- **Other**: 7.91% international, 28.89% domestic
After arriving in Gainesville...

where did you stay your first night

- **in your house/apt**: 27.70% (International), 61.77% (Domestic)
- **hotel/short term apt**: 16.90% (International), 26.16% (Domestic)
- **academic dept**: 2.24% (International), 0.20% (Domestic)
- **friend**: 18.94% (International), 9.46% (Domestic)
- **acquaintance**: 7.94% (International), 1.61% (Domestic)
- **arranged by friend/student org**: 26.27% (International), 0.80% (Domestic)
How easy was it to get information before you arrived about housing?

- Very easy:
  - International: 16.50%
  - Domestic: 25.15%

- Somewhat easy:
  - International: 34.01%
  - Domestic: 28.77%

- Neutral:
  - International: 25.46%
  - Domestic: 22.33%

- Somewhat difficult:
  - International: 17.72%
  - Domestic: 19.11%

- Very difficult:
  - International: 8.35%
  - Domestic: 4.63%
when did you sign a lease?

- International: 62.37%
- Domestic: 21.79%

- 1 month +: International - 18.74%, Domestic - 30%
- less than 1 month: International - 25.25%, Domestic - 6.24%
- 1–3 days after: International - 18.13%, Domestic - 3.02%
- 4–7 days after: International - 9.78%, Domestic - 1.01%
- 8–14 days after: International - 4.89%, Domestic - 43%
- more than 2 weeks after: International - 1.43%, Domestic - 5.63%
- still not final: International - 5.63%, Domestic - 1.43%
What is your primary source of housing information?

- UF housing website: 6.31% (international), 5.03% (domestic)
- UF off campus life website: 4.38% (international), 3.22% (domestic)
- Other websites: 31.16% (international), 12.68% (domestic)
- UFIC mail package: 0% (international), 1.02% (domestic)
- Other: 20.32% (international), 13.03% (domestic)

- My department: 3.22% (international), 1.63% (domestic)
- From other UF students: 42.36% (international), 12.68% (domestic)
Next steps with transition results

- Asking academic departments to reach out to graduate/international students and assist with transition
- Sharing college–specific results with colleges
- Partnering with Graduate School to provide more complete information for all students about transition information
- Sharing results with UFIC and graduate school
- Short–term UF housing stay options
- Improve information about transition to students via website
Next steps with graduate and professional students

- More direct communication with graduate and international student leaders
- Learn more about the graduate student experience through research
- Others?
Discussion

- In what ways can we serve graduate and professional students better?
- In what ways can we serve international students better?
- Are you tracking student usage of your programs, services, and activities?