



Research Briefs

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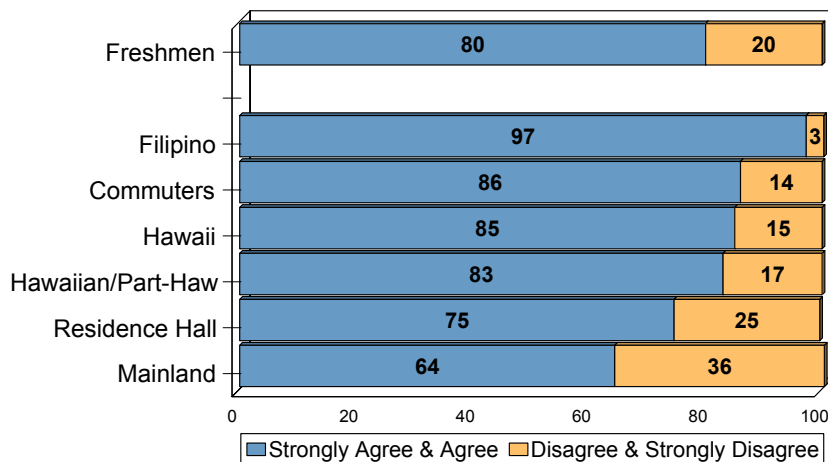
Freshmen Satisfaction With New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation plays a critical role in the success and retention of students during their first college year.

First-time freshmen at UH-Mānoa, after participating in classes and experiencing campus life for about six weeks into the fall 2007 semester, were asked to reflect back to the New Student Orientation program they experienced when entering UHM. They were asked on a four-point scale of “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” whether most of what they obtained from attending the New Student Orientation would serve them well.

- Most freshmen (80 percent) reported that NSO would serve them well.
- Filipino students (97 percent) overwhelmingly agreed that NSO would serve them well.
- Hawaiian/Part-Hawaiian students (83 percent) as well as commuters (86 percent) and students from Hawaii (85 percent) also agreed more than freshmen in general on the impact of NSO.
- Of the student groups surveyed, freshmen living on-campus (75 percent) and especially freshmen from the mainland (64 percent) found NSO less likely to meet their needs.

Figure 1
 Percent of Freshmen Agreement That New Student Orientation Would Serve Them Well



(Over)

The study also suggests a relationship between freshmen graduation plans and the extent freshmen reported that New Student Orientation would meet their needs.

- The majority or 81 percent of freshmen plan to graduate from UHM while 16 percent plan to transfer before graduation and 3 percent simply plan not to graduate from UHM.
- A 2006 study of freshmen who left UHM after one year revealed that 14 percent always planned to transfer before graduation thus corroborating the results above.
- Freshmen who planned to graduate from UHM were more likely to report that NSO would serve them well compared to freshmen who planned to transfer before graduation or planned not to graduate from UHM.
- For freshmen who planned to graduate from UHM, time to degree appeared to have little bearing on how well orientation met their needs.

Figure 2
Freshmen Graduation Plans and Agreement That NSO Would Serve Them Well

Freshmen Graduation Plans	Percent of Freshmen	Percent of Freshmen Who Report That Orientation Would Serve Them Well
Plan not to graduate from UHM	3	64
Plan to transfer while at UHM	16	73
Plan to graduate in 4 years	54	83
Plan to graduate in 5 years	23	80
Plan to graduate in 6 years or more	4	80

Questions arise as to how or whether NSO or the institution should address the needs of freshmen whose educational goal upon entry is to transfer from UHM, whether their needs differ significantly from students who plan to graduate from UHM as well as whether addressing such issues can lead to the retention of potential transfers who might benefit from a UH-M-noa educational experience.

Source: 2007 Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) web survey of first-time classified freshmen with a response rate of 428 or 24 percent and margin of error of about +/- 4.8 percent, OVCS.