New Student Programs

Eagle View Orientation – First Year Advising – Parent & Family Programs

Two programs spearheaded by First Year Advising that are designed to encourage students to select a major early in their college career are the Eagle Flight Plan and the annual Majors Fair. Both of these programs are central to our work with new students during the fall semester.

The Eagle Flight Plan, kicked off in 2010, involves brief presentations delivered by staff from both student affairs and academic affairs to all Composition sections during the fall semester. The presentation covers reasons students should explore major options early:

- Avoid the excess hour surcharge
- Graduate on time
- Earn better grades and maintain interest
- Participate in resume-building experiences

The presentation also discusses ways students can explore major options and find a good fit for themselves:

- Consult with counselors, advisors, and faculty
- Talk with or shadow recent graduates and active professionals
- Meet with Counseling and Psychological Services
- Visit Career Services
- Compare major tracks
- Utilize online assessments such as My Plan
- Attend the Majors Fair

Following the introduction of this initiative, attendance at the Majors Fair increased from the low 300s in 2009 to over 500 student attendees at the Fair in 2010. We expect further increases as more Composition faculty integrate writing assignments related to the Eagle Flight Plan presentation and the Majors Fair into their curriculum.

Around since 2003, the Annual Majors Fair allows students to explore major and minor options housed within all of FGCU’s colleges. The fair puts faculty and advisors from each ac-
academic college in the same room with with academically-related student organizations, Career Services, Counseling and Psychological Services, and First Year Advisors for students to visit and ask questions. The event has increased in attendance amongst students as well as faculty and staff, and would not be possible without the financial support of Student Government and the financial and organizational collaboration with Career Services.

The Annual Majors Fair will take place this fall on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 11am-3pm in the Cohen Center Ballroom. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome!

Feedback from Student Participants

- “I didn’t even know you had this program available, now I know I can stay here for all 4 years.”
- “I have a lot of information to look into before I decide on my major. The information I picked up today will help me strategize what I need to do.”
- “Now I have a good idea about how my major can lead into graduate school.”
- “I’m really looking forward to my junior year when I can start taking classes with the professor I met today. He’s really enthusiastic about his program and I feel like I share this enthusiasm now. Before I just wasn’t sure.”

Feedback from Faculty and Staff Participants

Dr. Jerry Schoenfeld, Associate Professor of Management in the Lutgert College of Business: “The Majors Fair is a great opportunity! If you are unsure what major and future career you desire the majors fair provides you with a one stop location to get all of your questions answered by faculty and advisors who can discuss with you the specifics of your major and its career prospects. Your major choice is one of the most important decisions you will make and you can get no better information then by going to the event.”

Allison Bacigalupi, Academic Advisor in Undergraduate Studies: “The Majors Fair is an efficient and effective way for students to gain exposure to all of the various undergraduate programs at FGCU, in a comfortable and inclusive environment. Students have the opportunity to interact with advisors and faculty in the different academic Colleges, and to explore major and minor options. Students get the chance to talk to faculty about potential careers associated with their major(s), as well as other co-curricular opportunities that enhance their academic experience, such as service learning, internships, and research. The Majors Fair continues to grow each year, not only in the number of students who attend the event, but in the participation from the University community.”