The First Year Advising Center Follows Developmental Model
The importance of designing, implementing and assessing transition services for first-year and transfer students and their families has never been greater. Today, the tasks associated with preparing for and transitioning to college are challenging at best and overwhelming for most, especially for those individuals who have not had adequate prior experience to assist in developing realistic expectations of what college will be like. The design of first-year and transfer programs is enhanced when considering models and best practices that are based upon sound theory and research. In that respect, the programs and services of First Year Advising, Eagle View Orientation and the Parent Office follow a developmental model that underscores a holistic approach to students' transition to, and development within, college.

Eagle View Orientation
Eagle View Orientation provides the gateway to Florida Gulf Coast University for our new students and parents. The program seeks to promote student learning by incorporating themes that emphasize student responsibility, learning, and personal growth. In addition, the program provides leadership training to currently enrolled students who wish to assist professional staff by mentoring new students and families during orientation. Over 1900 freshmen and 1097 transfer students attended Eagle View Orientations during the summer of 2007.

Freshman Eagle View Orientation program events include:

- Videos on programs and services at FGCU
- Faculty panel discussions
- Pool parties and movies
- Math placement testing
- Poster tables on clubs, organizations and other programs
- Theatrical skits on college life
- Introduction to the freshman summer book reading
- Academic advising
- Tutorials on Angel
- Tours of campus
- Class scheduling and registration

Outcomes of student surveys regarding their experience at orientation continue to demonstrate the program is effective in meeting its objectives.

2007 ORIENTATION SURVEY
As a result of attending orientation, I feel positive about coming to FGCU

Mean of student responses on a 5-Point Scale N = 704

Percent of student responses to Yes N = 722

2007 ORIENTATION SURVEY
All of my questions were answered at orientation

For comments or suggestions regarding this issue, please contact:
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First Year Advising Center at
(239) 590-7876 | ABrunner@fgcu.edu

Connections is available online at
studentservices.fgcu.edu/publications

Connections may be obtained in an alternative format by contacting the Office of Institutional Equity & Compliance at 239-590-7405 or 800-590-3428, or the Office of Adaptive Services at 239-590-7956.
The Parent Office
The Parent Office at Florida Gulf Coast University provides information and services for the parents and families of FGCU students. The offices serves as a resource for families to assist in the transition to college by providing communication and events that help connect families to the university. Over 1800 family members attended orientation during the 2007 sessions. Services provided include:

- Family orientation programming
- Monthly E-bulletin
- Parent handbook and calendar
- Information and referrals during the year
- Family Weekend
- Maintenance of a parent database

One of our most successful events includes Family Weekend. The event was hosted on October 26th of this past year. Over 700 family members were in attendance. The weekend activities coincided with the University’s 10th Anniversary Celebration, Eagle Expo and family activities included: a Faculty, Staff and Student Talent Night, Family Movie, and Sunday brunch at beautiful Eagles Landing.

First Year Advising (FYA)
Mindful of the framework, academic counselors design and implement practices and services that are in line with developmental theories. Among students who are advised by First Year Academic counselors are high school dual enrollment and early admission students, individuals who need guidance to build academic skills and first-time-in-college students (FTIC).

First Year initiatives include:
- Academic Counseling and Mentoring at Orientation, and throughout the first year of college.
- The First Year Academic Advising Syllabus, a contract clearly outlining the expectations for students in the advising process and the role of the advisor-mentor.
- The First Year Academic Advising Manual, a comprehensive online guide for first year students.
- Major Track Sheets, a complete web based 2-year outline of recommended coursework for each of FGCU’s majors (FTIC/sophomore).
- FASTRACK, a web based early warning system which allows faculty the opportunity to quickly send a report regarding a student who may be at academic risk.
- The Majors Fair, the convening of professional advisors and faculty to provide information about all of the FGCU programs to students seeking to compare programs or seek program information.

RESPONSES TO THE 2007 FIRST YEAR ADVISING STUDENT SURVEY

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<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent of FTIC students responding strongly agree/agree</th>
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| My FYA Advisor is informed about requirements, pre-requisites and electives | 97%
| My FYA Advisor listens attentively and communicates professionally | 99%
| My FYA Advisor treats me with respect and helps me feel at ease | 98%
| My FYA Advisor is helpful in suggesting courses for registration | 99%

N = 174