

KDE Education Continuation Task Force Question:

What are higher ed institutions doing to prepare for this cohort of seniors who may need remediation, or who are now anxious about going to college in the fall and feeling unprepared?

Responses: As of 4/20/2020

Eastern Kentucky University:

EKU will:

- Offer a number of virtual events that cover topics such as financial aid, orientation, campus visits and general information.
- Offer online orientation sessions with continuous follow-up throughout the summer from student orientation leaders.
- Offer virtual appointments with our Assoc. Director for Academic Readiness.
- Waive the test score requirement for admission.
- Accept unofficial high school transcripts for admission decisions.
- Extend scholarship offers and deadlines to accept them.
- Offer additional sections of English and math with built-in academic support in the fall.
- Pre-register students for the fall semester.

KCTCS

KCTCS Colleges are working very closely with current dual credit students to help ensure their success and completion in their college credit coursework. This support should help these students feel much more comfortable as they transition to higher education. College advisers and recruiters are communicating with all high school seniors through phone, text, social media, postal mail and email to make sure students are comfortable and have their college questions answered as they consider enrollment in a KCTCS College. Once admitted to the College (and Colleges are open access with no admission requirements), students participate in an orientation—events are now offered virtually or will be offered in person once campuses move from remote services to campus-based services.

Since this year's graduating high school seniors have already taken their ACTs, they come to the college ready to be placed appropriately into college courses. KCTCS Colleges take students who are close to college placement scores in English, math and reading and provide them supplemental instruction to help them be successful in the college-level course. Should a student need the extra support, a developmental/remedial course is available.

Kentucky State University

Pre-College Academy Program. This program is designed to support student success and to familiarize students with college learning. KSU offers a reduced course load that enables students to concentrate on best practices for learning while acculturating them to learning support and peer

tutoring as an adjunct to overall success. Within the Pre-College Academy, we Excel Scholars, whose overall performance is a little lower than regular admits, who have a specific course load that is further supplemented by extended wrap around learning support services. The program started last year, and the institution is preparing to assist those May 2020 high school graduates who may need a little more help getting started. There is regular outreach to the high school community through the work of our University College leadership, Drs. Charles Holloway and Walter Malone, and the on-going work of our dual credit coordinator as well.

Pre-College Academy program link: <https://kysu.edu/academics/university-college/pre-college-academy/>

Morehead State University:

Morehead State will:

- conduct one-on-one onboarding of students so each student gets our full attention and we can discuss their fears and strengths/weaknesses
- engage in holistic placement into general education courses involving mathematics, writing, and reading
- highlight all of the support services offered (during the onboarding process)
- offer peer coaching to students (and require it if the student is conditionally admitted)
- prepare a virtual success program that can be delivered prior to Fall semester.

Murray State University

Student Success Seminar for First-Year Students: Murray State University implemented student success discipline-specific freshmen transitions courses in which academic affairs and student affairs personnel collaborate as partner instructors. Faculty who are assigned to teach their disciplines' one-credit-hour transitions course are paired with student affairs, library, or graduate student volunteers. Discipline faculty deliver discipline-specific content and the success seminar instructors deliver content on time management, financial literacy, strategic learning, resiliency, managing college life, grit, growth mindset, and successful student behaviors. In order to determine the effect the success seminar had on the persistence and retention rates of the freshmen at Murray State University, the registrar provided yearly data to the director of Student Engagement and Success. Retention and persistence rates were compared between students who were enrolled in departmental transitions courses that incorporated the Student Success Seminar (SSS) and those who were enrolled in college transitions courses that did not incorporate the SSS (No SSS) beginning in the fall semester of 2014. Data indicated that those enrolled in the combined transitions and success seminar course were retained and persisted and higher rates than those only in the departmental transitions courses.

Since the fall of 2018, all departmental transitions courses have incorporated the success seminar. Persistence rates indicate continued positive results with the success seminar initiative. The persistence rates for first-year students from fall 2018 to spring 2019 was 86% and the persistence rate from fall 2019 to spring 2020 was 87%.

Student Success Coaches and Success Contracts for First-Year Students: Beginning in fall 2019, success contracts (learning contracts) were required of students who earned a 2.00-2.49 high school GPA. Staff in Student Engagement and Success managed the contracts and provided students with support, direction, and assistance as they transitioned to college and worked to meet their academic and personal goals.

Effective fall 2020, success coaches, organized through Student Engagement and Success, will work with students who have earned a 2.00-2.49 high school GPA and students who do not attain the testing ACT/SAT benchmark scores in two or three of the following content areas (English, Mathematics and Reading). These students will have a success contract (learning contract).

The Student Success Coach (SSC) is responsible for promoting a positive and successful learning experience for students in an effort to increase student retention, success, and completion. The SSC is integrally involved with all facets of a student's academic, personal, and future professional success. The SSC proactively mentors students while working closely with faculty and Student Affairs staff to support student success in and out of the classroom. The SSC has the student's well-being and success at the focus of their work and will coach students on goal setting, academic success skills, and utilizing appropriate campus resources. The SSC assumes both a teaching and a coaching role with equal importance given to both roles.

Success Coaches will:

- Mentor students who have a success contract for the full academic year.
- Manage the student success contracts
- Manage Starfish flags, kudos, referrals, and outreach
- Be assigned as a secondary advisor for students
- Teach ESS 131 (1 credit, hours arranged). Both fall and spring terms
- With Student Engagement and Success staff, plan and implement a workshop during Great Beginnings to connect students with success coaches, give students a head start on skills they need to be successful, and welcome them to campus.
- Meet regularly with the Student Engagement and Success team to a) ensure the quality of coaching; b) stay current on policies and procedures with regard to student success; and c) address any student issues that need a team approach for a successful resolution.

Starfish Student Success Network: Starfish Student Success Network is Murray State's new holistic student success platform that supports student engagement and success through academic support, student self-service capabilities, increased communication, and stronger connections between faculty, students, advisors and support services.

The platform allows students to view their schedules and grades, ask for help, and connect with their success teams. Faculty members can use early alerts, kudos, and progress reports to make sure students stay focused in classes while advisors, student support staff, and administrators can support student and their journey towards educational success.

Racers Empower - Healthy Minds, Healthy Campus: Racers Empower: Healthy Minds, Healthy Campus is a collaborative effort by students, staff, and faculty members of Murray State University to promote mental health and wellness on campus. Mental health, especially anxiety and depression, is a major concern on college campuses. Racers Empower aims to: share resources, encourage students to share and talk about their experiences to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness, connect students with support services and activities, and promote a healthy mind and body for success.

Great Beginnings Leader Program for First-Year and Transfer Students: The Great Beginnings Leaders (GBLs) are Murray State students who are often the first people to make a positive impression on new students and their families during the transition to college. GBLs primary goals are to: (1) Welcome new students, (2) Advocate for Great Beginnings events, (3) Help students navigate campus and available resources, and (4) promote the Residential College System and the Murray State University community. GBLs help first-year and transfer students make the transition into college and serve as a mentor and supporter; they serve as welcoming

ambassadors to new students and their families. This program is offered every fall semester. In fall 2018, there were 84 Great Beginnings Leaders. This was the first year two GBLs were designated to work specifically with the international student population. Each GBL had approximately 20 new students to contact. GBLs reached out to all new and transfer students (approximately 1500) in fall 2019.

Supporting and Engaging Families: Family Weekend is a time for Murray State students and their families to reconnect and share in the many activities hosted by the University and the Murray community. For many new students, it is the first time their family has returned to see them since they started college. While a fun-filled weekend, the University also sees Family Weekend as a retention tool allowing for families to reconnect with their student and allowing the University to share resources with families. In fall 2019, there were 565 families registered for Family Weekend. Over 2000 were served at the lunch and many more attended the football game.

In 2019, the Division of Student Affairs launched the Parent/Family Advisory Council. This council is comprised of a diverse group of parents of current Murray State students. Parents on the committee represent these populations: first-generation, student athlete, veteran/military dependent, and underrepresent minority.

The Office of Student Engagement and Success produces a bi-monthly e-newsletter for families to help them stay informed about activities on campus. The newsletter is filled with information related to academics, student affairs, athletics, and more. Within the newsletter, the parent referral is explained. It is extremely important that families are informed and engaged and the newsletter is one way which the University achieves this objective.

Northern Kentucky University

NKU is prepared to serve and support students by offering:

- spring and summer outreach to (admitted students and parents)
 - build communities
 - financial literacy
- summer programs: <https://www.nku.edu/admissions/undergrad/SummerPrograms.html>
- virtual summer registration programs with the support of faculty, staff and orientation leaders
- co-requisite courses in English, Math and Reading
- tutoring in 100-200 level courses: <https://inside.nku.edu/plus/tutoring.html>
- University 101-orientation to college class (optional)
- multiple peer mentor programs
- support offices:
 - University Connect and Persist <https://inside.nku.edu/ucap.html>
 - Early Alert Program
 - Health, Counseling and Student Wellness <https://inside.nku.edu/hcsw.html>
 - Office of Student Accessibility <https://inside.nku.edu/disability.html>
- Onboarding resources:
<https://www.nku.edu/academicaffairs/resources/student/onlinetransition.html>