



Announcing GPS *Quick Start* Orientation!

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Over five years ago, SFSC developed a program to help new students transition to college called Guide to Personal Success (GPS) as a college-wide quality initiative for the SACSCOC accreditation process. Composed of three elements (New Student Orientation, First-Year Experience Seminar, and Faculty Academy) GPS has proven to be a valuable resource to help new students get off to a great start at SFSC. Data analysis has shown improvement in student retention and success rates, likely influenced by participation in GPS. Although our five-year SACSCOC quality project period has now ended, GPS has not. It has been institutionalized as an on-going, permanent part of new student onboarding at SFSC. We are pleased to announce a new, streamlined GPS orientation model called *Quick Start*, which debuts for pilot testing in mid-January 2018!

GPS *Quick Start*, which will be managed by the SFSC Career Development Center, is designed to make the college orientation process more efficient for incoming students. It will remain a mandatory requirement for all new and returning students prior to initial registration for classes at SFSC. These are highlights of *Quick Start*:

- Content has been carefully selected from the prior Waypoint 1-6 modules. *Quick Start* will feature these four waypoints:

Waypoint 1 - Continuation of the existing online Waypoint 1 video-based module.

Waypoint 2 - Attendance at a *Quick Start* on-campus orientation workshop. Students also receive their SFSC Panther Central log-in credentials, ID card and parking pass, and a free SFSC t-shirt at this workshop.

Waypoint 3 - Receipt of a personalized Navigation Guide outlining each student's next step(s) to fully complete admission requirements and to register for classes.

Waypoint 4 - Completion of SLS 1106 (First-Year Experience Seminar) during their first term for new or returning degree-seeking students with fewer than 15 successful college credit hours.

- The on-campus portion of orientation (Waypoint 2) will be shortened to two hours (following a brief check-in process), delivered by a single well-trained staff or faculty presenter.
- Content and delivery model will be universal and suitable for presentation at every SFSC campus and center. Staff will be trained at each campus and center to deliver GPS *Quick Start*.
- Every Thursday will be orientation day at the SFSC Highlands Campus. GPS *Quick Start* will be offered weekly (at rotating times beginning at 8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., or 6 p.m.) to serve small groups of students. The schedule for *Quick Start* at outlying SFSC campuses and centers has been determined by the center directors. When necessary, additional sessions will be scheduled to meet demand during peak registration periods.
- SFSC University Center, Room 208, recently converted from a classroom to a computer lab, is now the primary training center for Student Services and will be the new location for GPS *Quick Start* check-in and delivery. Please direct students to that location on orientation days.

- The focus of *Quick Start* will be on sharing SFSC successes, student activities and services, exciting new curricular options, and hands-on practice in a computer lab in the use of Panther Central and Panther Den/Desire to Learn.
- All new and returning students, including incoming Dual Enrollment students, will participate in this mandatory program. Dually enrolled students will complete the same Waypoint 1 and Waypoint 2 *Quick Start* workshops as traditional students; separate Dual Enrollment orientations will no longer be offered after this transition year.
- Students will use the SFSC application self-service center to select their desired orientation date and to self-schedule for that session. Automated reminders will also be provided.

Support for the orientation program will continue to be provided by IT, eLearning, Admissions and Registration, and other areas of the college. The master GPS orientation schedule has already been developed for calendar year 2018. If you would like a copy of that calendar or have questions about the GPS *Quick Start* program, contact GPS Orientation Specialist Pam Hayes at 863-784-7412 or Career Center Director Colleen Rafatti at 863-784-7411.

We look forward to our new students having a pawsitively awesome orientation experience as a result of this streamlined model!