

## **Advising Plans for Summer 2009 Freshmen Orientation**

The dates for freshmen orientation are set and plans made for this summer's Freshmen Orientation sessions in which we expect to enroll a record number of freshmen for the Class of 2013. The academic piece of orientation has been changed, so we want you to know what's going on. In response to faculty concerns about wanting to separate advising and scheduling, we have devised the following plan. In the past faculty have tried to explain certain information to students while also trying to help them schedule classes. Unfortunately, these faculty have had to forego much explanation about their majors and nuances of the majors because of the panic to get students enrolled in courses before they're closed. The new plan should give students some background for making a reasonable schedule without the panic of getting a particular class. Students will not receive advisement codes until after lunch and thus will be more able to focus on the advising process.

Day 2 of orientation starts at 8:30 with a student panel discussing with incoming freshmen "what I wish I had known before starting UTC." Following the panel will be brief presentations by Mary Roland, Director of the Student Success Center, and Linda Orth, University Registrar.

After the above session and starting at 10:00, students will be divided into ten groups based on their intended major (about 30-35 students per group). During this session, a faculty member and a professional advisor will give an overview of general education, including its philosophy and reasons for having a general education curriculum. Following this presentation will be an explanation of general education in a specific way, including an explanation of the different categories and what they entail. Then faculty members will explain RAP sheets and check sheets in a general way, i.e., talking about what a RAP sheet is and its function during a student's tenure at UTC. Following this will be brief presentations on English and math placement, with special emphasis on the interpretation of math scores for placement into specific major-related math courses and emphasis on AP and dual-enrollment credit. Other topics to be covered include pre-requisites and co-requisites, catalog year requirements, first-year seminar course (USTU 125), new one-hour topics courses, and learning communities.

After this general overview, which should take about an hour, students will learn about their major requirements and typical course selections. At this time (about 11:00), we will need, in addition to the faculty member leading the session and the professional advisor, additional faculty from the majors represented in each small group. This part differs from previous summers in that we're asking faculty to come to where the students are instead of the other way around. Some small groups will consist of perhaps only one major, e.g., nursing. However, other groups may have a combination of majors represented, as in the humanities and fine arts. At this time students will begin planning their schedules with the faculty from their major. It is possible that we will have faculty from several different disciplines talking about their specific curricula. During this time students and faculty will plan a schedule,

but students will not register. We're hoping that these sessions will give students necessary information for planning their schedules without the frenzy of signing up for courses. Finally, faculty will tell students in which lab they will meet after lunch for actual registration.

At noon students will go to lunch in the UC and then go to designated labs for scheduling their classes at 1 p.m. At this time students will receive their advisement codes and begin to register. Labs across campus have been reserved for registration during these Friday afternoon sessions. Faculty will work with these students until all leave with a schedule. In summary, faculty who help with advising during orientation should be available from about 11 until 3 (or until all advisees in the respective disciplines have registered) on the second day of orientation on these dates: June 5, 12, 19, and 26, July 17 and 24, and on August 12 ( a one-day orientation session).