

EN 2: Student Orientation

2 points available

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that include sustainability in orientation activities and programming. Including sustainability in student orientation demonstrates that sustainability is an institutional goal and encourages students to adopt sustainable habits in their new school environments. Orientation sets the tone for the campus experience.

Applicability

This credit applies to all institutions that hold student orientation.

Criteria

Institution includes sustainability prominently in its student orientation activities and programming. Sustainability activities and programming are intended to educate about the principles and practices of sustainability. The topics covered include multiple dimensions of sustainability (i.e., environmental, social, and economic).

As this credit is intended to recognize programming and student learning about sustainability, incorporating sustainability strategies into event planning (e.g., making recycling bins accessible or not serving bottled water) is not, in and of itself, sufficient for this credit. Such strategies may count if they are highlighted and are part of the educational offerings. For example, serving local food would not, in and of itself, be sufficient for this credit; however, serving local food and providing information about sustainable food systems during meals could contribute to earning this credit.

Scoring

An institution earns the maximum of 2 points available for this credit when sustainability is included prominently in orientation activities and programming made available to all entering students. Incremental points are available based on the percentage of entering students that are provided an opportunity to participate in orientation activities and programming that prominently include sustainability. For example, an institution that offers activities and programming that meet the criteria to 50 percent of its entering students would earn 1 point (half of the points available for this credit).

Points for this credit are calculated automatically in the STARS Reporting Tool as follows:

Factor		Percentage of entering students provided orientation activities and programming that include sustainability (0-100)		Points earned
0.02	×	_____	=	Up to 2

Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ Are the following students provided an opportunity to participate in orientation activities and programming that prominently include sustainability?
 - First-year students
 - Transfer students
 - Entering graduate students (if applicable)

If yes to any of the above, provide:

- Percentage of all entering students (including transfer and graduate students) that are provided an opportunity to participate in orientation activities and programming that prominently include sustainability (0-100)
- A brief description of how sustainability is included prominently in new student orientation (Include how multiple dimensions of sustainability are addressed.)

Optional

- ☐ Website URL where information about sustainability in student orientation is available
- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

Measurement

Timeframe

Institutions may choose to report activities from the most recent semester (or equivalent), the most recent year, or the three years prior to the anticipated date of submission.

Sampling and Data Standards

Report on all entering (i.e., new) students, including transfer and graduate students.

Standards and Terms

Not applicable.

Credit Example: Student Orientation

This credit is based on including sustainability prominently in student orientation activities. The following examples are provided to illustrate prominent inclusion of sustainability.

Example 1: Several strategies

The new student orientation at Example College included the following activities, which taken together amount to prominent inclusion of sustainability.

- Students received compact fluorescent light bulbs and tips for saving energy.
- There was a service learning fair highlighting local non-profit organizations and an optional service learning trip to restore wildlife habitat and to learn about the local ecosystem.
- All students were able to take a tour that highlighted the institution's sustainability features.
- The institution screened a film about sustainability.
- A faculty member gave a convocation lecture about her sustainability research and how the institution has integrated sustainability across the curriculum.

Example 2: A major sustainability event

All new students at Example University participated in faculty-led, small-group discussions about sustainability.