New Student Orientation (NSO) takes place each summer from mid-June to mid-July. During that time, more than 1200 College of Arts and Sciences students receive advisement on planning their first semesters here at UD.

At the University of Delaware, NSO is a one-day program. Students and their families attend a full day of events designed to provide information to both students and parents. Students and their guests attend a morning welcome together. Then, by design, students and parents have separate schedules for the day. The Orientation Leaders, undergraduates working with the NSO office, break our new students into small groups. Each group will stay together for the day and students will attend sessions on campus safety, student life, transition to college, and academic life. All students and parents are offered campus tours and the opportunity to meet with various campus support services during a lunch-time resource fair. Offices like Disability Support Services, the Office of Academic Enrichment, Career Services, Student Wellness & Health Promotion, and many other offices are represented in the resource fair so that students are aware of these services early on.

Each day the UAS staff members meet with all College of Arts and Sciences students for two sessions. The first session is called a “Pre-Advisement” session. In this large group session, incoming students learn about all of the degree requirements in the College, the academic deadlines, and the structure of advising in the College. Later in the day, incoming students meet one-on-one with a graduate student advisor in order to select their courses for the first semester. Each academic department determines the recommended first-semester schedule for its own incoming students. The graduate student advisors, who are masters and doctoral level candidates in the College of Arts and Sciences, guide students through the process of selecting breadth requirements; understanding math and foreign language placement; and exploring areas of interest. Incoming students are also able to ask any questions they may have about academics here at UD. The UAS staff oversees all of the appointments and ensures that each student’s schedule is reviewed before students are registered for courses.

Incoming transfer students typically receive additional support following their NSO day. Transfer students must typically work closely with departmental faculty in order to have courses from their prior institutions reviewed for UD course equivalency. This can be a lengthy process for some, so they are encouraged to contact faculty members as far in advance of the fall semester as possible.

International students who are on campus during the summer are invited to participate in our traditional NSO program. Students who will not arrive to the Newark area until late August are offered a separate orientation day specifically for international students, referred to as ISO. ISO is modeled closely after traditional NSO, but with a special focus on the challenges of being in a foreign country and adjusting to a new academic system. ISO advising is a bit different than traditional NSO advisement, as we begin outreach to our international students well in advance of their arrival. UAS coordinators meet with international students via Skype and by phone in order to allow those students the same advanced registration opportunities as our domestic student body. This early outreach also allows for the students to connect with a UAS staff member before arriving, which can serve as a helpful support relationship.

If you’d like more information about NSO or ISO, please see the department’s web site: http://www.udel.edu/students/nso/
UPCOMING DATES

Academic Penalty Deadline
April 16, 2013 (last day to withdraw or change to Audit & Pass/Fail)

Fall 2012 Registration Begins
April 18

UAS Probation Sessions:
Tuesday, 4/16: 2PM in MEM 124
Monday, 4/22: 10:30AM in Gore 308
Wednesday, 4/24 at 4PM in Purnell 331

Faculty members are welcome at any of these sessions. Your liaison would also be happy to conduct a probation training session for your department.

Last Day of Spring 2012 Classes
May 14

Last Day of Spring 2012 Final Exams
May 23

Faculty Q & A

Faculty Question:
Do you know if there is any support for international students who want to improve their English language skills?

Answer:
The Writing Center offers ESL conversation classes each term. Space is limited and seats fill very quickly.

www.cas.udel.edu/writing-center/

UNDERSTANDING LATE CHANGES OF REGISTRATION AND GRADING OPTIONS

The Academic Penalty Deadline passed on Tuesday, April 16, for the Spring 2013 semester. After this date, students cannot drop courses and cannot adjust the grading or enrollment status of their current courses (not even with the support of their faculty). In rare instances in which students experience unforeseen, extenuating circumstances, UAS staff members can consider a late change of registration. However, changes like this require extensive documentation and are rare.

The Academic Penalty deadline is the last day of a term on which a student may adjust his or her grading in a course for the current term. Up to this point, students can select to audit a course, withdraw from a course, or select “Student Option Pass/Fail” grading. Here is what each of those means:

Withdrawal—complete and official removal from the course. Student may no longer attend and earns a grade of “W” on the transcript. This grade does not factor into the GPA.

Audit—in this case the student is a “listener” in the course. The student must attend regularly. The student may choose to participate in class, exams, papers, and projects; but the student is not required to participate. If the student participates, he or she will earn a grade of “L,” which does not factor into the GPA. If the student ceases to participate he or she will earn a grade of “LW,” which also does not factor into the GPA, but does indicate that the student stopped attending.

Student Option Pass/Fail—this is different from courses offered ONLY as Pass/Fail. In this instance, the student chooses to receive Pass/Fail grading. If the student earns a D or higher, the grade will appear on the transcript as a “P.” The “P” grade does not factor into the GPA, but earns the student free elective for GPA. If the student earns a failing grade in the course, the grade on the transcript will be an “F.” This grade will be factored into the GPA and no credit will be earned.

For additional information, feel free to reference the catalog for more information on grading: http://academiccatalog.udel.edu/Pub_ShowCatalogPage.aspx?CATKEY=CATKEY_481
Pass/Fail: http://academiccatalog.udel.edu/Pub_ShowCatalogPage.aspx?CATKEY=CATKEY_483

SPRING 2013 ACADEMIC PROBATION MEETINGS

As you know, all students on academic probation must seek advisement prior to registering for classes in their next term. Students may either attend a session held by UAS or may be advised by their faculty advisors.

The remaining UAS sessions will be held at the following times:
Monday, April 22 at 10:30AM in Gore 308
Wednesday, April 24 at 4PM in Purnell 331

Any students who attend these sessions will have their registration holds removed. Faculty members are welcome to attend the sessions as well.

Any students who do not attend a UAS session will be required to meet with their faculty advisors prior to having their holds removed. Once you meet with a student, please email us at as-advice@udel.edu and confirm your meeting with the student. We will then remove the hold.

For more information about probation, please see our Fall 2011 newsletter:
http://www.cas.udel.edu/uas/faculty-resources/Documents/Fall2011Newsletter.pdf
Or the UAS web site:
http://www.cas.udel.edu/uas/academic-planning/Pages/probation.aspx

GETTING TO KNOW... NINA BUCHANAN

Nina began working with UAS in 2005. She earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Delaware, including a B.A. in English with a minor Spanish, and a Master of Education in College Counseling and Student Affairs Practice. Nina earned a Doctor of Education in Higher Administration from Widener University. For the 2012-2013 academic year, Nina serves as a liaison to the Department of Fashion and Apparel Studies. She also coordinates New Student Orientation and oversees initiatives related to probation and dismissal. Outside of work, Nina enjoys traveling, baking, strength training, and spending time outdoors.