

Summer 2026 Pre-Orientation Academic Advising



Office of the Provost UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TO: All Academic Departments and Advisors

FROM: Lara Lomicka Anderson, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs and
Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Scott Verzyl, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Dean of
Undergraduate Admissions

DATE: November 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Expansion of the Pre-Orientation Academic Advising Pilot

Following a successful pilot in Summer 2025, the Pre-Orientation Academic Advising Initiative will expand to include all colleges beginning in Summer 2026.

As part of this expanded initiative, all incoming students will receive individualized academic advising before their New Student Orientation session. It will remain mandatory for all incoming students to attend New Student Orientation.

By moving advising earlier in the onboarding process, we aim to:

- Enhance the student experience through timely support and guidance.
- Provide advisors and students with additional time for holistic advising, including course planning.
- Strengthen coordination with academic departments regarding course seat availability and registration.
- Create more opportunities for meaningful academic college visits during New Student Orientation.

Our offices are collaborating closely to finalize timelines, communication plans, and implementation expectations. We will share additional details in the coming weeks as they become available.

CC: Provost Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Executive Vice President for
Academic Affairs

Pre-Orientation Academic Advising

Plans in Brief

Redesign Advising Experience:

- Separate New Student Advising from Orientation, with advising completed before NSO in a virtual 1-on-1 appointment.
- Goal: 95% of incoming students registered before NSO, 100% before first day of class.
- Enhance academic college visits during NSO; remove academic advising from NSO.



Pre-Orientation Academic Advising

Plans in Brief

Timeline & Workflow:

- Begin Pre-Orientation Advising by May 26.
- Honors appointments to begin by May 11.
- Appointments should be at least 45 minutes.



Pre-Orientation Academic Advising

Plans in Brief

Expanded Student Advising Education

- Cocky Transitions Part 1 Modules
- Webinars
 - Universal
 - Preparation for Advising
- College/Department Webinars
- Website
 - Developing new UAC webpage(s) with goal to launch by end of January – opportunity for college specific advising information to be housed here
- Direct communication – emails, student guides, Pre-Advising Worksheet, etc.



Pre-Orientation Academic Advising

The Why

- Enhance the student experience and better support their academic transition to campus
 - Opportunity for expectation setting around what advising is and about the roles of both the student and the advisor
 - More individualized time for students in 45+ min appointments
- Provide students and advisors more flexibility in timing of advising appointments.
 - By moving advising earlier in summer, also creates space in July for advisors to engage in training, community building, and fall semester planning that will strengthen year-round advising guidance.
- Strengthen coordination with academic departments regarding course seat availability
 - More "runway" for course needs planning