

**New Student Orientation Intervention  
Summer 2011 Analysis**

**November 16, 2011  
Office of Planning and Institutional Research**



## Executive Summary

A formative analysis of the New Student Orientation was completed to evaluate the effectiveness of the orientation. In particular, analyses were conducted to examine whether students completing the orientation reported increases over their pre-orientation scores on knowledge about TCC services, comfort level with college, and understanding about success in college. Two hundred twenty-two students participating in the orientation completed a paper-and-pencil version of a survey consisting of 15 items at the beginning of the orientation and then completed an online version of the same survey following the orientation. Students responded to items on a 4-point scale (ranging from *strongly disagree* to *strongly agree*) and there also was an option to select *not applicable* for each item.

To examine whether the students' responses changed on the survey items across pre- and post-orientation completions, a number of dependent-samples *t*-tests were conducted, with a 95% confidence level. Mean post-orientation scores were significantly higher than the mean pre-orientation scores for 12 of the 15 survey items. The largest gains were for the following items: "I know where to go for assistance if I have problems with TCC's electronic resources" (mean increase of .90), "I understand the importance of completing the Educational Planning Worksheet early in my college career" (mean increase of .64), and "I understand how to use the academic calendar to know when to add, drop, or withdraw from a class" (mean increase of .63). The items for which the difference between pre- and post-orientation scores was not significant were: "I am comfortable in my ability to balance my life outside of college with my life at school" (mean increase of .03), "I plan to get a degree from TCC before moving on to the next stage of my life" (mean increase of .05), and "I am comfortable about attending college" (mean increase of .06).

The present findings suggest that the new student orientation contributed to students' understanding of TCC services and processes as well as their perceptions about college and what it takes to be successful as a college student. The items for which differences were not significant seem to reflect personal goals and overall comfort levels with college and with balancing life and school, variables that might not be expected to change as a function of a one-time orientation experience. Statistical results are presented in the tables below.

## New Student Orientation Results - November 16, 2011

### Formative New Student Orientation Analysis (Statistically Significant Differences in Yellow)

#### *Survey Items Pre-orientation and Post-orientation Mean Scores*

Item	Survey Items		Mean	Matched Sample Size (N)*	Std. Deviation
1	I am comfortable about attending college.	Pretest	3.38	221	.65
		Posttest	3.44	221	.62
2	I believe college will be just like high school.	Pretest	1.97	214	.61
		Posttest	1.87	214	.63
3	I am comfortable in my ability to balance my life outside of college with my life at school.	Pretest	3.24	217	.58
		Posttest	3.27	217	.59
4	I plan to get a degree from TCC before moving on to the next stage of my life.	Pretest	3.28	200	.80
		Posttest	3.33	200	.73
5	I know how to log in and access TCC's various electronic resources (i.e., TED, MyTCC, Blackboard).	Pretest	3.28	216	.76
		Posttest	3.51	216	.55
6	I am comfortable using TCC's electronic resources to enroll, obtain information and check online resources.	Pretest	3.22	216	.69
		Posttest	3.44	216	.60
7	I know where to go for assistance if I have problems with TCC's electronic resources.	Pretest	2.59	220	.83
		Posttest	3.49	220	.56
8	I understand the enrollment process more clearly.	Pretest	3.08	209	.63
		Posttest	3.50	209	.55
9	I understand how to use the academic calendar to know when to add, drop, or withdraw from a class.	Pretest	2.85	212	.79
		Posttest	3.48	212	.57
10	I understand the importance of completing the Educational Planning Worksheet early in my college career.	Pretest	2.73	204	.80
		Posttest	3.37	204	.63
11	I understand that Academic Advisors assist students with choosing classes that relate to their academic goals.	Pretest	3.36	212	.58
		Posttest	3.55	212	.56
12	I understand that students who have not decided on a major should meet regularly with career services.	Pretest	3.10	204	.63
		Posttest	3.44	204	.58
13	I understand that I should plan to spend 2-3 hours outside class studying for each hour I am in class.	Pretest	3.37	213	.60
		Posttest	3.53	213	.55
14	I know there is a financial aid office on each campus.	Pretest	3.38	212	.67
		Posttest	3.53	212	.60
15	I know where to go for assistance if I have problems with the financial aid process.	Pretest	3.15	210	.74
		Posttest	3.51	210	.56

\* Matched sample size varies for different items because of missing values on items.

*Survey Items Dependent t-test Results*

Survey Items		<i>t</i>	Degrees of Freedom	<i>p</i> -value
Pair 1	I am comfortable about attending college.	-1.92	220	.06
Pair 2	I believe college will be just like high school.	2.26	213	.03
Pair 3	I am comfortable in my ability to balance my life outside of college with my life at school.	-.82	216	.42
Pair 4	I plan to get a degree from TCC before moving on to the next stage of my life.	-1.65	199	.10
Pair 5	I know how to log in and access TCC's various electronic resources (i.e., TED, MyTCC, Blackboard).	-4.58	215	< .001
Pair 6	I am comfortable using TCC's electronic resources to enroll, obtain information and check online resources.	-4.77	215	< .001
Pair 7	I know where to go for assistance if I have problems with TCC's electronic resources.	-15.05	219	< .001
Pair 8	I understand the enrollment process more clearly.	-8.92	208	< .001
Pair 9	I understand how to use the academic calendar to know when to add, drop, or withdraw from a class.	-11.38	211	< .001
Pair 10	I understand the importance of completing the Educational Planning Worksheet early in my college career.	-11.17	203	< .001
Pair 11	I understand that Academic Advisors assist students with choosing classes that relate to their academic goals.	-4.85	211	< .001
Pair 12	I understand that students who have not decided on a major should meet regularly with career services.	-6.74	203	< .001
Pair 13	I understand that I should plan to spend 2-3 hours outside class studying for each hour I am in class.	-4.08	212	< .001
Pair 14	I know there is a financial aid office on each campus.	-3.68	211	< .001
Pair 15	I know where to go for assistance if I have problems with the financial aid process.	-7.30	209	< .001