

Creating = THE = Best USF EXPERIENCE



Whether incoming freshman or new transfer, the **New Student Connections (NSC)** department is here to help all new students discover everything that USF has to offer. NSC, its staff and student mentors offer personalized guidance and opportunities for new students to find their unique place at USF by connecting with like-minded students and finding the paths to their best campus experience.

Dedicated to Making New Students Welcome from the Start

NSC was created to provide guidance across all aspects of campus life for new students, from academic and career planning and time management to connecting with peers who share common interests and building lifelong friendships.



Keri Riegler

“Each year USF welcomes approximately 10,000 new faces to our campus and NSC is here help them transition effectively to campus life and find their own unique communities within the university,” says Keri Riegler, Director of NSC.

To do this, NSC offers a variety of programs designed to give each student the opportunity to create their unique best experience. Some of the most popular programs available to new students include:

- **The Week of Welcome:** Starting the Thursday before the fall semester classes begin, more than 160 events take place to celebrate new students and make them feel like an immediate part of the USF family.
- **CampU:** These unique outings take participating new students on a two-night, off-campus outdoor adventure where they learn about USF and form fast friendships.
- **The First 50 Days:** Offers transitioning programs and assistance on a longer term.

And beyond these very popular programs is The Network. The Network is unique in that it creates small groups each led by one of the NSC’s 25 student mentors. The Network creates small communities of students with similar interests such as going to the movies, sports, etc., to foster friendships and enhance the USF experience.

It’s a Fact: More NSC Program Students Stay at USF

The number of students who remain at USF for the next semester of their college careers, known as student retention levels, has proven to be higher for students taking advantage of NSC programs. What does this mean? It means that the programs are effective in developing happy students who continue at USF toward their degrees.

The percentage of students that continued their USF education from fall to fall semesters during the years NSC has been tracking student retention proves the department’s success.

The following data shows that CampU/Network participants are returning to USF at higher rates (after year one and year two) than standard institutional retention rates.

	Year 2	Year 3
2012 CampU participants	92%	84%
2012 Standard rate	88.7%	81.7%
2013 CampU participants	97.4%	
2013 Standard rate	88.6%	
2013 Network participants	95%	
2013 Standard rate	88.6%	

Rates taken from university retention statistics and program participation.

For additional information on New Student Connections, please visit NewStudent.usf.edu or call 974-2896. ●