Distance Education Orientation Programs 2011

Orientation website:
The Orientation website has a dedicated section for DE students with links to resources and additional information.

Student Mentor Program:
The Student Mentor Program is a faculty based mentor program that provides student mentoring for the STAR Program and any other students as requested including DE students in their first session of study. To date 160 DE students have requested a student mentor. Student mentors are able to phone or email students at an agreed times to provide assistance.

Online mentors:
Student mentors were available online 2 weeks prior to the start of session and during O Week to provide assistance to all commencing students on the general forums and in the Student Toolbox Interact site chat room.

Student Toolbox Interact site:
Students are encouraged to use this interact site to explore the interact environment. Students can learn how interact works prior to your subject interact site becoming available. Students can develop their online skills by trying out the forum; chat room and the other tools on interact. Timely announcements will be made on this site during session to inform students of social activities on and off campus and other student engagement activities that have been planned for during session.
http://interact.csu.edu.au/portal/site/StudentToolbox

Student Engagement Commencing Student Messages:
Student engagement has been provided through a welcome letter from the DVC Administration before session commences which was sent to all DE students by Student Central prior to session commencing and included a link to the orientation website. A schedule of orientation messages throughout the session are being sent to all commencing students by Student Services as eBox messages. The objectives are to encourage and motivate students as well as provide on time information about important resources and events.

Course induction booklets:
Course induction booklets have been made available to commencing DE students on the Schools’ websites for the first time. e.g.


Library Services:
A new Orientation “toolbox” will provide all new students with podcasts, Watch-it tutorials, handy hints etc. Library Services also works with academics to embed resources within the subject sites e.g. customised tutorials on how to search databases. With the new online meeting software which will be made available by the University, Library Services plan to run regular real time orientation sessions for student, many of which will be scheduled after hours and at weekends (budget allowing). The sessions will be captured and made available to students who could not participate in the sessions.

Learning Skills Workshops:
Learning Skills workshops will be provided on each campus and to DE students, commencing in weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 of Session 1, 2011 on the following topics:
1. Reading Strategies
2. Critical Reading
3. Features of Academic writing
4. Writing Essays
5. Writing with Integrity: Plagiarism and Referencing
6. Preparing for Exams

For each workshop, resources will be placed on the Learning Skills website and/or an Interact project site for DE students. These resources will be:
- Short introductory Audio files
- Complete PowerPoint files with scripted notes
- Captivate resources


Careers Services Workshops:
The suite of career development learning workshops identified below are available in 2011 in two formats: face-to-face workshops and online self-paced learning activities.

- Academic staff are encouraged request and arrange specific workshops for class groups
- Individual students can book into the face-to-face workshops via CareerHub

Individual students can access the self-paced learning activities on the Careers Service Workshops Forum

Each workshop topic is suited to specific phases of our students’ transitionary experiences. Workshop titles and descriptions suggest the best timeline for students to access these workshops.

As a general guide:

1st Year Workshops: 1, 2, 4 and 5 (all sessions)

Faculty and School orientation for DE Students:
More details from the Faculty and Schools will become available when the Orientation Program reports are completed in April 2011 and a final report will be provided to the Transition Steering Committee before the end of Session 1