2019 Pre AE Script Freshman Orientation:

Slide 1: Cover
Welcome to the Enhancing your Academic Experience Presentation for Undecided & Undeclared students

For the next 30min, we are going to provide you with an overview of your academic experience, and some key tips and tools on how to lead with a strong start in your first semester at USC

We will be covering a lot of information so we encourage you to take note of your questions that you can discuss with your academic advisor during your virtual advisement appointment before orientation. We hope this will facilitate a seamless registration experience.

Slide 2: Overview
Here is an overview of our agenda for today:

1. We will discuss the Major Exploration process for UNDE/UNDL students
2. We will review the core requirements for our Undergraduate Students
3. We will provide you with Tips and tools for Academic Success
4. We will highlight essential resources for the following:
   - Wellness
   - Professional Development
   - Research
   - Academic Support

Slide 3: Undeclared & Undecided
First, we would like to explain what it means to be an undecided student versus an undeclared student.

Undecided
An exploratory (or an Undecided) student:
- Purposefully seeks to decide which field will be their major focus and fit.
- Actively explores options and possibilities

Undeclared
An Undeclared student:
- Has identified a major to pursue, but they have not officially declared or they are not admitted to the major (just yet).
- Typically, there is already an established map for you to follow.

Slide 4: 180+ Majors
• USC is composed of many academic units. There are 22 professional schools, schools of the arts and specialized academic units, in addition to the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.
• Currently, there are over 180 majors and over 190 minors.
• With what USC has to offer and the various combinations of majors and minors, the possibilities are endless

In the next few slides, we will provide you with a brief overview of our Academic Units at USC. There is a complete list available in your orientation packet, which can also be accessed on our website.

**Slide 5: Dornsife College:**
The largest and oldest of the USC schools, USC Dornsife functions as the academic core of the university, offering courses and advancing knowledge across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

- Therefore, most of your GE courses are in Dornsife. Majors in Dornsife offer many opportunities for an interdisciplinary approach to your education. For Example:

  *Facilitator can pick one of the highlighted clusters below. They do not have to talk about all three clusters.*

- **Humanities:** houses majors such as Art History, English, Philosophy, and History. As an example…for those of you interested in writing or storytelling can be used for entertainment, education, or cultural preservation may look in the Humanities.
- **Social Sciences:** You will find majors like Psychology, Political Science, Economics, and International Relations. As an example…for those of you interested in understanding the role of law, politics, and social issues in public policy may look in the Social Sciences or also in Humanities.
- **Natural Sciences:** are the Biological sciences, Chemistry, Physics, and Math. As an example…for those of you interested in learning how to use data or computational analysis to understand and solve complex problems consider majors in the Natural Sciences that also integrate the social science lens.

**Slide 6: Applied and Performing Arts**
The Applied and Performing Arts schools will require a Portfolio of work or an audition to apply to the program. *(Facilitator can mention 1 or 2 of the following schools)*

- USC School of Architecture
- The Roski School of Art & Design
- The USC School of Cinematic
- USC Kaufman School of Dance
- USC School of Dramatic Arts
- USC Thornton School of Music

**Slide 7: Health and Medicine**
These academic units offer specialized majors and pathways for health related areas such as

(Facilitator can mention 1 or 2 of the following schools)

- The Davis School of Gerontology
- The Keck School of Medicine: offers undergraduate majors of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Global Health Studies
- Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry
- USC School of Pharmacy
- USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

Slide 8: Professional Schools
These Professional school majors require an application and have internal transfer requirements such as

(Facilitator can mention 1 or 2 of the following schools)

- USC Leventhal School of Accounting
- USC Marshall School of Business
- USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
- USC Viterbi School of Engineering
- USC Price School of Public Policy
- The USC Iovine & Young Academy for Arts, Technology, and Business of Innovation

Slide 9: Academic Advising (Process)

- Next we will cover what to expect in academic advising
- Our advisement process will vary for each person and may take a few semesters.
- Some of you may already have an idea
- Some will need to explore interests before finding a program.
- This exploration process is one of continual Assessment and Reflection. You will explore your academic interests using your General Education Courses known as your GE’s. We will discuss your GE requirements later in the presentation.

- *Toggle to slide 10: Career Resources*
- Another way of exploring possibilities is conducting a self-assessment through career centers on campus.
- As an example, the Career Center offers a variety of self-assessments to identify your values, interests, skills and personality traits.
- Another example are the Major 2 Career Exploration events through Dornsife Career Pathways, which offers networking events with Alumni.

- *Toggle to Slide 11: Research*

As you explore different majors and opportunities across campus, we encourage you to consider research as a way to learn more about yourself and hone in on your academic interests.
Many USC faculty are leaders in their field. This is your opportunity to conduct research in your area of interest with top scholars and learn more about yourself.

For example:

Dornsife offers BISC 193, Introduction to Research where Faculty introduce their research activities to students in the class, which leads to individual research projects.

*Toggle back to Slide 9: Academic Advising (Process)*

- You can also explore study abroad programs, student organizations and activities with your academic advisor. These are the many ways to enrich your academic experience and provide you with a stepping-stone towards your major.
- As a USC student, there are also Information Sessions to provide you with internal transfer requirements and curriculum.
- Decision Making - We will assist in refining your decision making process and take into account factors like – “Is this a major that pairs well with my personal, academic, and career interests?” “Does the major allow for flexibility in course selection and leaves room for a minor?”
- Once you have decided on a major (or majors), we will guide you through the process to officially DECLARE that major.

*Note for Facilitator: Skip slides 10 & 11 since you already discussed those*

**Slide 12: Academic Advisors**

Here are the key individuals that you should work closely with to make decisions about your academic experience. Academic Counseling Services consists of four lead advisors. You will be assigned your primary advisor by the start of the school year.

**Slide 13: Framing your Education**

Before we transition to General Education requirements, I would like to highlight that USC is intentional in its design of your academic experience. Therefore, you will be prepared for the Challenges of the 21st Century after college. Our USC faculty have come together to design a curriculum that prepares you to:

- Work in teams with those who are differently trained and differently situated
- Be literate in a high-tech world
- Interpret the validity, relevance, and reliability of data
- Organize and deploy data effectively
- Communicate across disciplines, cultures, and languages
- Lead in public and private spheres
- Understand the importance of values; It’s less about the what and how, and more about the why
Slide 14: Your USC Degree
A minimum of 128 units is required to attain your degree. While your USC Core requirements will remain the same, your major requirements and elective options will vary according to the degree and the major.

Bachelor of Arts Degree
- Most BA majors have between 9-11 courses required for the major and generally make up a third of your degree
- BA’s also provide you with the opportunity to pursue a breadth of electives which creates space in your timeline to double major, minor, study abroad, etc.

Bachelor of Science Degree
- A BS degree involves more course requirements to achieve greater specialization in a discipline, which can span up to 17 required major courses.
- It is important to note that if you plan to pursue a Bachelor of Science, you will have less space for electives, and you will want to start on the major sooner rather than later. For instance, majors in the sciences, engineering, or business.

Slide 15: GEs and Core Requirements
- These General Education requirements provide students with a breadth and depth of knowledge that spans across different disciplines.
- Here are your Core Literacy and Global Perspective requirements:
  - We have categories A-F, which are classified as your Core literacy requirements. Examples of Core Literacy subjects include the arts, Social Analysis, and Life Sciences just to name a few.
  - There are also two Global Perspective requirements
    - GE G: Citizenship in a Global Era
    - GE H: Traditions and Historical Foundations
- These last two GE’s can overlap or double count with one Core Literacy. Please refer to the list of GE 2’fers we have provided in your welcome email.

Slide 16: GEs and Core Requirements
- USC requires all incoming freshmen to enroll in a General Education Seminar during their first year at the University (Preferably in the fall). The GE Seminars are designed to nurture habits of thought essential for professional success and personal development, to establish a background for lifelong learning.
- These courses are limited to 19 incoming undergraduates and earn credit in one of the six Core Literacies (from categories A-F) of the General Education Program. Refer to the handout included in your welcome email.
- General Education Seminars are identified with the GESM prefix and numbers indicating which category requirement each class fulfills.
• I suggest that you identify your top 3 choices of GESM’s to prepare for registration

**Slide 17: GEs and Core Requirements**
The Writing Requirement has two courses:
• WRIT 150 you will take in your first year
• And WRIT 340 you will take when you are in your major.

USC requires students to complete three semesters of a Foreign Language. We highly encourage you to start on the foreign language requirement as soon as possible.
• Depending on placement, you may need to take the full 3 semesters worth or you may just need to take one.
• **This is for on-campus orientations:** USC is offering placement exams today after lunch in case you are interested in taking the exam.
• This requirement applies to most majors at USC
  o You can ask your advisor for clarification on majors that require completion of a foreign language.
• This requirement must be finished within the first 64 units (4 semesters, typically by the end of your sophomore year).

**Slide 18: AP/IB**
USC does accept AP and IB scores.

For AP’s,
• Only scores of 4 or 5 will be accepted and given 4 units of credit towards graduation.
• AP’s can also receive subject credit towards select courses depending on the major and can even fulfill certain GE requirements.
• Please refer to the AP/IB sheet included in your welcome email.

For IB’s, only scores of 5 or higher will be accepted and works in one of two ways:
1. Receive 6 semester units of elective credit for IB Higher Level exams up to a maximum of 4 exams; OR
2. Receive 20 semester units of elective credit if you earned the IB diploma with a score of 30 or higher.

**Slide 19 &20: Tips and Tools (Communication and Appointments)**
• In this next section we will talk about tips (**take a brief pause**) and tools to help you manage your academic experience
• MyUSC is your primary portal to access a number of resources while you are here such as your email, WebRegistration, Blackboard, and scheduling an appointment with your advisor

*Toggle to Slide 20: OASIS*
• OASIS is the Online Academic Student Information System where you go to see your registered course schedule, your grades, your STARS Report, and your permit to register.
This is also where you can access OASIS for guests:
- In accordance with Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines, students at USC can grant access by creating an OASIS for Guests account.
- This only allows guest users to view grades, courses, degree progress, transfer credits, restrictions on the student’s account and financial data.
- This does not grant permission to act on the student’s behalf or contact the advisor directly with questions.
- Whatever you decide, we are always here to help you manage expectations, and meet your academic goals.

**Slide 21: Tips and Tools (STARS Report)**
- Your STARS Report is your roadmap to graduation. It lists all General Education and Core requirements as well as all requirements for major.
- Items in blue mean the requirement has been satisfied or it is in progress; items in red are requirements that have not yet been completed.
- You should check your STARS report at the beginning and end of each semester to track your progress towards your degree.

**Slide 22: Tips and Tools**
Before you start your first semester, there are several tips for success during your undergraduate experience:
- Time management- Each course will have a syllabus, which serves as a guide to what to expect from your classes. Your syllabus will include information regarding your learning outcomes, reading and assignment schedule, and how the course is graded. To support our students, we have the Kortschak center for Learning and Creativity, which offers resourceful online tutorials on effective time management.
- Office Hours- We encourage you to meet with your professors during office hours. This is a great opportunity to discuss curriculum or their research. For our Undecided/Undeclared students, these conversations may help you hone in on your own interest. These relationships are important for possible future opportunities that may require letters of recommendation.
- Learning Support: The first semester at USC will be a transitional period for most of you. Therefore, we recommend speaking with your academic advisor for learning support resources. We have Supplemental Instruction in the Math and Sciences along with our resource center called VARC for Pre-Engineering students and individual tutoring services within our own office.
- Active learning: Fully Participate in the course lecture and discussion. This is a way of demonstrating your learning and interest in the course.
  - An example of this is collaborating on group assignments. Not only are group assignments beneficial for your academic progress but they are essential in understanding your work ethic and for professional development after college.
Slide 23: Academic Integrity

- In this slide, we want to discuss Academic Integrity standards.
- Some violations of Academic Integrity include plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration.
  - For example, you must cite references properly in your research. The Writing Center or USC Librarians can assist with questions regarding this academic standard.
  - In certain STEM courses, sharing laboratory notes is an example of an academic integrity violation.

Slide 24: Wellness

As a final tip for your academic success, I would like to emphasize the importance of wellness. Wellness and the promotion of mental, physical, and emotional health are longstanding priorities of the faculty, staff, and student communities at USC. As a way of proactively addressing wellness on campus, here are a few examples of University programs that advocate for student wellness:

- Mindful USC offers an ecosystem of mindfulness based practices including live online classes, practice groups, retreats, events and the Mindful USC mobile app.
- Thrive @ USC
  - There is a new course created by students for students called Thrive.
  - "THRIVE" is a course that allows USC students to explore their well-being, connections with others, and learn strategies for living their best lives.

Slide 25: Registration Prep (Make that last)

Let us get you prepared for registration!

- Placement Exams: Depending on your pathway, you may need to take placement exams like Math, Chemistry, or Foreign Language. If you plan to enroll in any of these courses, a placement exam is required. Math and Chemistry exams are completed online prior to the start of the semester. Foreign Language exams are taken on campus.
- Advisement Sheets: Advisement Sheets have been created by the Lead Academic Advisors to help you to decide what courses or types of courses to register for.
- Course Scheduling: We have provided you with a GE worksheet that simplifies the GE requirements for you. As mentioned earlier, the GE Worksheet and list of GE “two-fers” are included in your welcome email.
- WebReg Help: Please make sure you review the web registration tutorial videos prior to registration.
- Advising: Academic Advisors are available for virtual advisement appointments prior to your scheduled orientation session. We will make course recommendations and go over any required courses for your prospective major.
- For on-campus and off-campus orientations, advisors will have in-person advising sessions prior to registration. For those students who cannot attend an orientation,
advisors will be able to assist you with registration through e-mail, phone contact or skype sessions.

**Slide 26: Registration**

Sample Schedule
- Select four (4) courses that *ideally* reflects your interests and meets requirements.
- Note that all undecided/undeclared students must register for a GE Seminar in your first semester.
- Register for an additional GE course that satisfies a core literacy category
- Depending on whether or not you have already fulfilled the foreign language requirement, take either a foreign language course or a major exploration course.
- For those who plan to apply to a specific professional school like Marshall or Viterbi, you can also select courses that satisfy pre-requisite courses for admission to that particular program; in other words, a pre-major requirement.
- The typical course load for students is 4 courses per semester, and most of the classes are 4 units each.
- The way tuition works at USC is you pay a flat rate for “full time enrollment”; Full time is 12-18 units so each semester, you can add up to two more units for a total of 18; Many students use those two units to add a fun elective or tutorial course. As an example, there is a 1-unit surfing course in Santa Monica Beach, which is a popular elective for many students!

**Slide 27: UGP Contact**

Thank you very much for joining us! We are Academic Counseling Services, a part of the Office of Undergraduate Programs. Our office is in the Student Union Building (STU) 300. Here is our email, phone number, and website should you need to reach us. We look forward to working with you this upcoming school year. Welcome to the Trojan Family!