



University of Saint Francis adopts Comevo's software to mitigate negative effects of COVID-19 pandemic

Problem

The University of Saint Francis – Fort Wayne (USF) had an immediate need to quickly transition their previously in-person orientation to online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Solution

After adopting Comevo's Launch™ Online Orientation and Training software, the University of Saint Francis was able to quickly and accurately provide important orientation information to their students.

Benefits

Comevo's Launch™ software allowed The University of Saint Francis – Fort Wayne to save money and provide a consistent, comprehensive information resource for all students to take advantage of.

Client Profile

Institution Type: Private four-year university
Population: 3,900+
Client Since: June 2020

The University of Saint Francis – Fort Wayne adopted Comevo's software to successfully launch a quick, affordable online orientation.

With the pandemic ramping up in mid-March 2020, several schools and educational institutions had to make a quick, decisive change to go fully online for the remainder of the school year and into the next. The University of Saint Francis was no different — and to save time and money — they chose [Comevo](#) as their online orientation software provider.

Director of First Year Experience and Student Leadership Kati Hultman-Schlabach was the lead for the university's transition from on-ground to online. While the experience may have been daunting, Hultman-Schlabach says that the transition could not have been smoother as Comevo provided a turn-around time of about six weeks from demo to launch.

Not only did Comevo provide affordable work in a timely manner, but they began offering a helpful content consulting package led by Jeff Sauer.

"For me, the [online orientation] process was fast and furious, but also genuinely fun with the help of my content coach, Jeff," said Hultman-Schlabach. "He helped me through every step and... he always made me feel like I was not alone in this process."



Comevo's [Launch™ Online Orientation and Training](#) software, combined with Jeff Sauer's content consulting package, helped USF create an "exhaustive information resource" for their students which Hultman-Schlabach said was Comevo's "unexpected benefit."

Expand Your Content Across the Entire Campus

After converting USF's entire orientation to online, Hultman-Schlabach realized she was able to receive and include significant amounts of information from different offices across campus. Many of these offices had not been involved with USF's new student orientation in the past due to the time-constraints of in-person events, and the online version allowed them more free reign which saved staff valuable time.

While their new student orientation (NSO) participation was about the same as previous years, USF was still pleased not to see a decrease in participation considering the circumstances of the pandemic.

Comevo's online orientation platform gave USF a new lens to view their orientation through and new changes are set to unfold for their future NSO events. Hultman-Schlabach says she would like to see in-person orientations shift their focus to orienting students with campus and focus less on administrative material that could best be covered online.

"Though in the future we intend to use the online orientation as a supplement to on-ground events, I think we will cut costs for on-ground events by making them shorter and/or less frequent because we won't need to cover as much information as we have in the past," said Hultman-Schlabach.

Features For You

Though Comevo offers several features such as Nudge™ Messaging, Capture™ Forms and more, Hultman-Schlabach uses and plans to expand her use of the Reflect™ Simple Surveys. Reflect™ can be used as a means to gather helpful data about your students and cut down on redundant follow-up surveys or questionnaires.

"I have found Reflect™ to be very useful and I'd recommend it as a means of assessment for online NSO and other FYE programming," said Hultman-Schlabach.

Save Money with Comevo

"Ultimately, the cost of the online orientation was less than our on-ground orientations would have been, which saved us some budget dollars in the 2019-2020 fiscal year."

— Kati Hultman-Schlabach, Director of First Year Experience and Student Leadership

All of the Benefits:

- Save money
- Easy-to-use management console
- Professional appearance
- Accessibility for all students
- A library of stored, essential information
- Enhance your orientation content
- Focus more time on essential in-person events like tours

The Bottom Line

"If you have struggled to balance the information (sometimes information overload) required for orientation with the relational/fun elements of transitioning to college, **I would highly recommend considering using Launch™ from Comevo** to provide students with that information base. Offering students a consistent experience when it comes to information about starting college is crucial to their success. This allows on-ground programming to focus on the more personalized experiences of relationship-building and connection with campus resources and school pride."

— Kati Hultman-Schlabach, Director of First Year Experience and Student Leadership

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