



Moving to a Virtual Space: How to Create Virtual Graduate Student Orientations

Tuesday May 19, 2020

Presenters



Scott Lanyon
*Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate
Education*
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities



Katy DeRosier
*Program Development Director
The Graduate School*
University of Washington



Noro Andriamanalina
*Director of Academic and Professional
Development for the Graduate School*
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities




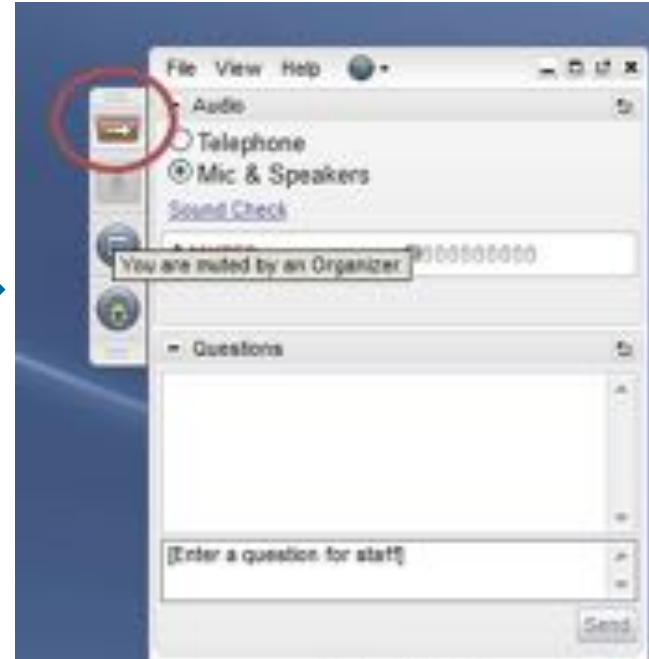
Drew Swenhaugen
*Program Specialist
The Graduate School*
University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Plan for today

- **Four speakers** will speak for approximately **40 minutes** total, followed by Q & A
 - **Suzanne Ortega** of the Council of Graduate Schools will introduce the presenters and discuss CGS initiatives.
 - **Scott Lanyon, Noro Andriamanalina, and Drew Swenhaugen** will speak for 15-20 minutes on GEAR 1, the University of Minnesota's virtual graduate student orientation platform, and advice on how to build your own.
 - **Katy DeRosier** will speak for 15-20 minutes on the U501 Toolkit and its development at the University of Washington.

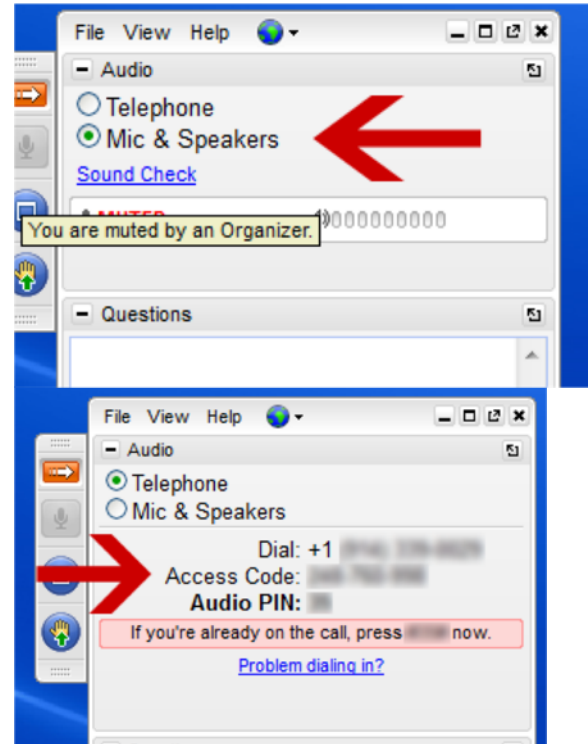
Technical Support

- Webinar **recording and slides** will be **emailed** to participants and **posted** on the CGS website
- Please **submit questions** through  GoToWebinar **control panel**
- **Technical issues?** Troubleshooting help available:
http://support.citrixonline.com/en_US/webinar



Audio Troubleshooting

- Having trouble hearing us? Try switching to a different audio connection. You can change from Telephone to Mic & Speakers or vice versa without leaving the session.
- If you experience trouble with a telephone connection, click “Problem dialing in?” for an alternate phone number to dial.





Suzanne T. Ortega
President, Council of Graduate Schools



GEAR 1

The University of Minnesota's
Approach to Online Orientation &
Professional Development

Scott Lanyon

Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate
Education

Noro Andriamanalina

Director of Academic & Professional
Development

Drew Swenhaugen

Program Specialist



GRADUATE SCHOOL



University of Minnesota

Carnegie Classification: R1

Graduate School staff size: 27

Ph.D. students: 4,588 (Spring 2020)

Master's students: 2,078

Professional students: 9,556

Includes UMN Duluth

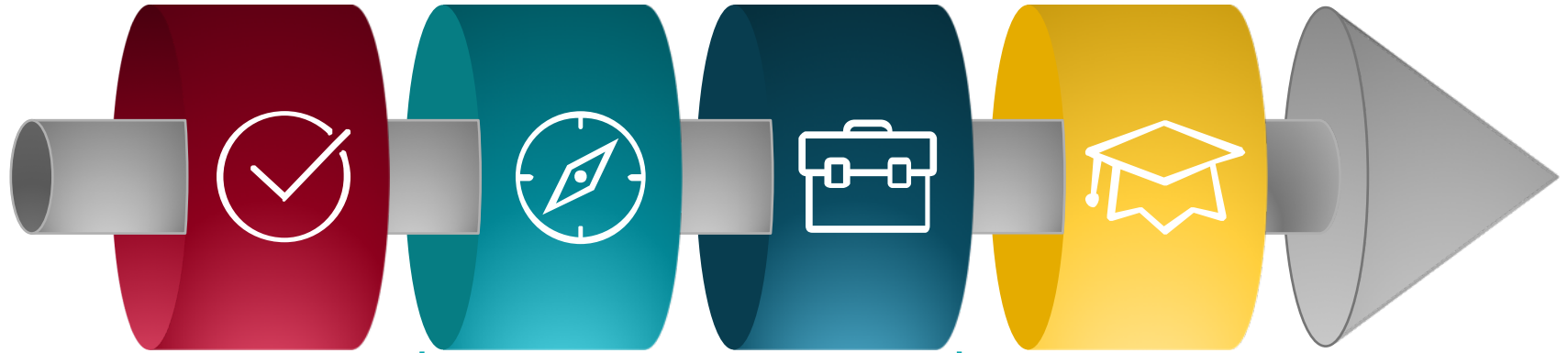
Transferable
Skills

Acceptance

Orientation

Development

Graduation



**Professional
Development**

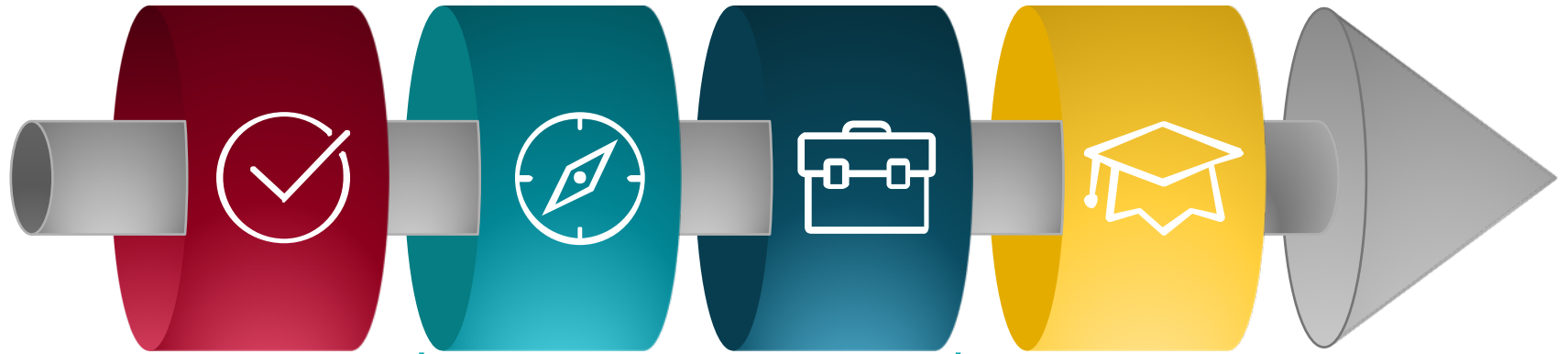
Graduate Education Resource

Acceptance

GEAR 1

GEAR+

Graduation



**Professional
Development**



Key Take-Aways

For those interested in creating an online orientation program

1. Don't start from scratch – learn from others
2. Content already exists – your challenge is to figure out how to package and deliver it
3. Online orientation programs are worthwhile - a pandemic just makes this more obvious
4. It is critical that you get buy-in from graduate programs
5. Remember that "Perfect is the enemy of done"



- Module 1 - WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY
- Module 2 - MINNESOTA LIFE
- Module 3 - FUNDING AND TUITION
- Module 4 - BEING A GRADUATE STUDENT
- Module 5 - YOUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- Module 6 - PLANNING AFTER YEAR 1
- CONCLUSION

Welcome to **GEAR 1**



Development



We chose to use our system-wide CANVAS LMS

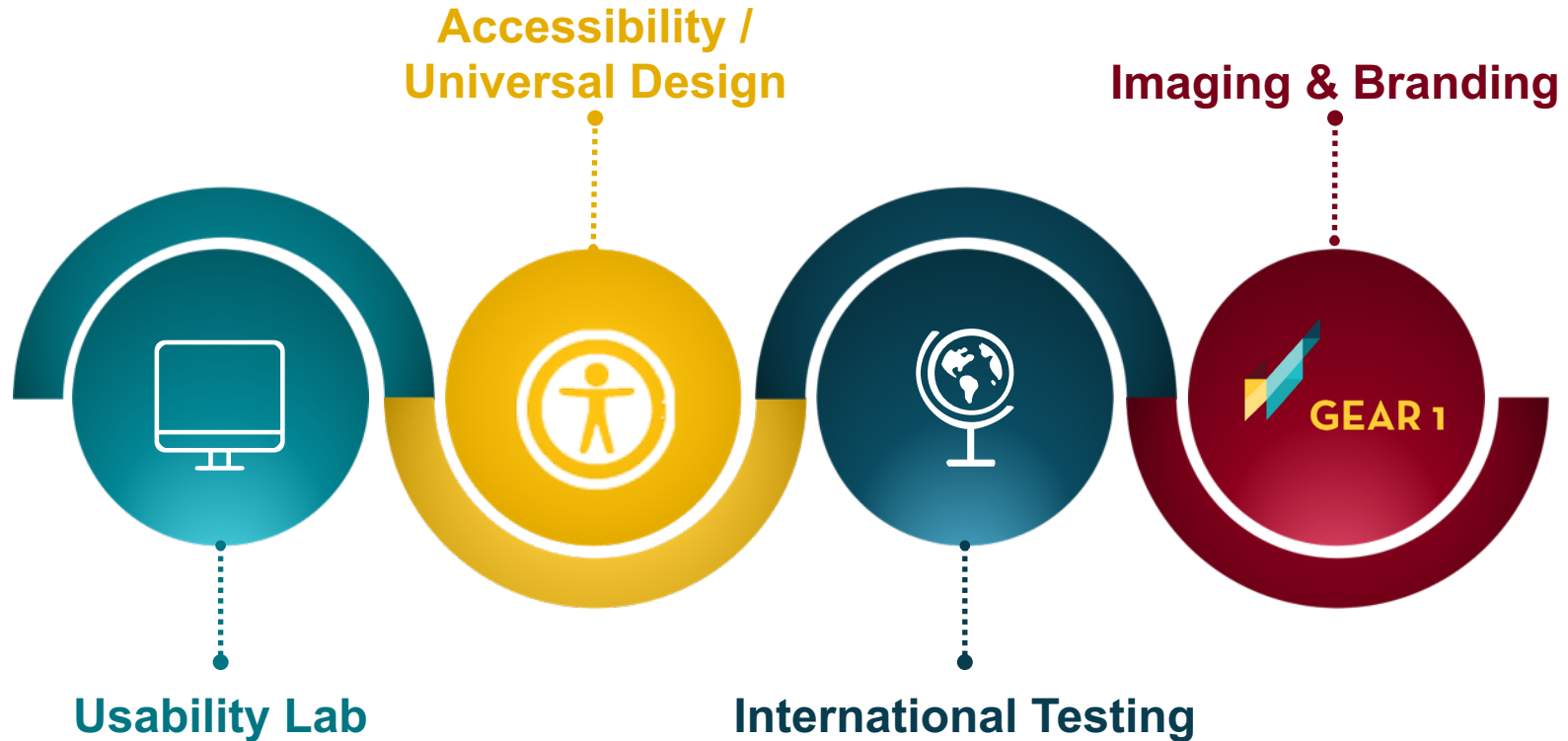


Develop content and modules with key stakeholders and advisory committee approval

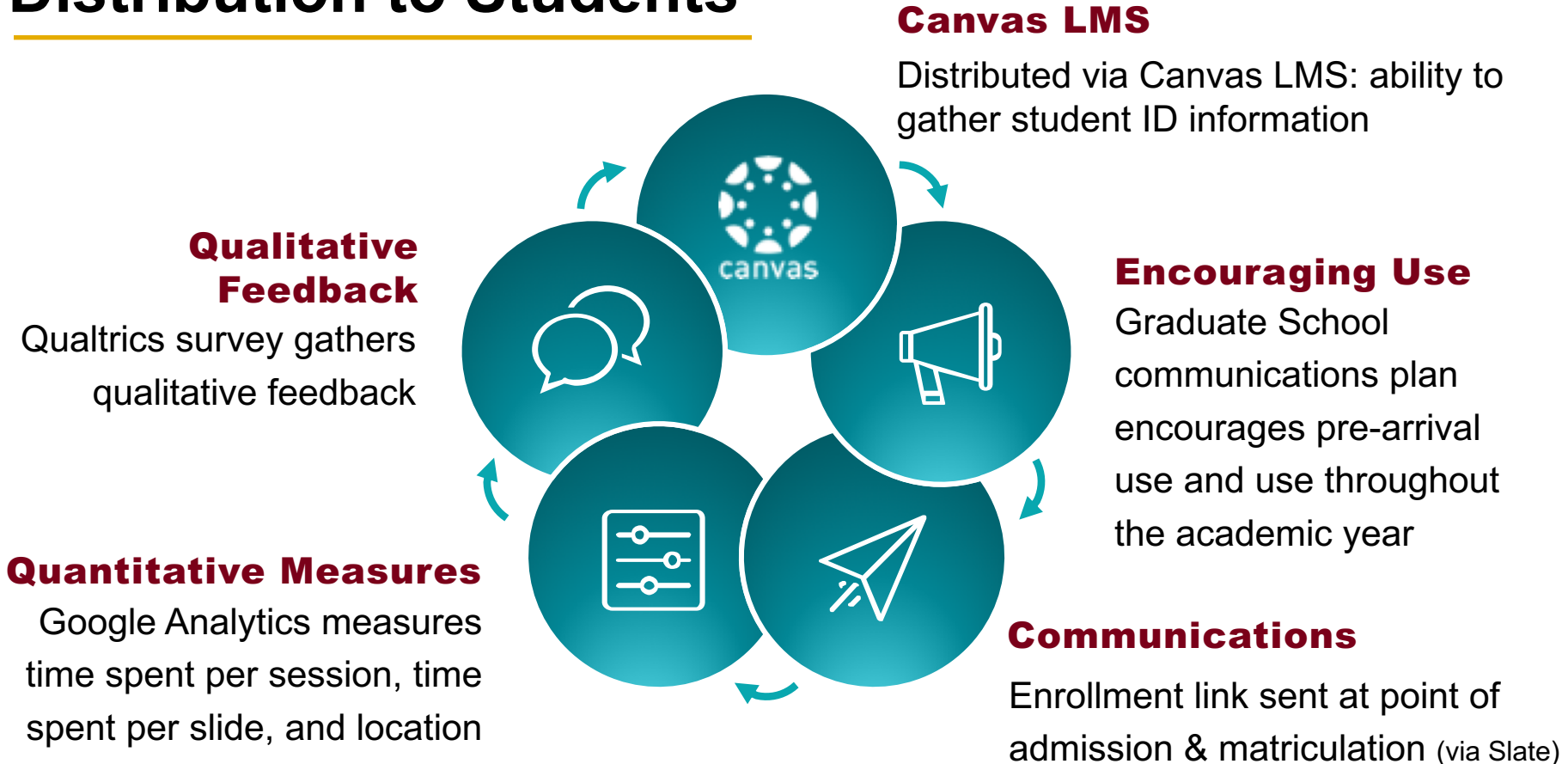


Adapt content to concise, jargon-free audio script

Design Process

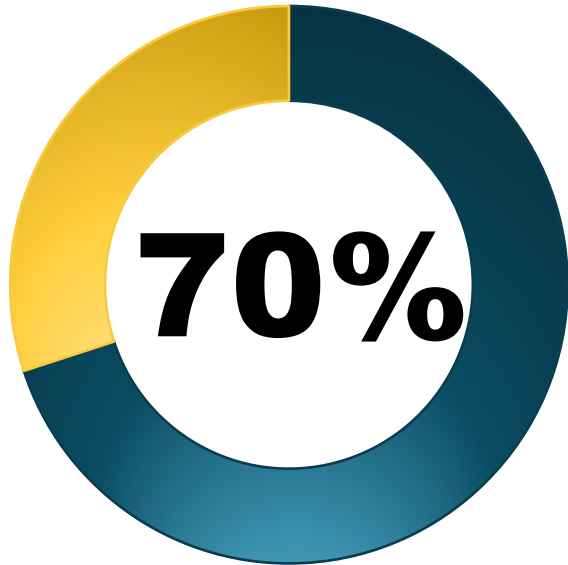


Distribution to Students





User Data and Focus Group Evaluation

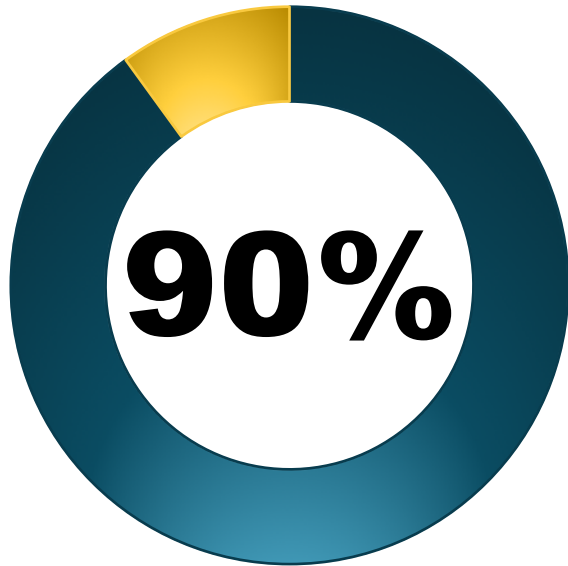


70% of incoming grad students accessed in 2019-2020

- Avg. 15 minutes per session (75-minute run-time)
- Avg. 1 minute per slide



User Data and Focus Group Evaluation



90% of users who responded found GEAR 1 'moderately' to 'extremely' useful

User Data and Focus Group Evaluation



- Pre-arrival **First Steps Checklist** viewed most
- **In-state and previous UMN undergrads** found GEAR 1 less useful
- Desire for **program-specific** information

Individual Development Plan (IDP)

ACADEMIC & CAREER SUPPORT >

Advising

Academic & Career Development Workshops

Interdisciplinary Initiatives

Community-Engaged Research

Digital Badging

Graduate Education Resources

Individual Development Plan (IDP)

Transferable Skills Checklist

Networking with the Individual Development Plan (IDP)

Succeeding in a graduate program requires more than taking courses or writing a thesis/dissertation.

START YOUR IDP

 [Download a blank IDP template >](#)

Explore Examples of Real Individual Development Plans

- [First-Year PhD Student, Social Sciences](#)
- [Third-Year PhD Student, Humanities](#)
- [Postdoctoral Fellow](#)



WHAT IS GEAR+?

- Introduction
- Get Started
- Your Individual Development Plan
- How the IDP Helps: Student Perspective Video
- Online Assessment Tool: DoctoralNet
- Online Assessment Tool: NCFOO

GEAR+ Navigation Map

- COMPONENTS OF SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- YOUR DISSERTATION/THESIS
- CAREER PATHS
- Give Feedback

Navigate gear+



Components of Successful Development

- UNDERSTAND YOUR DEGREE MILESTONES
- COMMUNICATION, LEADERSHIP, AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- TIME AND STRESS MANAGEMENT
- EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE
- INTERCULTURAL SKILLS
- CAREER EXPLORATION



Career Paths

- ACADEMIC CAREERS
- CAREERS BEYOND THE ACADEMY

Your Dissertation/Thesis

- WRITING
- RESEARCH
- SOCIAL NETWORKING

Contact Information



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Drew Swenhaugen

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GEAR1 Public URL: z.umn.edu/gear1-public

GEAR+ Public URL: z.umn.edu/gearplus-beta-public

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

U501Toolkit: a guide to develop your online orientation

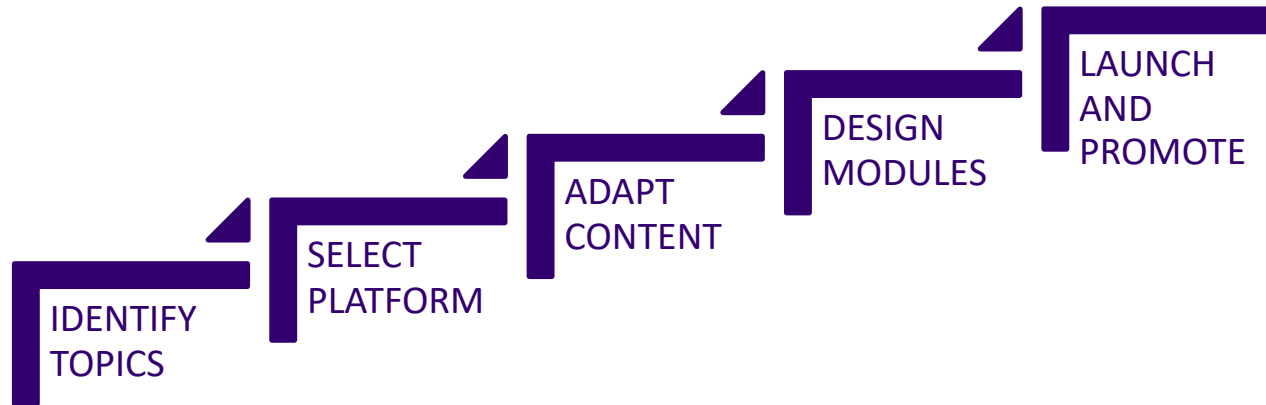
Katy DeRosier, Program Development Director



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON



U501 TOOLKIT: steps for a quick build



ABOUT UW

- > Large, public R-1 university
- > Annually welcomes nearly 5,000 new graduate and professional students
- > Three campuses; UW Bothell, Seattle and Tacoma



U501 TOOLKIT OVERVIEW



U501: TOOLKIT / THE PITCH / RESEARCH / PRODUCTION / LAUNCH / REFINING



Home > U501: Graduate School Orientation Toolkit

U501: Graduate School Orientation Toolkit

University 501 (U501) is a self-guided, online orientation for incoming graduate and professional students at the University of Washington.

U501 has proved highly successful, and other institutions of higher education have inquired about creating their own similar but customized online orientations.

The U501: Toolkit has been designed as a roadmap for just that. We hope you find this resource helpful and motivating!

The Case for U501

Annually, the University of Washington welcomes nearly 5,000 new graduate and professional students. Until recently, the scope and structure of orientations have varied greatly across the different departments, with some programs annually admitting large cohorts while others admit only a handful of students. Incoming students may be new to the University, and some may even be new to the Pacific Northwest region, having arrived from a different part of the United States or from abroad. International students are particularly challenged, entering a country and culture that may be unfamiliar to them.

SEARCH U501: TOOLKIT

NAVIGATION

- U501: Toolkit
- The Pitch
 - Making the Pitch
 - Team Structure
 - Sponsorship
 - Advisory Committee Formation
- Research
 - Identify Orientation Topics



STEP 1: IDENTIFY TOPICS

- > What topics will your students be most interested in?
 - Do you have a lot of international students? Do most of your students commute to attend class?
- > Ask students, staff and faculty
 - Use U501 Toolkit: Research
 - > Student survey + Advisory committee guide
- > Staffing: secure project director
 - Use U501 Toolkit: The Pitch > Team Structure



STEP 2: SELECT PLATFORM

- > What learning management system does your university use?
 - Benefits for student users
 - Ability to gather metrics

- > Staffing: secure platform expert
 - Staff member or graduate student
 - Use U501 Toolkit: The Pitch > Team Structure



STEP 3: ADAPT CONTENT

> Adapt U501 text and videos for your university

– Review U501

- > Public access version available in U501 Toolkit
- > From your topic list, select text and videos that fit

– Complete U501 Toolkit licensing agreement

- > Use U501 Toolkit: Use our Resources
- > When received, we will email you links

STEP 4: DESIGN MODULES

- > Topics are main categories
- > Consider the balance of text and videos
 - Use U501 Toolkit: Production > Designing Modules
- > Staffing: Project director + platform expert
 - Involve communication and marketing staff
 - Use U501 Toolkit: The Pitch > Team Structure



STEP 5: LAUNCH + PROMOTE

> Launch

- One month prior to arrival, if possible

> Promote

- Emails to staff and faculty advisors + students
- Incorporate into student portal
- Use U501 Toolkit: Launch

> Staffing: Communication and marketing staff

- Use U501 Toolkit: The Pitch > Team Structure



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Check it out:
grad.uw.edu/u501-toolkit

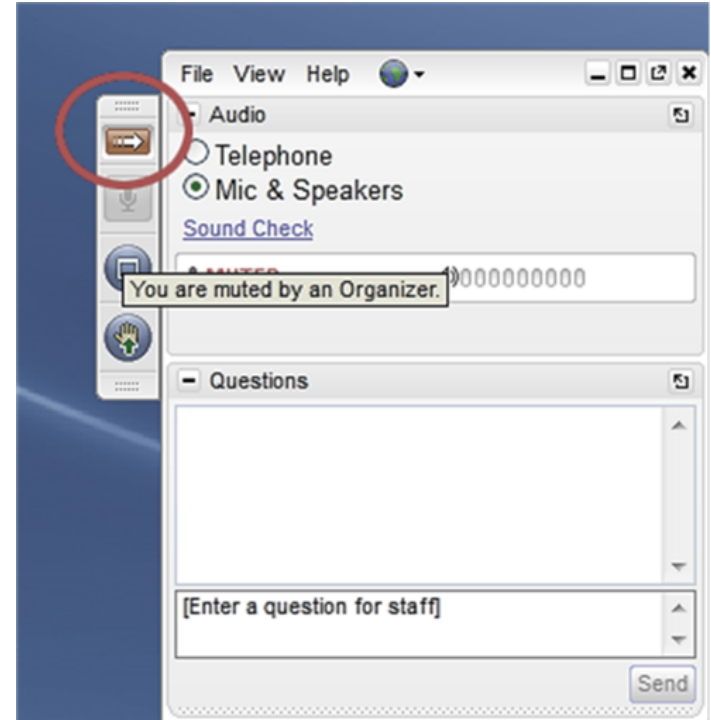
Contact: Katy DeRosier, katyd2@uw.edu



Questions?

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Thank You for Participating!

Visit CGS's hub on COVID-19 related programming and news at <https://cgsnet.org/navigating-covid-19-pandemic>.

Learn more about the ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education here: <https://cgsnet.org/etscgs-award>

- Proposal deadline: September 4, 2020

Visit <http://cgsnet.org/cgs-webinars> for more information on upcoming webinars as well as recordings of past webinars.