NSO 2008 - Movie Script

TITLE
Aloha, and welcome to Windward Community College. All new students are required to view this movie or attend an in-person New Student Orientation prior to making their registration appointment.

PREP
Download and print the documents from our orientation website, and have them on hand while watching this movie.

AGENDA
This session will help you make decisions on registration for your first semester. We’ll cover how to choose classes, how many to take, and how to prepare for your registration appointment. At the end of the session, we’ll point you towards campus resources that can help you off to a good start at Windward.

HOW TO CHOOSE CLASSES
In getting your first semester’s courses together, start with English and Math. English and Math are the foundation of every college and university degree, and it’s important to take them in your first semester. The results of your COMPASS placement exams will determine which classes you enroll in.

Select additional classes from the list of GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. These are listed on the Associate in Arts Graduation Checklist. Be sure to read this AA Checklist carefully and note any questions you have. Your counselor can explain and clarify these requirements in your registration appointment.

You can also select classes based on your interests. Course descriptions can be found in the Catalog and Schedule of Classes, both available online. Take a look through what Windward has to offer; you may find something interesting that you never would have thought of!

HOW MANY CLASSES TO TAKE
Deciding on the number of classes to take is an exercise in time management.
College classes require much more reading, writing and studying than high school classes. You can expect to spend an average of 10 hours per week on each class that you take.

Full-time students are enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits, or four classes. Four classes is the recommended course load for your first semester while you’re getting accustomed to the rigor of college work. This means that full-time students are expected to spend at least 40 hours per week on school work.

The average student can handle, at most, a total of 60 hours devoted to school and work. Beyond 60 hours, things happen. Students start cutting classes or turning in assignments late, or they may begin calling in sick at work to gain time to study. Something is always sacrificed.

If you plan to work while attending college, make sure that the total of your school and work hours does not exceed the 60 hour limit. If you are a full-time student with four classes, this means that you should work no more than 20 hours per week.

If you HAVE to work more than 20 hours each week, consider taking a lighter course load. We have many part-time students who take only two or three classes each semester because of work and family or other outside obligations. Here’s a good rule to follow: if you’re a full-time student, you should work only part-time. If you work full-time, you should be only a part-time student.
PREPARING FOR REGISTRATION
To prepare for registration, you’ll need to set up your MyUH Portal account and prepare a list of class choices. The guide, “Preparing for Registration at WCC,” will lead you through these steps.

Don’t forget to turn in your TB and MMR health clearances at the Admissions Office in Alakaʻi 112.

All first-time students must register with a counselor. When you’re done choosing classes and have your MyUH account set up, call our office to set your registration appointment. Counselors are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, and later evening appointments can be arranged. To your appointment, bring your COMPASS test score printout and a list of classes that you’re interested in taking.

FUNDING YOUR EDUCATION
There are many funding opportunities for students, and the good news is that everyone qualifies for something. Grants and Scholarships are considered “free” money because they do not have to be paid back. These awards are tied to income level, scholastic achievement, and/or affiliation. For example, some businesses offer scholarships to employees and children of employees, or you may be eligible for certain scholarships based on your ethnicity or ancestry.

Loans are funds that need to paid back, but they have a low interest rate, and interest and payments are deferred until you leave school.

The first step in applying for financial aid is filling out the FAFSA, a free, online, federal form which our Financial Aid office can help you with. And since everyone qualifies for some type of aid, everyone should be filling out a FAFSA!

FIRST CONTACTS
This is why our Financial Aid office is at the top of our list of FIRST CONTACTS -- people and places at Windward that are here to support you in getting off to a good start in college.

TRiO Student Support Services provides additional support to first-generation students, students with disabilities, and students within a certain income bracket. If neither of your parents has a bachelor’s degree, or if you receive a Pell Grant, you automatically qualify for TRiO, so be sure to check them out!

Ann Lemke is our disabilities counselor, providing services to students with identifiable and hidden disabilities. Students with documented or suspected disabilities should make an appointment with Ann as soon as possible to discuss needs, set up accommodations, and get to know Yukon, her friendly golden retriever.

Meet with Sarah Hodell in our Career Center to discover how your strengths and interests can support your choices in college and beyond. Explore the majors and careers that fit who you are to a “T.”

Windward students can also call on the help of our Peer Mentors. Peer Mentors are senior WCC students and alumni who can help you with the ins and outs of being in school. They can offer advice on being a successful student, provide tutoring, and even help you with finding the best places to eat!

NEXT STEPS
We hope you’ve found our orientation to be helpful. Be sure to follow through with first contacts, completing your health clearances and COMPASS exams, choosing your classes and scheduling your registration appointment. Check back throughout the semester for future video topics.

Welcome again to Windward; we look forward to working with you in reaching your educational goals!