Aloha! Welcome to the New Student Orientation at Windward Community College

All of you received the Steps to Registering brochure in your acceptance packet. Following and completing the steps in order has led you here to Step 4: Orientation where we’ll prepare you for your registration appointment.

In this Orientation session we’ll walk you through deciding how many, and which classes to take. We’ll also introduce you to a few of the great services here at Windward that can support you in a successful first semester.

When deciding on the number of classes to take, it’s important to realize that college work requires a LOT more reading, writing and studying than high school.

In your first semester, we recommend that you take the minimum required to be a full-time student: four classes, or the equivalent of 12 credits. This will help you become acclimated to the rigors of college.

Skills in time management are necessary. For each class that you take, you should budget 10 hours a week for going to class, studying, and doing homework.

You may not need the whole 10 hours during the first few weeks of school, but by midterm, when exams and research papers are due, you may need even MORE than 10 hours for each class you’re in.

School and work hours should max out at 60 per week. Beyond 60, things begin to happen -- like falling behind in schoolwork, calling in sick to work in order to study, or cutting class in order to go to work. Why go through all that stress??

If you’re going to be a full-time student, you should work only part-time; no more than 20 hours per week.

And if you’re going to WORK full-time, you should be only a part-time student -- take no more than 2 classes.

Now that you know how MANY classes to take, here’s how to choose WHAT to take.

Start with English and Math, which are the foundation of all college degrees. We recommend that you register for both in your first semester. Your COMPASS scores will determine which classes you’re eligible to take.

Full-time students will need two more classes. You can choose these from the AA Graduation Checklist, or choose classes based on your interests.
The AA Graduation sheet lists requirements that you’ll eventually have to fulfill to earn your Associates Degree.

To choose classes based on your interests, look through out online Catalog and Schedule of Classes. Read the course descriptions -- you never know what might pique your interest!

NOW is also the perfect time to figure out how you’re going to pay for your education. Costs can easily reach up to $3000 per semester.

If you haven’t yet applied for financial aid, NOW is the time to do it -- the sooner, the better.

The good news is that everyone qualifies for something. Grants and scholarships are “Free” money that you don’t need to pay back as long as you pass your classes successfully.

Student Loans are low interest with deferred repayment; you don’t have to begin paying on the loan until you graduate or leave school.

Our financial aid counselors can help you fill out your free online application for aid, called a FAFSA, and get you started on applying for MONEY!

In addition to our financial aid office, Windward has a lot of support to help you be and do your best in college. We strongly encourage you to check in with these people and places early in your first semester.

All students can use the computers and printer in Ka Piko, find a comfortable spot for quiet study, and get advice from Peer Mentors.

TRiO is where you can request tutoring, and they also have computers and printers for eligible students to use.

Dr. Ann is WCC’s Disabilities Counselor, and can help with accommodations for students with learning or physical disabilities.

In our Career Center, you can discover where your interests and aptitudes intersect - and define and refine your ideal educational and career goals.

We also have Writing, Math and Speech labs where you can get help on assignments and skills; and of course, a fully staffed Counseling Department to help you navigate college policies, procedures and requirements.
OK! We’ve gone through choosing your classes and connecting with Financial Aid and other support services. This leads us right to your next step, which is to make your registration appointment with a counselor.

Prior to your appointment, be sure that you’ve completed the first steps to registration. This is extremely important, since skipping any one of these will prevent you from registering!

To your appointment, bring a list of the classes you’re interested in, your MyUH Username and Password, and, just in case, your COMPASS test printout with your scores. This will help facilitate the registration process and ensure that you accomplish all you need to with your Counselor.

Welcome again to WCC!
<slide has embedded link to First Year Experience page for more movies>