

FIRST YEAR & RETENTION INITIATIVES

PROGRAM UPDATE



ORIENTATION PROGRAM: RENAMED AND EXPANDED

We are excited to share an important update regarding our Orientation experience at the University of North Alabama. As part of our commitment to supporting students in their readiness, academics, and access to campus resources, our Orientation program will now transition from SOAR to ROAR.

This new name reflects the bold spirit of our Lion community while more clearly aligning with our mission to provide a comprehensive, student-centered transition experience.

We are especially proud to launch this initiative during a historic moment in UNA's story. As the first four-year public institution in Alabama, founded in 1830, UNA is approaching its 200th anniversary. The Fall 2026 freshman class will be our Bicentennial Class, graduating in 2030—exactly 200 years after our founding. This milestone offers a meaningful opportunity to strengthen how we welcome new students into our community.

Alongside the name change, the Orientation experience is expanding to support students beyond the summer sessions. ROAR Days, a post-orientation series of events, will take place from move-in through the first day of school, offering additional opportunities for connection, preparation, and engagement with campus life.

As part of this expanded experience, our office will offer additional welcome events and partner with current programs like Convocation to ensure new students feel supported from the moment they arrive on campus. In the coming months, we will be reaching out to collaborate with campus offices and partners to ensure that our newest freshmen feel connected, engaged, and truly at home at UNA.

We look forward to continuing this important work together as we support our newest Lions.



DATES TO KNOW

ROAR I - June 1
 ROAR II - June 8 (Honors)
 ROAR III - June 22-23 (Overnight)
 ROAR IV - July 6
 ROAR V - July 13

ROAR DAYS
 AUG 15
 AUG 16
 AUG 17
 AUG 18
 AUG 19

CONTACT INFORMATION

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