



International Orientation in Academic Settings:

An Inclusive Approach for the
Burgeoning International Student Population
on US Campuses

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Agenda

- International Student Enrollment Trends in US Higher Education
- Overview of International Student Needs
- Current Approaches to International Student Orientation
- A New Framework for Orientations: Supporting the Whole Student Throughout their US Experience
- Making It Happen
- Q&A



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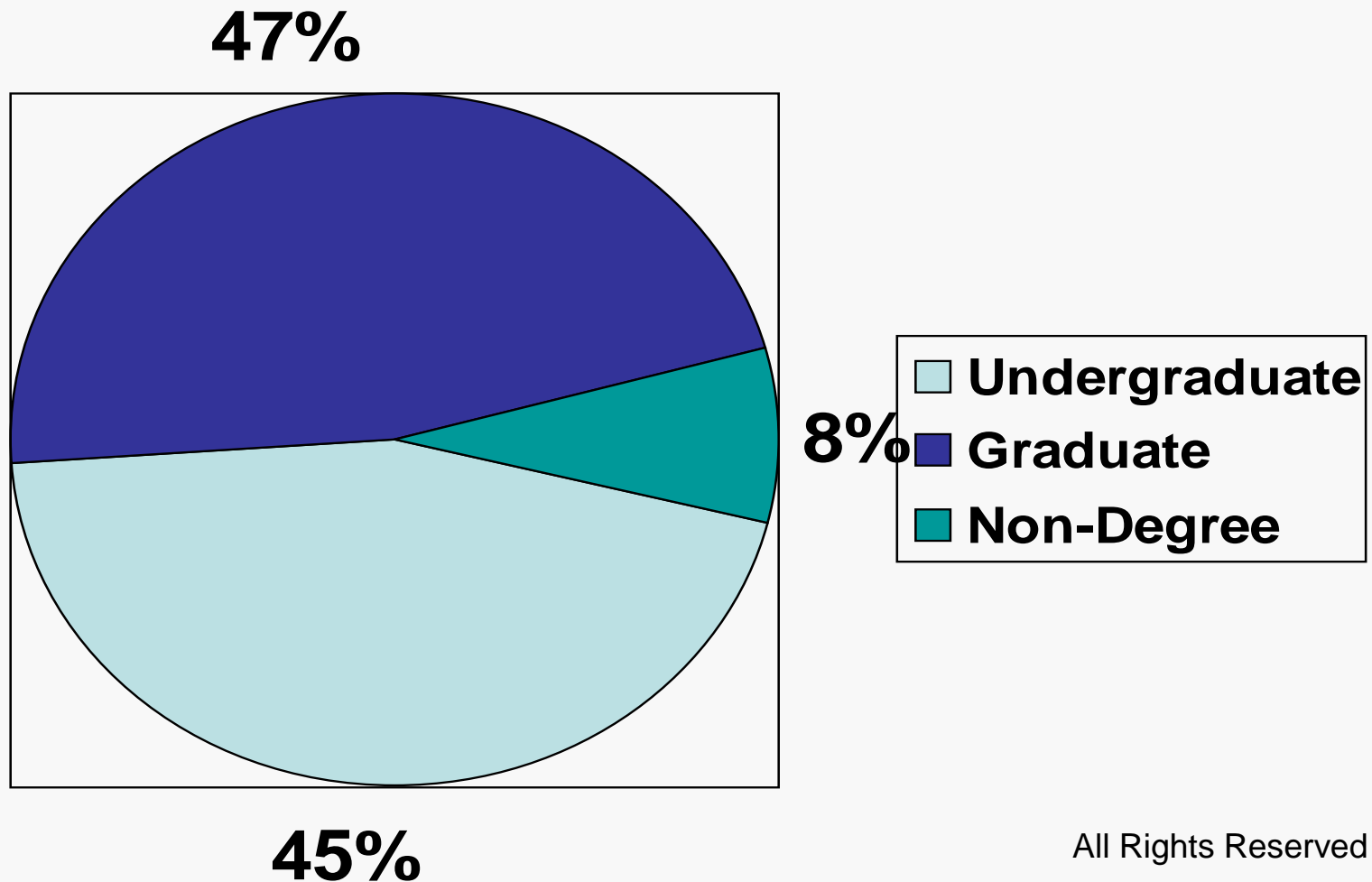


International Student Enrollment Trends in US Higher Education

- International students are at record numbers:
 - 671,616 students (+7.7% vs. year ago)
- New student enrollment increased +16% in Fall 2008



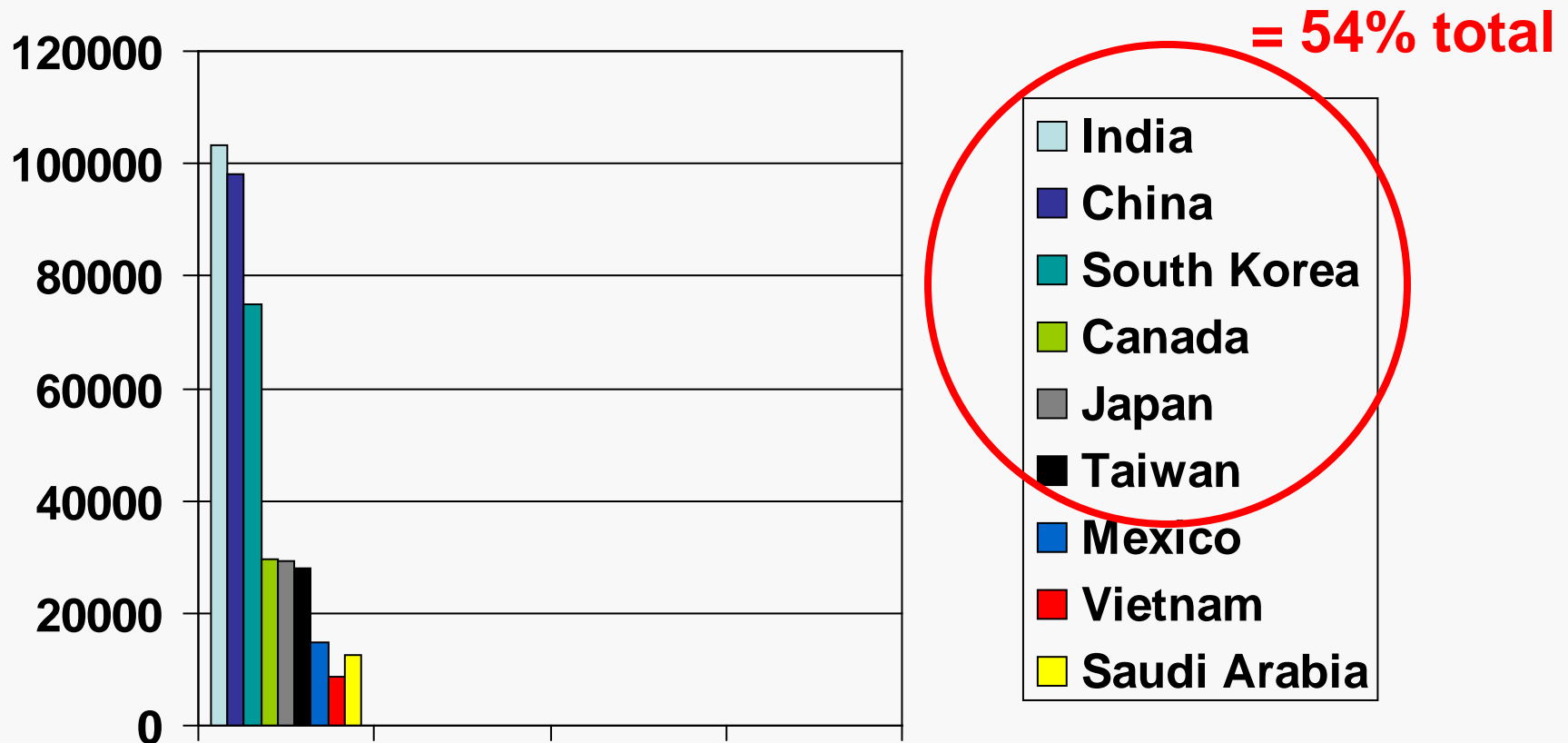
Even Split Between Graduates and Undergraduates



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Significant Populations from Asia



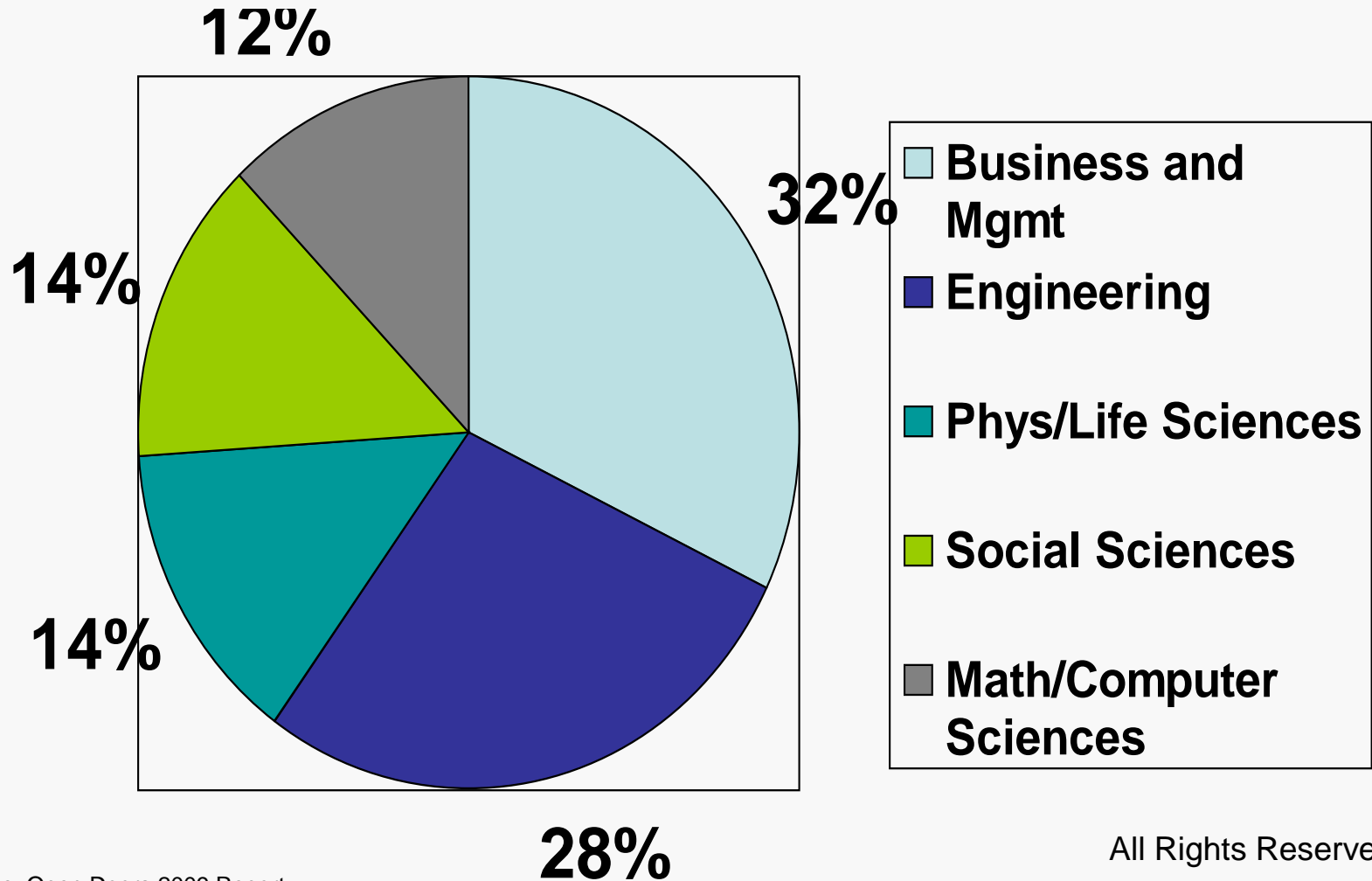


Top US States Hosting International Students

1. California (93k)
2. New York (74k)
3. Texas (58k)
4. Massachusetts (33k)
5. Florida (30k)
6. Illinois (29k)
7. Pennsylvania (27k)
8. Michigan (23k)
9. Ohio (20k)
10. Indiana (17k)



Business, Science and Technology Top Fields of Study



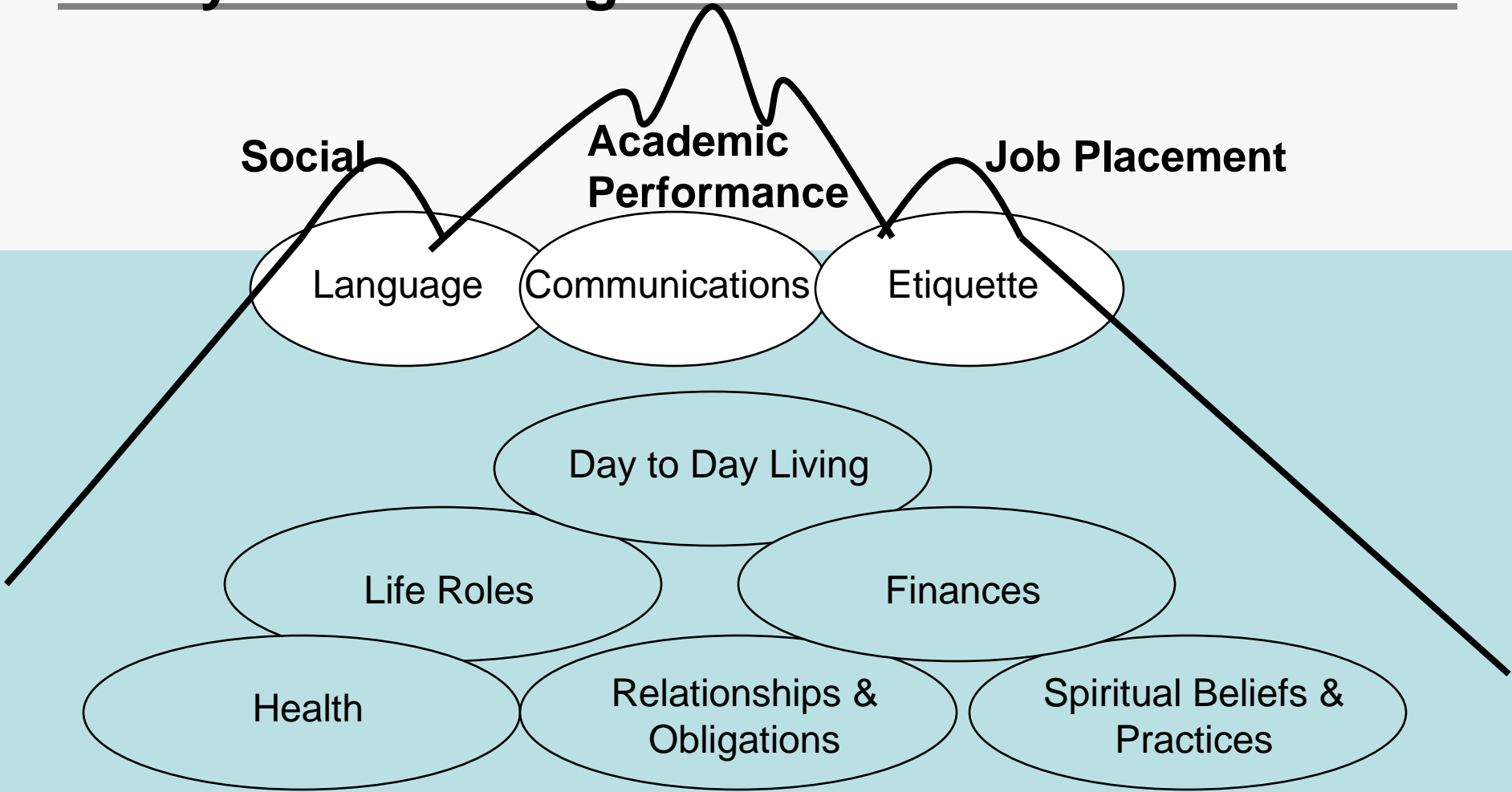


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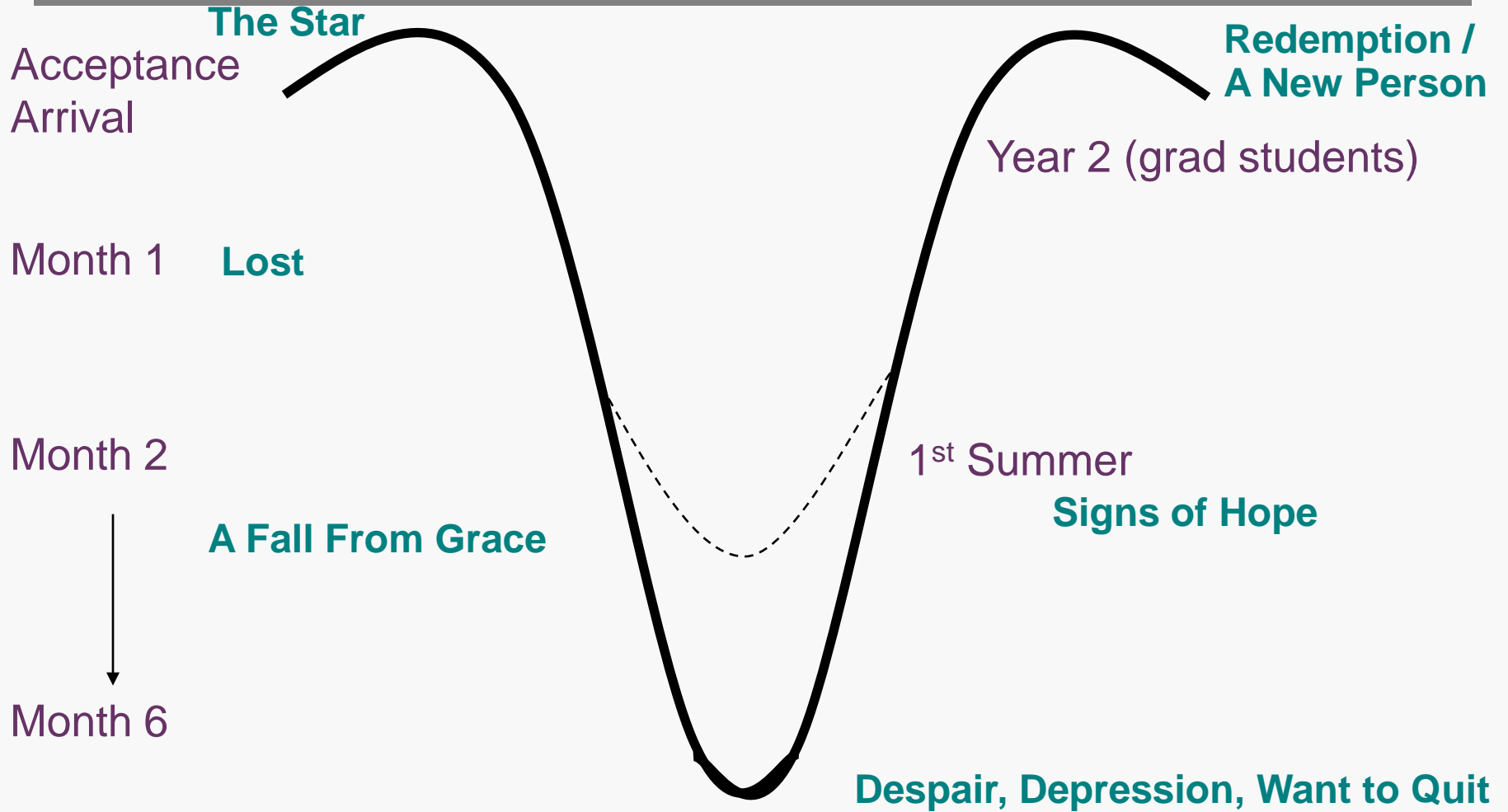


Student Outcomes are Affected By A Wide Range of Issues In Their Lives



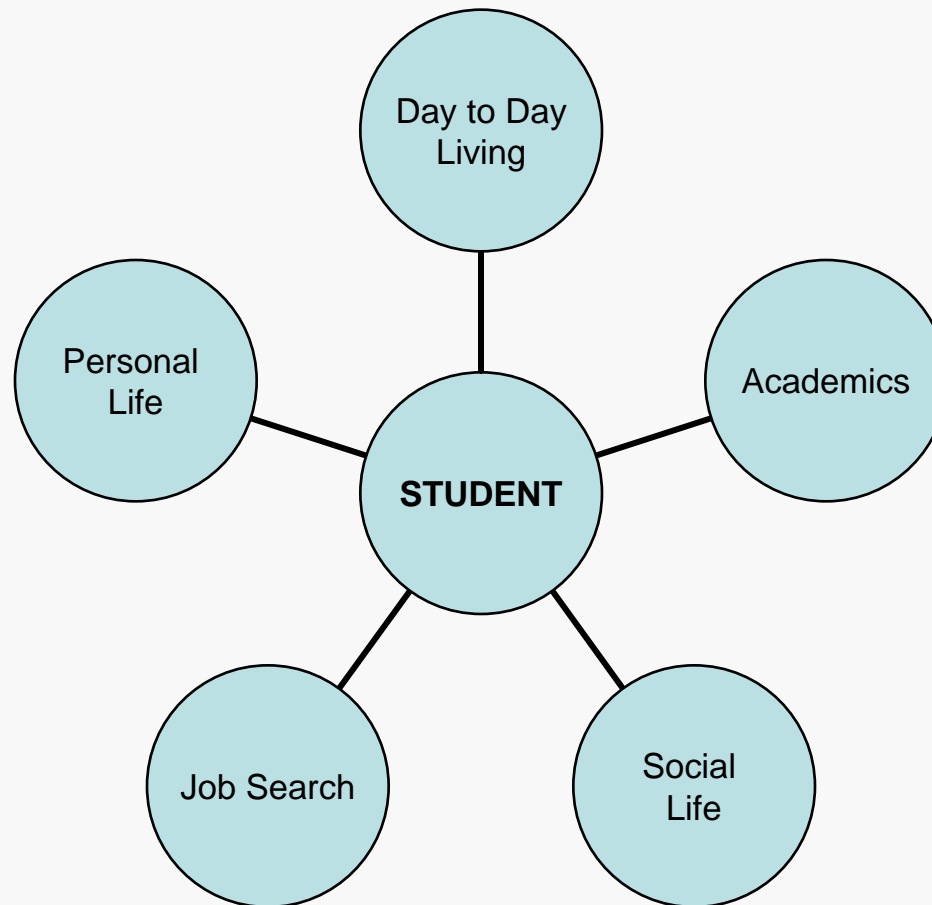


Student Needs Change Over Time





University Opportunity: Address Critical Areas of the Whole Student





Many International Students Do Not Voice Their Needs and Concerns



Yes I think I have it.

Do you understand this theory?

I really don't understand but I don't dare ask.



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Definition of International Orientation

International Orientation is
a series of events and messages
throughout the academic year to facilitate
competence, confidence and a connectedness
among international students with their new
campus environment and the wider community
in which they now live.

*This broad definition includes classroom, campus, university,
community, and US culture.*



Characteristics of Undergrad/Grad International Orientations

Typical program inclusions	Sometimes included	Rarely included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Information on housing/dorm life, cell phones, supermarkets, household goods, drivers license, social security number, etc., •Campus life: maps, phone numbers, office hours of operation •Orientation to town/city •Emergency information •Plagiarism •Social Events •Visa information •Healthcare basics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Networking – graduate programs. •Career Services introduction – graduate programs. •Cultural Adaptation Session – international student challenges •Panel discussions w/ 2nd year students, senior classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Faculty Involvement •Classroom culture •Communication skills •Writing skills •Healthcare in the US – step by step walk through •How to get help: medical, mental health, counseling, overcome barriers to asking for help •Sessions for partners/family on understanding the campus culture/US culture •Culture of support
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Timing of Orientation Activities

TIMING OF ORIENTATION

Typical	Sometimes	Rarely
Orientation Week/Term Start Up	Prematriculation period with some social activities in fall with international student focus	Prematriculation period, orientation week and throughout fall term with outreach throughout the year

LENGTH OF ORIENTATION

Typical	Sometimes	Rarely
1- 5 days	1 – 2 weeks w/ some ongoing activities during fall term	3 weeks with outreach and sessions continuing throughout the term



Orientation/International Student Support at Harvard Business School

- **PART ONE – Summer 2010**
 - PreMBA – 3 week program – July & August/Analytics – Support Services presence
 - New faculty orientation
- **PART TWO – Orientation Week, September 7 - 10**
 - International Orientation: 2 hour classroom segment and intro to the culture of support at HBS
 - Section Chair Meetings
 - Outreach to Club/Affinity Group Presidents
- **PART THREE – Term 1**
 - Article in the student newspaper on the Culture of Learning at HBS
 - Faculty Chair Meetings w/ Sections
 - Outreach to students: navigating the academic terrain, teaching life skills, communication strategies for conversations with faculty and in the classroom, managing healthcare and disabilities
 - Effective Communication in the Classroom – small group workshop: Open to int'l students
 - Case Analysis and writing about cases: open to all students
 - October session coordinated with International Reps to normalize the experience 2-3 months into the term.
 - Partner Sessions: Adjusting to Life at HBS session for International Partners, Understanding life on campus for partners and students.



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Expanding the Focus of International Student Orientation

From

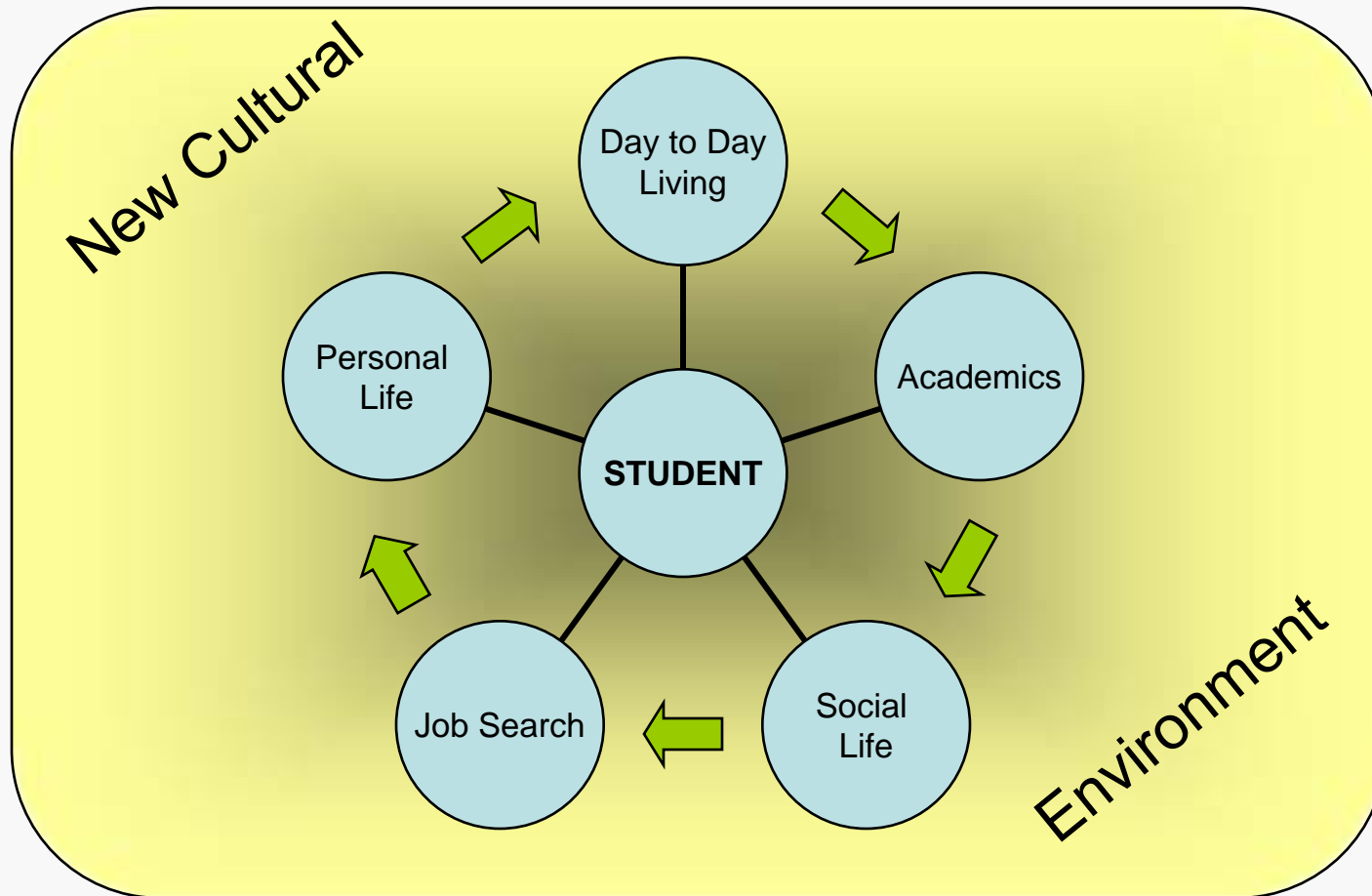


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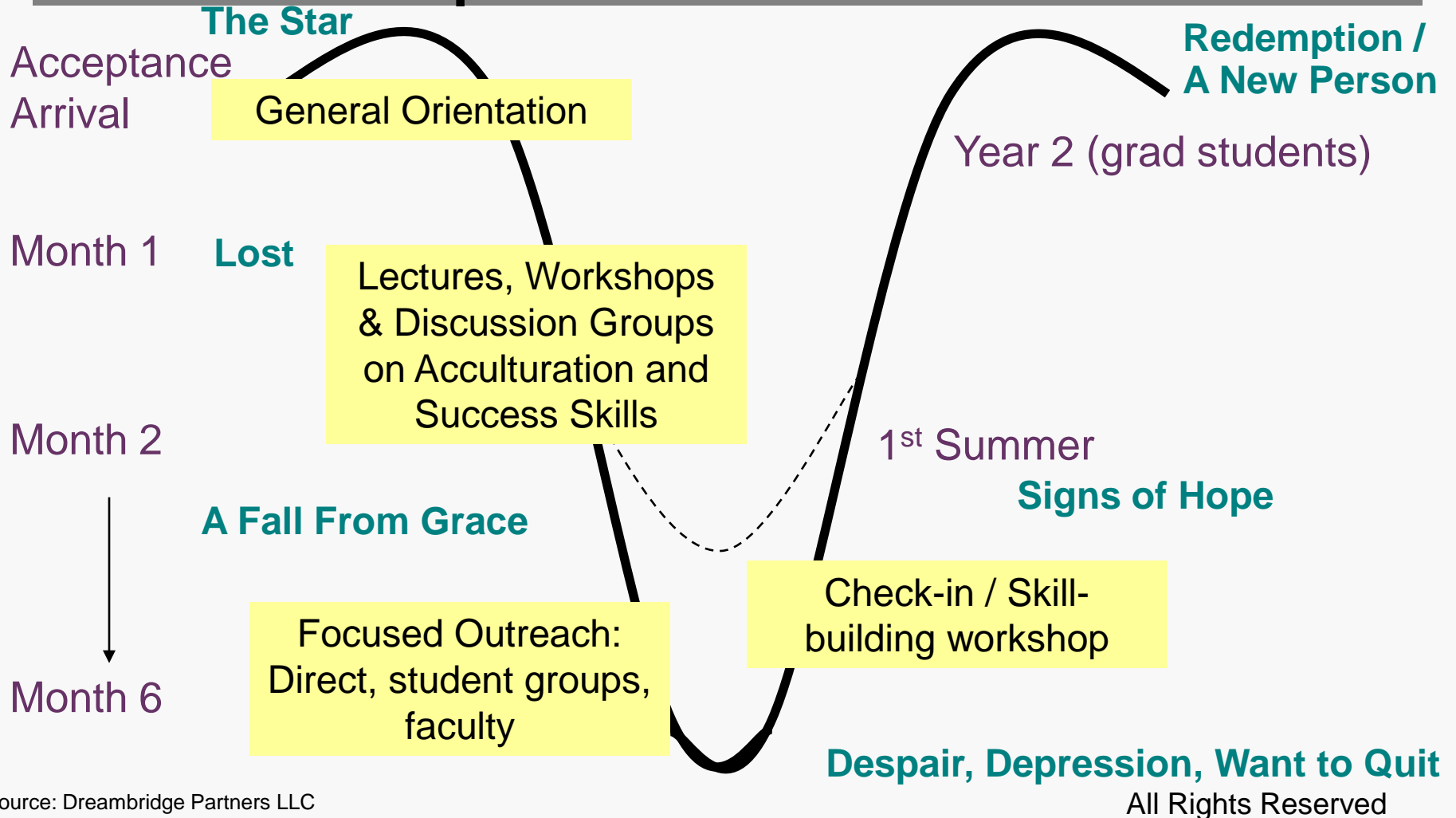


An Orientation Strategy that Addresses Critical Areas for the Whole Student



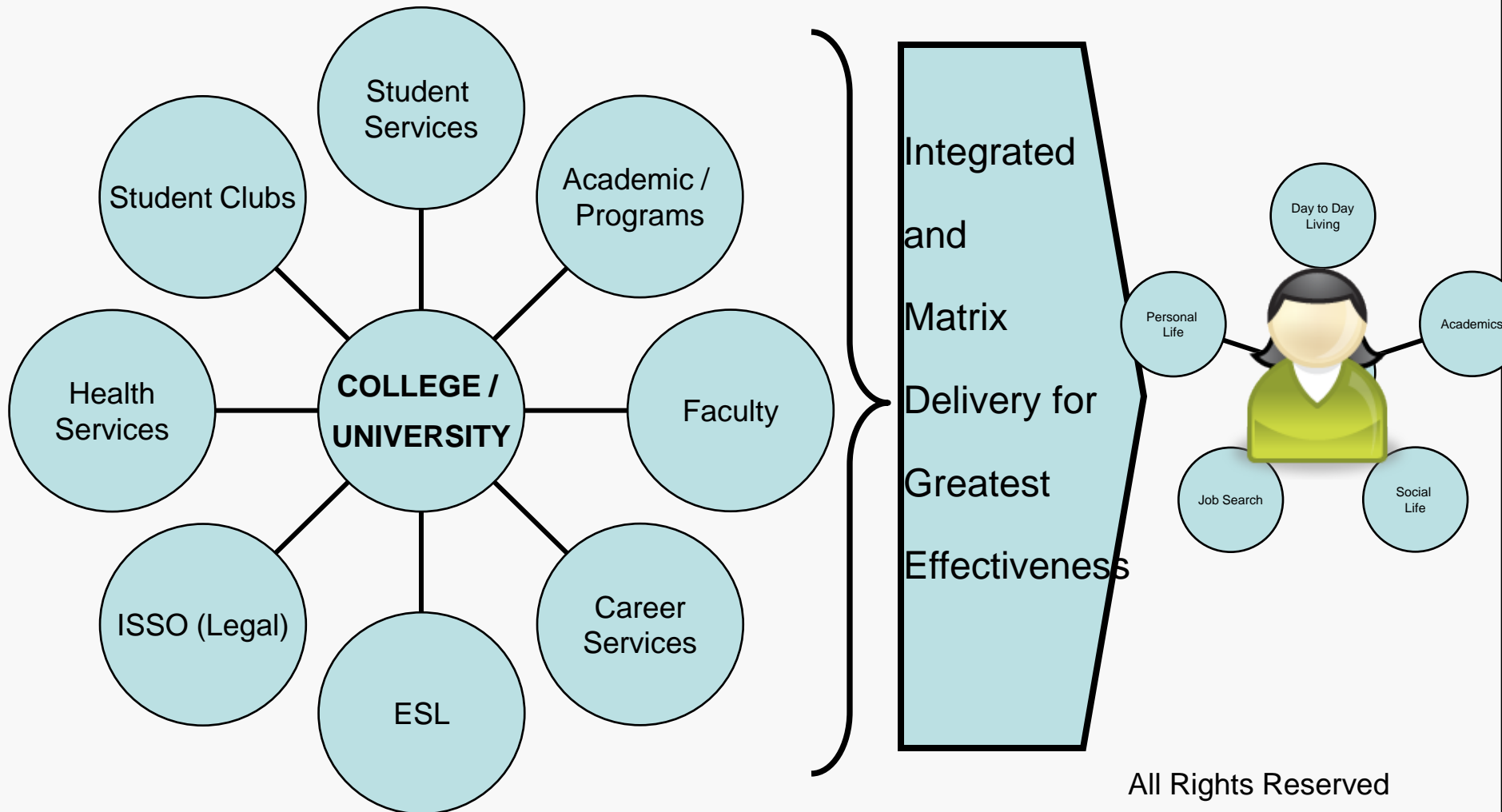


Adapt "Orientation" Format and Program to Temporal Needs of Students





Integrate University Departments in Delivery of Orientation and Ongoing Support





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Making It Happen

- Programming:
 - Prematriculation communication/programming
 - First week orientation
 - Semester programming
 - Outreach



Making It Happen

- Opportunity for collaboration and connection
 - Faculty:
 - One-on-one collaboration
 - New faculty orientation, faculty retreats
 - Helping them think about international student challenges in the classroom
 - How to communicate/give feedback to international students
 - How to ID signs of distress in students
 - Staff:
 - Initiate connection building upon common work with international students
 - Initiate collaboration that makes the staff member's job easier and problem solves while still benefitting the international student experience
 - Enlist ambassadors to help you with your mission of supporting international students
 - Students
 - Student Committees
 - Student clubs, affinity groups



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