

Reach-Out Orientation Transition and Study Skills (ROOTSS) Program

Thilini Leitan and Christine Klaray



What is ROOTSS?

- ROOTSS stands for Reach-Out, Orientation, Transition, and Study Skills
- Provided to new-to-LFS students:
 - High school and transfer students (both internal and external)
- Developed and executed by LFS Student Services, professional and student staff
- 12-month program offered through Canvas
- Combination of both self-guided and student- and staff-led events, webinars, and workshops
- Funding from TLEF through 2022 and will be supported by Faculty through 2025

Why ROOTSS?

- ROOTSS addresses the need for academic, social and wellbeing programming that connects new-to-LFS students to their peers, staff and instructors in LFS, provides access to resources, and creates opportunities to develop and practice learning skills that are foundational to long-term success.
- The three main goals are to:

- 1

Provide pathways for new-to-LFS students to develop a strong sense of belonging within the LFS community and make connections with their peers
- 2

Allow new-to-LFS students to have access to and an awareness of the resources and opportunities to develop and practice skills that are foundational to students' wellbeing and long-term academic success
- 3

Increase new-to-LFS students' commitment and motivation to complete their studies in LFS

What is in ROOTSS?

- Includes carefully planned “modules” or content releases that cover a broad range of relevant and timely topics for the demographic, including:



LFS Student Leader Involvement

- Over 80 LFS student leaders facilitated peer-to-peer interactions and connection through directly connect with their new peers in Canvas in the following ways:

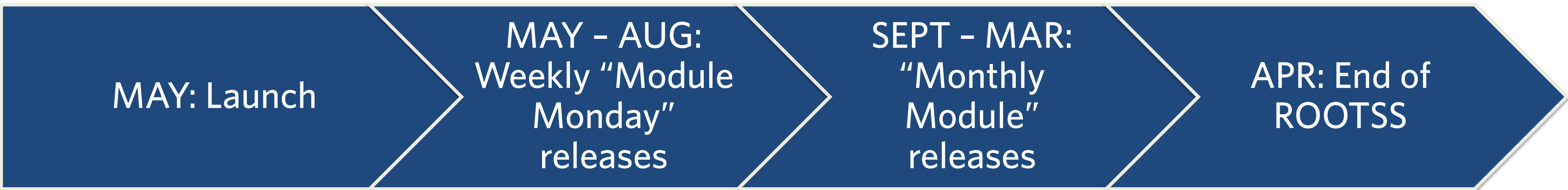
- 1

Engage with students on Discussion Boards to create an inclusive and welcoming space for students to interact in
- 2

Participate in and contribute to ROOTSS events, webinars and workshops
- 3

Share their experiences through LFS Peer Stories to allow students in ROOTSS to learn about campus life

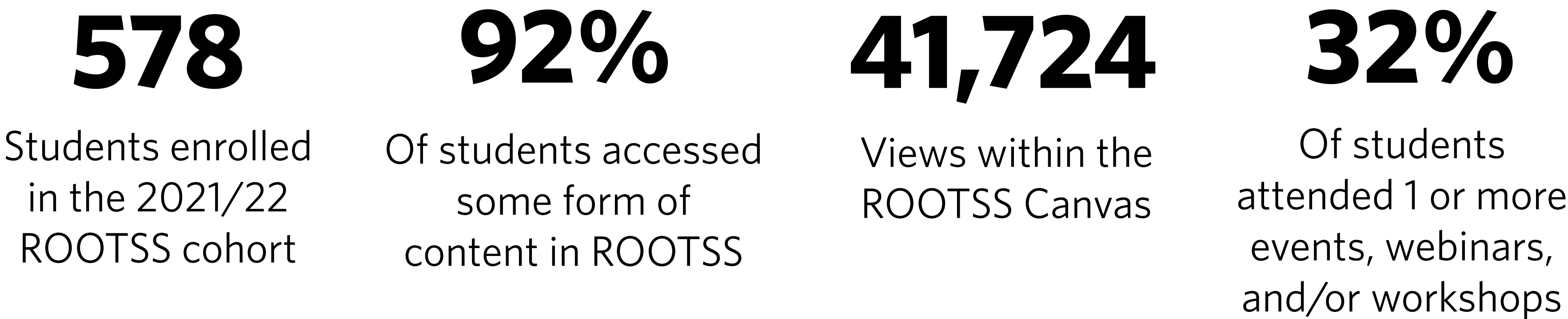
ROOTSS Timeline



Participant Feedback

- “I really like the ROOTSS program as it offers insight for new students. I wish this program lasted the entirety of my degree, I am really going to miss it.”
- “It felt like it was a welcoming family and then you're welcoming all the new students in, and it made me feel, I guess, happier, coming into university and less scared, and definitely helped me build that kind of family and community early on.”

Big Picture Numbers



Partners

•**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** - We want to recognize the support we have received from numerous campus partners: Peer Programs; Wellness Centre; Centre for Accessibility; Enrolment Services Advisors; Coordinator with Senior Faculty Fellows in Jump Start; Centre for Student Involvement and Careers; LFS Communications and Marketing; LFS Learning Centre; Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology.