Finding a Successful Route: Choosing Your Way Through Probation Roadblocks

Presented by:

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Learning Objectives

• Gain an understanding of the value specialized interventions can provide for students that are reinstated, on academic probation or needing supplemental academic support.

• Learn about the unique structure for an academic intervention strategy at Kent State University and how they can create their own.

• Identify ways to help students increase use and knowledge of campus resources.
Who We Are: Kent State

- Kent State University
  - Located in Kent, OH
  - 8 Campus System
  - 28,000+ Kent campus graduate & undergraduate
  - 282+ Programs of Study
  - 150+ Graduate Degrees & Certificate Programs
  - 950 acres

- 80.8% Undergraduate Retention Rate for Kent campus, 2017
Who We Are: Our College

- College of the Arts
  - 2700 students
  - 4 Schools
    - The Fashion School
    - School of Art
    - School of Theatre & Dance
    - Hugh A. Glauser School of Music
- Baccalaureate Degrees in B.S., B.F.A., B.M., B.A.

- Decentralized Advising Structure

- College Retention Rate Range, 83%-86%
Who Are Your Challenging Populations to Retain?
Background & History

• Mostly Selective Majors
  • Challenged by Students Not Directly Admitted

• Wanted to Expand Retention Related Outreach

• Developed Curriculum Summer 2016
Success in the Arts
Class Basics

• 1 Credit hour course
• Target Audience: Probation & Reinstated Students
• Maximum 20 students in the course
• Curriculum
  • Study skills, campus resources, guest speakers (student panel, faculty, etc.)
• Mandatory Assignments
  • One-on-one meeting with instructors
  • Goal Setting Packet
  • Careers in the Arts Conference
  • Learning Style Inventory
  • Attendance
  • Participation
  • Final Presentation

• Choose Your Own Grade Plan
Choose Your Own Grade Plan

Makes up 50% of their grade

Academic plan in disguise
- Plan is chosen by the second week of class and approved by instructors
- Goal: Establish behaviors of academically successful students
- Has Evolved Over Time

A La Carte
- Variety of social, academic, professional, personal
- Each have different point values
  - Ex. Attending required advising, office hours, joining a student org, going to the farmers market, etc.
- Provide proof through academic verification forms
Benefits of Course Structure

- Utilizes Campus Resources
- Supports Student Autonomy and Choice
- Not Punitive in Nature
- Doesn’t Recreate the Wheel
- Focuses on Doing
"The Comfort Zone"

- Comfort Zone
  - Feel safe and in control
  - Be affected by others' opinions
- Fear Zone
  - Lack self-confidence
  - Find excuses
- Learning Zone
  - Acquire new skills
  - Extend your comfort zone
- Growth Zone
  - Find purpose
  - Deal with challenges and problems
  - Live dreams
  - Set new goals
  - Conquer objectives
Results

- Average of 69% retention rate

- On average, students enrolled in the course increase their cumulative GPA by .385 during the semester they took the course.

- 2016-2017 students who took the course increased their cumulative GPA from an average of 1.96 to an average of 2.26 with a 59.09% retention rate.

- 2017-2018 students who took the course increased their cumulative GPA from an average of 1.85 to an average of 2.32 with a 82.35% retention rate.

- Under University review for implementation campus-wide.
Challenges to Offering Specialized Intervention Course

- Finding a time and location that works
- Demand on Staffing & Time Commitment
- Tracking Outcomes
- Recruiting Students vs. Making Required
Student Feedback

Biggest Takeaway:
• “To prepare for the expected and the unexpected. To reach my goals.”

Time Management:
• “Setting goals and organization!”

Choose Your Own Grade Plan Assignment:
• “Very helpful because it helped me to set a grade I would like to receive and go to events that interest me.”
• “Most of the things I chose will me in the long run.”

All respondents stated that they would suggest this course to a friend.
• "This course made me feel like I could make progress without being judged."
Student Success Stories

Theresa

Maya

Taylor
Questions?
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