Understanding Students’ Academic Lives

Rochelle Woods, Ed.D.
Director, Student Academic Services
Interim Director, Center for Scholars and Scholarships
Overview

- Student Support Services
- Navigating the College Environment
- Portrait of a Struggling Student
- Basic Survival Skills for Students
Reflection Exercise

Think of a situation with a student who had an academically related question you weren’t able to answer. What was the outcome?

Or

Do you know a student whose academic struggles affected their student employment? What was the outcome?
Student Support Services

- Faculty Members/Professors
- Department Chair/Vice Chair
- Department Support Staff
- Teaching Assistants and Graduate Assistants (TA and GA)
- Peer Advisors
- Academic Advisement Center (UH 123)
- Resident Assistants (RA)
- Health/Counseling Center
- Assistant Deans
- Retention and Graduation Specialists
Navigating the College Environment

University Catalog

- Grading policies
- Repetition of courses
- Withdrawal policies
- Student rights
- Degree requirements
- Academic department information

Registration Guide

- Academic calendar with deadlines
- Repetition of courses
- General education requirements
- Finals schedule
- Frequently called numbers
- Class add, drop, withdraw deadlines
- Grading policy
- Placement exams
- Instructions for registration and registration dates including waitlist procedures
Registration Guide

http://www.fullerton.edu/admissions/CurrentStudent/guides/sp2015.pdf
Navigating the College Environment

- Check portal and CSUF email daily
- Check Titan Degree Audit (TDA) each semester
- Meet with an advisor or seek answers from the appropriate department (don’t rely on peers)
- Attend class and read materials in advance
- Read the syllabus
Portrait of a Struggling Student

- Trouble with transition from HS to college
- Lack of motivation
- Family issues
- Poor study habits
- Working too many hours
Portrait of a Struggling Student

- Trouble with time management
- Issues with commute to school
- Personal illness
- Personal problems with friends/significant others
Successful Students

- Manage their time effectively
- Take an appropriate amount of units
- Manage their work load
- Study 25-35 hours per week outside of class
- Have supportive family and friends
Successful Students

- Have reasonable commutes to campus
- Manage their emotions
- Seek help when needed (personal and academic)
- Take college seriously from day 1
- Realize that one bad grade on test can affect the final grade
Survival Skill #1

Take college serious from day 1
Survival Skill #2

Humble Yourself—

Ask for Help Before it is Too Late!
Survival Skill #3

Go to Office Hours!!!
How should I Interact with My Professors?

- Ask other students in your department on the best ways to interact with different professors.
- Every College has an Assistant Dean for Student Affairs who is more than willing to provide feedback.
- Ask advice from another professor who you are comfortable talking to.
- Join a club related to your major. Opportunities to interact with professors can be available through these organizations.
Survival Skill #4

Participate in Study Groups
Supplemental Instruction

- Peer facilitated sessions that integrate course content and learning skills (“what to learn” with “how to learn”)

- Targets key bottleneck and gateway courses with historically high non-pass rates

- Offered to all enrolled students

- Benefits:
  - SI participants earn higher mean final course grades
  - SI participants receive lower rates of D, F, and W grades
  - SI participants persist (reenroll and graduate) at higher rates

- Visit our website for the latest SI schedule!
  - [http://www.fullerton.edu/ulc/assistance/si.asp](http://www.fullerton.edu/ulc/assistance/si.asp)
Survival Skill #5

Utilize the FREE tutoring centers on campus!!
Access the one-stop source for the campus: www.fullerton.edu/learningassistance

Center for Academic Support in Engineering & Computer Science (CASECS)
Location: CS-201
Service: Tutoring for all Engineering and Computer Science classes.
Link: http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/resources/casecs.asp
Phone: 657-278-3879

Math Tutoring Center
Location: MH 553
Service: Drop in tutoring for all Math classes.
Hours: M-Th, 9-5, F 9-12
Phone: 657-278-3631

Mihaylo College Tutoring Center
Location: SGMH 2404
Link: http://www.business.fullerton.edu/tutoring
Phone: 657-278-2704

Opportunity Center for Sciences and Mathematics Students
Location: MH 488
Service: Science tutoring for majors and non-majors.
Link: http://nsm.fullerton.edu/student-resources/tutoring
Phone: 657-278-7082

The University Learning Center
Location: PLN 2nd Floor
Service: Tutoring for many undergraduate GE courses and some major courses. Online appointments and online writing review: www.fullerton.edu/ulc click on “make appointment”
Phone: 657-278-2738

Writing Center
Location: PLN 1st Floor
Service: Assistance with writing skills.
Link: http://english.fullerton.edu/writing_center
Phone: 657-278-3650
Reflection Exercise

- How can you help your student staff be successful?
Questions???

Thank you!!