

Unit Missions

 **AS Mission Statement**

Mission statement

The Office of Academic Support Services provides the support services that are necessary for student success in college courses, assists students in developing an educational plan consistent with life goals and objectives, and equips students with the skills and attitudes necessary for the attainment of personal goals.

Related Items

There are no related items.

Learning Outcomes

AS 01: LO Understanding University Policies and Procedures

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Learning Outcome

The student will be able to navigate the DSU website and demonstrate a knowledge of Delta State's policies regarding academic probation and suspension and financial aid probation and suspension.

Data Collection (Evidence)

Class discussion, pre- and post-test to determine the student's knowledge of policies and procedures.

During the first week of the semester, the students were given a pre-test to determine how much they knew about DSU and the policies and procedures that govern student behavior and academic progress. The test consisted of questions concerning the number of hours the students must attempt to be considered full-time, the hours of operation and services offered by Student Health Services and the DSU laundry, the difference between Flex Bucks and Okra Green dollars, the name of Delta State's President, the university attendance policy and consequences of exceeding the allowable number of absences, the GPA required to remain in good standing with Academic Affairs and with Financial Aid and the consequences of falling below that GPA, dates and deadlines for submitting financial aid documents and for registering for classes, as well as policies concerning alcohol use, parking decals, and residence hall visitation. The next few classes were spent finding answers to all those questions by learning to navigate the DSU website. Additionally, students were taught to access the different pages on the DSU website including those on Online Services, OkraMail, OkraKard, the DSU online catalog, curriculum check sheets, and the student handbook. They were also taught to compute grade point averages. Occasionally throughout the semester, we had website drills. Students were asked to locate a certain policy, form, or contact number on the DSU website. The first student to successfully locate the requested information would receive bonus points applicable to a daily quiz. These impromptu drills offered additional opportunities to discuss information crucial to student success. At the conclusion of this process, the students were given post-test items on the first unit test to assess their knowledge of university processes and procedures.

Students must attain a grade of at least 70% on the post-test to demonstrate competence.

Results of Evaluation

The results of the pre- and post-test are as follows:

Pre-test: 3% of the students demonstrated at least 70% competence on knowledge of DSU's policies and procedures.

Post-test: 74% of the students demonstrated at least 70% competence on knowledge of DSU's policies and procedures.

Use of Evaluation Results

After hands-on instruction with navigating the DSU website, most students were able to locate the answers to impromptu questions and demonstrate the process to others. Unfortunately, this did not always translate into direct recall of university policy or its applications via written examination. In order to convey the importance of the mastery and regular use of the DSU website's various resources, I occasionally required students to submit assignments or answers to after-class, extra credit website searches via OkraMail. Also, in an attempt to preempt potential academic difficulty, I required students to attend the Academic Support Lab for one thirty minute session per week during tutoring hours. Even with this requirement, I found that many students missed one or more mandatory lab sessions.

I will continue to conduct occasional website drills and searches during the following semesters, not only for the sake of helping the students become familiar with DSU's online resources, but to reinforce the necessity of the website's use. Furthermore, I intend to introduce Canvas to the students by placing various policy documents and links to essential student success information within the class shell. This will give students not only access to the information they need through multiple channels, but it will add an element of practical application to their mastery of the DSU website, DSU Online Services, OkraMail, and Canvas, all of which are essential tools for continued success in college-level courses.

Related Items

There are no related items.

AS 02: LO Establishing Goals

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Learning Outcome

The student will be able to establish appropriate short term and long range goals for his/her academic progress at DSU.




Data Collection (Evidence)

Goal worksheet, self-assessments, and unit test questions.

The unit on values and goals was introduced with an exercise on discovering what is important (see Identifying What You Value Exercise attachment). The students were required to identify the link between what they value and how to achieve what they value, and also the role that education would play in the achievement process.

We discussed the characteristics of SMART goals (see Characteristics of SMART Goals attachment) and completed a SMART Goal Worksheet (see SMART Goal Worksheet attachment). Completing this worksheet helped the students develop a plan for achieving a goal, rather than simply saying they wanted to meet a goal. As we moved through the unit in the text, students created weekly short-term goals and reported their plans for accomplishing these goals to the class. This was followed by a written assessment of the extent to which the goal was met. This unit transitioned into the section on time management so that the students were able to equate the amount time spent on a goal with the level of achievement.

The self-evaluation is an important reflective exercise for the students to observe their attitudinal and behavioral changes. The unit test contained questions about SMART goals. Additionally, the students were required to write a long-term goal and complete all sections of the goal sheet for an assigned topic. These were graded by the instructor. The students must attain at least 70% of the possible points on those questions to demonstrate competence.

-  Characteristics of SMART Goals
-  Identifying What You Value Exercise
-  SMART Goal Worksheet

Results of Evaluation

We began this unit with a discussion of values which quickly transitioned into a discussion of realistic and unrealistic goals. The students seemed to enjoy debating whether or not certain examples of goals were possible and probable, possible but not probable, or entirely impossible. The class discussion, in conjunction with the SMART goals worksheet, was particularly useful in helping students understand the connection between short and long-term planning and goal achievement.

65% of students displayed at least a 70% competency on a quiz about the specifics of SMART Goals.

58% of students scored 70% or higher on the second unit test.

Use of Evaluation Results

Initially, most students created extended long-term goals on the SMART Goals Worksheet.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, I will require students to limit long-range goals to the current semester or school year to convey a sense of practicality in the establishment of SMART goals. In addition, short-term goals created weekly will have a direct connection to the achievement of monthly and semester-long goals, reinforcing the connection between the two. Students will also be required to engage in daily short-term goal setting via "to-do" lists to be included in their academic planners.

Related Items

There are no related items.

AS 03: LO Applying Successful Time Management Strategies

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Learning Outcome

The student will be able to identify and apply proper time management techniques to his/her daily academic routine.

Data Collection (Evidence)

Unit test, Improvement Plan, Improvement Plan revisions.

Prior to studying this unit in our text, we logged onto the Virginia Tech website and completed the time management activities in the Cook Counseling Center's Time Management Strategy Series.
(http://www.ucc.vt.edu/academic_support_students/online_study_skills_workshops/time_management_strategies/index.html)

We listed our most common time wasters and then approximated the amount of time per day/week that was spent on those time-wasting activities. This led to a discussion of setting priorities and the importance of developing a schedule. The activity concluded with the students completing the "Where Does Time Go?" assessment. The textbook unit was then introduced and covered over the next couple of weeks.

Time management strategies were tested as items on the unit test, which both objective, multiple choice questions and written responses.

Results of Evaluation

Mastery of objectives involving time management, establishing priorities, and avoiding procrastination was measured through items on the unit test. Seventy-nine percent of students met or exceeded the 70% competency rate requirement. Ninety-three percent of students were able to draft sufficient written responses to define procrastination and illustrate methods of avoiding it.

Use of Evaluation Results

The Virginia Tech website is a great way to introduce the material on time management as it is interactive and provides students with immediate feedback. I will continue to utilize this website during the 2013-2014 academic year to introduce this unit. At midterm, the students were required to write a reflection on their progress over the first eight weeks of college detailing what they had done well and what needed improving. As an out-of-class activity, they had to prepare a detailed, step-by-step improvement

plan for any subject area in which their grade was below a C. We revisited the improvement plan periodically to determine how well they were following their own guidelines. I will continue to require regular written reflections on the effectiveness of time management strategies in improving students' academic performance.

Related Items

There are no related items.

AS 04: LO Exploring Academic Majors and Related Careers

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Learning Outcome

The student will declare an academic major during his/her first year at Delta State and will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the chosen academic major and a desired career path.

Data Collection (Evidence)

Academic major/career path project.

Prior to the assignment of the informal research project on an academic major and the career options available for someone with that major, we once again discussed values and realistic/unrealistic academic and career goals. The student's values, as well as his/her interests and abilities, provided the basis upon which the students would declare an academic major. The student's project consisted of a 2-3 page typed paper citing at least 5 sources and an oral presentation to the class. Included in the report was internet research on the major and possible careers linked to the major, and an interview with either someone currently working in the chosen field or with an instructor in the academic area of the major. Visual aids were optional, but encouraged. Some class time was allotted to the research for the project, but most had to be completed outside of class. Students were allowed to use required weekly lab time for this project. The presentation rubric was distributed and thoroughly explained to insure that the students were fully aware of what was expected in the paper and presentation.

The students made the presentations to the class in 10-minute intervals allowing 5 minutes for actual presentation time and 5 minutes for audience question and answer sessions. The grades on the presentations were computed using the following weights: 30% of the grade from participation during peer presentations (asking pre-written questions, taking notes, general attentiveness) and 70% of the grade from instructor evaluation. A grade of at least 70% was required to demonstrate competency.

Results of Evaluation

Seventy-seven percent of the students demonstrated a competency level of at least 70% on the Academic Major/Career Project.

Use of Evaluation Results

In order to align this project more closely with the criteria of freshman-level writing projects and presentations, additional elements of research were included. Students were required to submit career/major topics and materials from at least 5 sources for approval prior to drafting. This added an additional level of relevancy to the project, as students were able to practice research skills that will be useful in future college coursework.

Overall, student presentations were of sufficient quality and length. Multiple elements of this project were introduced early in the semester, allowing for a step-by-step approach that resulted in the majority of students being prepared on presentation days, both with their presentations and questions for participation in Q and A sessions. The report and peer questions were due two weeks prior to presentation for instructor review and approval. During the 2013-2014 academic year, I will continue to assign various parts of this project in small, manageable increments, not only to aid in student preparation, but to reinforce the necessity of planning and time management for long-term goals.

Related Items

There are no related items.

AS 05: LO Learning How We Learn

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Learning Outcome

The student will be able to identify his/her primary learning style and personality type and to make appropriate adjustments to note taking and studying to compensate when his/her learning style differs from the instructor's delivery method.

Data Collection (Evidence)

The Multiple Pathways to Learning Assessment, the Personality Spectrum Assessment, in-class cooperative learning exercises, and the unit test.

Prior to a brief introduction of the unit, the students completed both the Multiple Pathways to Learning and the Personality Spectrum

assessments in class. These instruments provided insight into the ways individual students learn and how they interact and communicate with others. Students shared their results with the class and discussed how the results aligned with or were dissimilar from preconceived understandings of the way they learned best. The students also discussed how they could use the characteristics of their dominant learning style to convert information disseminated by the instructor into a format that better met their learning style needs. The unit test included questions that required students to recognize not only characteristics of the different learning styles and personality types, but also study techniques that maximize each.

Application of this material is difficult to measure objectively. Although the unit test questions do measure the student's knowledge of the learning styles and personality types and study techniques that maximize each, the student's ability and willingness to adapt to different delivery styles is a behavioral change that is often not readily observable. Students must attain at least 70% of the possible points on the unit test to demonstrate competence.

Results of Evaluation

Unit test: 80% of students scored 70% or higher.

Use of Evaluation Results

Class time for this unit allowed for the evolution of multiple discussions concerning different approaches to studying and learning, and the responsibility of the students to adapt to their teachers' teaching styles at the university level. Students were required to write a reflection describing the teaching style of an instructor they found particularly difficult and outline a plan for adapting their study methods. Unfortunately, it was not possible to objectively measure whether or not they put these plans into action. During the 2013-2014 academic year, I will continue to engage students in open discussion about their perceived and assessed learning styles. Also, I will continue to encourage the application of note-taking and test-taking techniques based on those learning styles through additional written reflections.

Related Items

There are no related items.

AS 06: LO Taking Notes

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Learning Outcome

The student will be able to demonstrate multiple note-techniques.

Data Collection (Evidence)

Sample note-taking exercises, unit test.

As a pre-unit exercise, I gave a fun mini-lecture and the students were asked to take notes using their method of choice. At the conclusion of the lecture, students were allowed 5 minutes to clean up their notes and expand as needed, but the students were not allowed to consult me or another student for clarification of material. An open-note quiz followed and the students graded themselves to determine how well their method of recording the information prepared them for the quiz. Although these grades were not recorded, it gave the students valuable feedback on their note-taking skills.

I then introduced the unit on listening and note taking and different note-taking techniques were discussed and practiced. Students were reminded of their dominant learning style and note-taking strategies were provided for each learning style. We then discussed the process of listening and the role active listening plays in a student's ability to take adequate notes. The unit test contained questions that required the student to recognize characteristics of different note-taking styles as well as the connection between listening and note-taking.

Results of Evaluation

Only 35% of students scored 70% or higher on the Listening and Note-Taking unit test. 52% scored 60% or above.

Use of Evaluation Results

Student performance on this unit suffered a marked decrease from last year. Although only 35% scored 70% or above on the unit test for Listening and Note-Taking, an additional 17% scored 60-69%. Those students in the latter score range very likely could have met the 70% competency rate given additional instruction. I excluded objective daily quizzes prior to this unit in favor of increased class discussion time and verbal assessments, but in retrospect this was likely a mistake. For the 2013-2014 academic year, I will reinstate objective daily quizzes of various note-taking techniques and the listening process and as a means of both assessing student comprehension and motivating the completion of outside reading assignments.

Related Items

There are no related items.

AS 07: LO Reading for Comprehension

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Learning Outcome

The student will demonstrate improved reading comprehension skills.

Data Collection (Evidence)

Developing Critical Thinking Skills software; unit test.

As I introduced the chapter entitled Reading and Information Literacy, I assigned each student a section of the unit. The student was required to read the assigned section, take thorough notes in their own words, and be prepared to teach that section at the next class. At the following class, the chapter was taught section by section, one student after another. At the conclusion of this process, the students admitted that they understood their individual section better than the other sections because of their preparation. I encouraged them to always read as if they were responsible for teaching the material to others.

Periodically, the students are required to complete units using the reading software program Developing Critical Thinking Skills, a program that tests the students ability to recognize context clues for vocabulary, main ideas, inference, and sequence.

Students must attain a grade of at least 70% on the unit test to demonstrate competence.

A competency level of 70% or above is required on the reading software before the student is allowed to advance to the next level in the software. Students not scoring at least 70% on each component of the Developing Critical Thinking Skills reading program are required to repeat the sections with unacceptable scores until a mastery score of 70% or better is reached.

Results of Evaluation

Eighty-seven percent of students scored 70% or higher on the computer-based reading comprehension assessments.

Eighty-five percent of students scored 70% or higher on the unit test.

Use of Evaluation Results

The Merit Developing Critical Thinking Skills reading software is nearly ten years old and in immediate need of replacement for the 2013-2014 academic year. Unfortunately, this antiquated version suffered from multiple software errors that occasionally resulted in loss of student data. This was extremely frustrating for the students, especially if they were near completion of a unit. The 2004 version used for this class has long since been replaced by an online, browser-based version with more contemporary features. Luckily, the manufacturer offers pilot programs for university courses, which I am in the process of acquiring for the Fall 2013 Semester.

As a learning objective, Reading for Comprehension is not limited only to the tested chapter, but integrated into most parts of the course of study throughout the year. Formal assessment will continue to be made through the unit test, but additional weekly quizzes will be added to monitor continued improvement in college-level reading skills. I will also make slight alterations to the method of assessment for the reading software component. Traditionally, students have been allowed to take and retake units of the Developing Critical Thinking Skills reading program until they achieve a score of 70% or higher, with an unlimited number of attempts. This seemed to promote a sense of apathy among some students, as they knew that eventually, even by random chance, a score of 70% could be achieved. During the 2013-2014 academic year, I will allow only a limited number of attempts to attain the required 70% competency.

Related Items

There are no related items.

Unit Goals

AS 2013_01: Insure Proper Placement

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Unit Goal

Insure that entering freshmen who require developmental classes according to the policies of the Mississippi Board of Trustees of Higher Learning are accurately registered and monitor their progress through the required courses to insure continuous enrollment until successful completion of said courses.

Evaluation Procedures

I run regular Banner ACT component score reports throughout the spring and summer prior to fall enrollment to determine which students require one or more developmental courses. For students whose ACT component scores dictate the need for one or more developmental courses, I then check the student's Banner account to determine if a developmental hold has been placed on the student. If the hold is not already in place, I execute the hold process. If the hold is already in place, no immediate action is required. Once the student is prepared to register for classes (whether at Freshman Orientation or at another time during the summer after the student has been fully admitted to the University), I remove the hold and register the student for the required developmental course(s). Periodically, I run a Banner Developmental Course Load List report to track enrollment changes in the developmental courses. If a student has been removed from a developmental course, I make sure that a developmental hold has been reapplied to the student's account. At the completion of each semester, I run a Banner report (SFRSLST) to view final grades recorded in all developmental courses. If a student has not successfully completed the required developmental course for the upcoming semester, no course of action is required on my part. If the student has preregistered, but has not preregistered for the failed developmental course, I contact the student to correct the registration schedule. If there is no schedule for the upcoming semester, I simply execute a developmental hold on the student's account which will prevent registration until the student has contacted me. Once contacted, I register the student for the required course(s), remove the developmental hold, and either assist the student with registering for the remainder of his/her courses or instruct them to work with another academic advisor to complete registration. Accuracy in these processes requires close coordination among the offices of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies, Enrollment Management, and the Registrar.

Actual Results of Evaluation

Through close coordination among the offices of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies, Enrollment Management, and the Registrar, Delta State University strictly complies with the IHL policy regarding enrollment in the developmental courses. Students who require developmental courses in mathematics, English, and/or reading, are properly placed in those courses and are tracked to insure continuous enrollment until each required course is successfully completed while enrolled at Delta State University. Students who withdraw from the University prior to successful completion of those required developmental courses must show proof of credit in the developmental courses from another institution of higher learning or re-enroll in those courses upon readmission to the University.

Use of Evaluation Results

Students who are placed in developmental courses according to the IHL policy are not allowed to withdraw from those classes unless they are completely withdrawing from the university. Additionally, students must maintain continuous enrollment in the required developmental classes until they have been successfully completed, and they may not enroll in a subsequent course in the subject area until they have successfully completed the required developmental course. If there is an enrollment change in a developmental course that does not follow these guidelines, I meet with the office staff who allowed the exception to reinforce the IHL policy and the serious nature of not complying with the stated guidelines and make every effort to correct the exception immediately.

Related Items

  SP1.Ind01: Pass rates: developmental and intermediate courses

  SP1.Ind03: Academic and support services

  SP1.Ind06: Advising -- access to improved, comprehensive, and directed/targeted advising

  SP2.Ind01: Enrollment

  SP2.Ind02: Retention

  SP2.Ind03: Graduation Rate

AS 2013_02: Disseminate Academic Success Information

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Unit Goal

Provide academic support classes, peer tutoring services, and study skills workshops that focus on effective time management, study skills, note-taking techniques, and reading comprehension, which will produce better students who will persist to graduation. Additionally, the Director of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies will continue to present study skills information to GST 100 groups and SSC 101 classes.

Evaluation Procedures

I provide regular email notifications of tutoring hours (see tutoring attachment), workshop dates and topics (see study skills workshop attachments), and other special academic-enhancing events to all students in the OkraMail database. Additionally, these email notices are sent to all faculty and staff through the appropriate ListServes. I enlist the aid of the faculty and GST mentors and encourage them to require their students' attendance at one or more of the workshops per semester. I record attendance at all workshops and have workshop attendees evaluate the speakers. Additionally, I maintain tutoring records and track the academic progress of SDP students and CED students.

Actual Results of Evaluation

Tutors in the Academic Support Lab provided assistance to 2585 students. This is an increase of 1152 students from the previous academic year.

During the Fall 2012 semester, I presented study skills tips to twelve GST 100 classes and to the SSC 101 class during both fall and spring. Through these outlets, study skills and time management information was shared with over 240 students. Additionally, I delivered study skills information to football players during a study hall lab orientation at the beginning of the Spring 2013 semester.


During the Fall 2012 semester, 60 students were registered for CED 098, Academic Support Lab I. Three of those students were no-shows. Therefore, a total of 57 students received final grades in CED 098. Fifty-three of those students received passing grades in the class and four received a grade of F (4 cut-outs). Of the 53 students who received final grades in CED 098, 47 were enrolled in the CED 099 for Spring 2013, though four never attended and one withdrew from the university. Additionally, 5 new students enrolled for the spring. Of the 47 students remaining in CED 099, 43 earned passing grades and four received grades of F (3 cut-outs and one unsuccessful completion).


A total of 1054 students attended the workshops offered during the 2012 – 2013 academic year, a significant increase from the previous year. Additionally, 26 different faculty referred students to fall workshops and 29 different faculty referred students to spring workshops. (See the table below for more complete information on the Study Skills Workshops.) I can only hope that the information disseminated at these sessions will continue to positively impact the academic performance of those in attendance.

Workshop	Students in Attendance	Number of Faculty Who Referred Students to Workshop
Fall 2009 - I	67	18
Fall 2009 - II	107	22
Fall 2009 - III	184	30
Total for semester: 358		
Unduplicated number of faculty referring: 42		
Spring 2009 - I	100	16
Spring 2009 - II	106	11
Spring 2009 - III	174	23
Total for semester: 380		
Unduplicated number of faculty referring: 33		
Fall 2010 - I	97	31
Fall 2010 - II	144	28
Fall 2010 - III	174	35
Total for semester: 415		
Unduplicated number of faculty referring: 52		
Spring 2011 - I	108	23
Spring 2011 - II	153	37
Spring 2011 - III	257	37
Total for semester: 518		
Unduplicated number of faculty referring: 60		
Fall 2011 - I	161	38
Fall 2011 - II	158	44
Fall 2011 - III	198	49
Total for semester: 517		
Unduplicated number of faculty referring: 71		
Spring 2012 - I	113	34
Spring 2012 - II	106	28
Spring 2012 - III	128	20
Total for semester: 347		
Unduplicated number of faculty referring: 51		
Fall 2012 - I	74	11
Fall 2012 - II	61	Athletic Dept. Referral/NA
Fall 2012 - III	98	Athletic Dept. Referral/NA
Fall 2012 - IV	225	12
Fall 2012 - V	154	3
Total for semester: 612		
Unduplicated number of faculty referring: 26		
Spring 2013 - I	93	11
Spring 2013 - II	50	5
Spring 2013 - III	299	13
Total for semester: 442		

In an effort to provide more direct feedback to the faculty presenters and to assist me in scheduling upcoming workshops (best times, desired topics, etc.), I utilize a brief, IRP approved evaluation form to be completed by all workshop attendees at the end of each workshop (see attached workshop evaluation form). A compilation of some of the feedback is provided below. The workshop evaluation form contains questions not represented below, as well as a space for comments. However, the items shown here are the most relevant and most helpful when scheduling future workshop topics and speakers.

Survey Question	Number of Respondents	Responses
The topics were relevant to my personal needs.	563	88% Agree or Strongly Agree
Would you like to hear this speaker again?	539	91% responded Yes
What additional topics would you like to have discussed at future workshops? (Mark all that apply.)	1087 responses from 552 respondents	39% responded Study Skills 35% responded Financial Management 35% responded Time Management 20% responded Organizational Skills 28% responded Note-Taking Techniques 37% responded Academic Motivation 2.5% Other* Memorization Stress / Tension Reading for comprehension Problems facing non-traditional students Mental/physical health Interview skills
What day is best for you to attend a presentation?	542 respondents	21% responded Monday 31% responded Tuesday 23% responded Wednesday 36% responded Thursday
What time is best for you to attend a presentation?	527 respondents	21% responded 3 pm – 4 pm 28% responded 4 pm – 5 pm 63% responded 5 pm – 6 pm

 Fall 2012 Study Skills Workshops

 Spring 2013 Study Skills Workshops

 Spring 2013 Tutoring Schedule

Use of Evaluation Results

Tutoring -

I will continue to focus the funds available to hire tutors for the areas in highest demand. Because the previous director had an extensive background in mathematics instruction, I have had to acquire more math peer tutors than in previous years. But, considering my background as an English instructor, I have been able to minimize the need for additional writing tutors.

Additionally, I have begun advertising for new potential tutors during presentations to the Honors GST course, hoping to find multi-talented students who can tutor multiple subjects rather than only one specialized area. So far, this practice has been quite successful.

CED 098/099 - Students who have a poor grade point average are placed on academic probation or suspension and financial aid probation or suspension. The vast majority of the CED students who did not return in the spring had lost their financial aid and were unable to pay college fees without assistance. This inability to pay their fees prevented them from re-enrolling. It is not uncommon for underprepared students to make poor choices regarding time management, which typically results in poor grades and the loss of financial aid for tuition and fees. I will continue to devote more class time to the consequences of poor grade point averages in an effort to assist the students in remaining focused on their academic requirements.

Study Skills Workshops / GST 100 / SSC 101– As I plan upcoming workshops, I use the results of the previous semester’s workshop evaluations. Speakers and/or topics with poor reviews will not be asked to present at subsequent workshops. I seek

feedback from GST 100 and SSC 101 faculty/staff to determine if the study skills information that I cover with these groups meets the needs of the group, and if needed, I will revise my presentations.

Related Items

 [SP1.Ind01: Pass rates: developmental and intermediate courses](#)

 [SP1.Ind03: Academic and support services](#)

 [SP2.Ind02: Retention](#)

 [SP2.Ind03: Graduation Rate](#)

AS 2013_03: Adapt Course Content

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Unit Goal

Continue to adapt the content covered and time spent on topics addressed in both the CED 098/099 courses and the study skill workshops to meet the ever-changing academic needs of the students enrolled at Delta State University.

Evaluation Procedures

I obtained oral feedback throughout the semester and written feedback at the end of each semester from the CED students on the use of class time and material covered and made necessary adjustments based on that feedback. I used the results of the study skills workshops evaluations when arranging for speakers, determining topics, and setting days and times for the upcoming semester's workshops. Additionally, I continued to monitor the academic progress of the students in CED 098/099 and made adjustments as to how class time was spent in an attempt to increase student retention.

Actual Results of Evaluation

I made regular adjustments to both the content covered in CED 098/099, and also the time spent on each topic as individual student needs dictated. By allowing student input into the areas of emphasis, I expected that the students would take a more vested interest into the content of the course. I expected them to retain the information better because of their involvement, and as a result, demonstrate more academically sound choices. Many times, however, they did not seem to have any desire to have input into the content covered and the way class time was spent. The students who did request certain topics did seem to enjoy the material more and get more involved in the learning process.

Use of Evaluation Results

I asked for student input into the order that I taught the topics in the textbook and revised my syllabus based on their input. Additionally, toward the end of the semester, when we had a couple of days left, I opened the class for general discussion on any topics of concern. This worked well and was really enjoyed by the students. I will use this technique in future semesters.

Related Items

 [SP1.Ind01: Pass rates: developmental and intermediate courses](#)

 [SP1.Ind05: Diversity -- access to diverse ideas/programs](#)

 [SP2.Ind02: Retention](#)

 [SP2.Ind03: Graduation Rate](#)

AS 2013_04: Increase Campus Awareness

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Unit Goal

Increase the campus awareness of the services offered by the Office of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies in the following ways:

- Encourage faculty to include Academic Support information in each course syllabus.
- Post workshop and tutoring flyers in each academic building, residence hall, and student dining facility.
- Use OkraMail and Facebook to announce upcoming events sponsored by this office.
- Establish Facebook page solely for Academic Support Services.
- Set up a table in the H. L. Nowell Union during Welcome Week to increase awareness of the services offered by this office.
- Keep the Academic Support Services website up-to-date.
- Reissue request that the Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies' web pages be included under the category *Resources* in the DSU homepage Quicklinks.

Evaluation Procedures

I keep accurate records of lab use and workshop attendance to monitor the number of students being served. By utilizing a

wider variety of means of notifying students and faculty of the services offered by the Office of Academic Support and Developmental Studies, I expect the number of students and faculty utilizing the services to continue to increase.

Actual Results of Evaluation

Using the Academic ListServ, I shared study skills workshop dates and times with faculty in time for the information to be included in fall and spring course syllabi. I also sent via email the hours during which tutors would be available to assist students with their academic work. Workshop and tutoring flyers were printed and posted in academic buildings and in residence halls, as well as being shared with students via OkraMail. Prior to each workshop, notices were sent to all students and faculty via email. I also enlisted the services of our Office of Communications and Marketing to update information on the Academic Support Services web pages. I was disappointed, however, that in the process of updating the web pages, most were removed from the A to Z index. Additional announcements about upcoming workshops and tutoring availability were made by Student Success Staff members in various staff/faculty and student meetings as well as on the SSC Facebook page

Through these efforts, and despite a significant decrease in the number of referring faculty, the number of students who attended our 2012-2013 workshops increased by nearly 200 students. Additionally, the number of students utilizing tutoring resources offered by Academic Support Services during the 2012-2013 increased by 1152 students from the previous academic year. The number of students attending the Academic Support Lab during the Spring 2013 semester alone exceeded the entire previous year's attendance. It would appear that faculty may not have been spreading the word about the offerings of Academic Support Services as in previous years, but a concentrated effort at advertising directly to the students and through staff members (such as coaches and graduate assistants) netted far greater results.

Use of Evaluation Results

I will continue to use multiple outlets to advertise tutoring hours, upcoming workshops, and other events sponsored by the Office of Academic Support Services. I will keep the information on my web pages up-to-date for accurate dissemination of information. Prior to the start of the fall and spring semesters, I will email all faculty with information about the upcoming study skills workshops and will encourage them to include the information in their respective course syllabi.

Related Items

 [SP1.Ind03: Academic and support services](#)

 [SP1.Ind05: Diversity -- access to diverse ideas/programs](#)

 [SP1.Ind07: Resources: access to appropriate library and learning resources](#)

 [SP2.Ind02: Retention](#)

AS 2013_05: Increase SDP Enrollment

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Unit Goal

Increase enrollment in Delta State's Summer Developmental Program (SDP), and encourage those students who successfully complete the program to continue their higher education at Delta State University.

Evaluation Procedures

I compared previous enrollment in the Summer Developmental Program with enrollment for the 2012 SDP. Additionally, I tracked those students who successfully completed the program to determine if they continued their higher education at Delta State.

Actual Results of Evaluation

The enrollment for the 2012 Summer Developmental Program was consistent with the 2010 SDP at 16 students. Eight of the sixteen enrolled passed all areas allowing them to continue their enrollment at an IHL institution. Of those who passed the SDP, all eight enrolled at Delta State for the Fall 2012 semester.

Use of Evaluation Results

Although all of the students who successfully completed the 2012 SDP enrolled at Delta State for the fall term, only seven of the eight attended classes in August. Of those seven, one cut out of CED 098 during the fall and did not return the following semester. Of the remaining six, all were successful in completing CED 098 and were enrolled in CED 099, but only four returned for the Spring 2013 semester. Of those final four SDP 2012 students, one cut out and three completed the year long Academic Support Program successfully. The students who are admitted through the Summer Developmental Program are especially high risk. Most are admitted with very low high school grade point averages and ACT scores. Typically, they lack some of the crucial college prep curriculum courses that provide the academic foundation necessary for success in college courses. So although the Summer Developmental Program does assist the student in overcoming some of the academic deficiencies, there is no way that a nine-week program can insure success in college courses. Many times, the academic deficiencies are not the greatest obstacle faced by these students. Their greatest challenges are their extremely poor academic habits and lack of academic motivation. These are challenges that I tried to address, and challenges that will continue to exist. As a result, the director of the office of Academic Support Services will need to continue to monitor and track the progress of the SDP students through their first year and beyond, and continue to provide individual mentoring to these students to enhance their level of success and persistence.

Related Items

  **SP2.Ind01: Enrollment**

  **SP2.Ind02: Retention**

  **SP2.Ind03: Graduation Rate**

  **SP2.Ind05: Admissions yield rate**

 **AS 2013_06: Incorporate Additional Support Services**

Start: 7/1/2012

End: 6/30/2013

Unit Goal

Incorporate additional support services (i.e. student success coaches, career counseling, etc.), including, but not limited to, those offered by the Student Success Center, through the inclusion of pertinent related materials within the CED 098/099 curriculum and study skills workshops.


Evaluation Procedures

I keep detailed records of student attendance at all Academic Success Workshops, including those offered by other student support services on campus. In addition, GST 100 sessions, SSC 101 orientation sessions, and Academic Support Lab Study Hall Orientations co-hosted by the Student Success Center, as well as referrals to the Student Success Advisor, are documented.

Actual Results of Evaluation

Information about other student support services, including the Student Success Center, the Writing Center, Student Health Services, Counseling and Testing, and Career Services was disseminated during the course of the Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 semesters to students enrolled in CED 098 and CED 099, as well as students attending Academic Support Services Workshops, GST 100 Workshops, SSC 101 lab orientations, and athlete study hall lab orientations. Many of these sessions were attended or co-hosted by representatives from the Student Success Center. Additionally, Academic Support Services joined with the Student Success Center in a presentation given during the Summer 2012 Nursing Bootcamp. Two of the Spring 2013 Academic Success Workshops, hosted by this office, featured speakers who represented student support services separate from Academic Support Services: Dr. Edward Plough (Language and Lit. Writing Center), and Christy Riddle and Elise Mallette (Student Success Advising). Additionally, the Student Success Center made brief appearances during all sections of the CED 098 and CED 099 classes to explain their mission and available services such as advising for students with undeclared majors.

Through multiple channels, including various workshops, lab orientation sessions, and the CED 098 and CED 099 courses, hundreds of students were exposed to information regarding additional support services available on the DSU campus. All students attending Academic Success Workshops (1054 students) were given information on services offered by and the location of the Student Success Center, as were the 204 students who attended GST 100 sessions hosted by Academic Support Services. Students enrolled in CED 098 and CED 099 who had not yet declared a major were referred to the Student Success Center Advisor to register for Spring 2013 classes. Dr. Edward Plough's workshop, "Plagiarism: What It Is and How You Can Avoid It," was delivered to 93 students and included information about the DSU Writing Center. Additionally, all students enrolled in CED 098 for the Fall 2012 semester were exposed to information on the majority of student support services available on campus, both academic and non-academic, during the first two weeks of class.

 Spring 2013 Study Skills Workshops



Use of Evaluation Results


The efforts made to incorporate additional support services were highly successful, and not just as a means of advertising through the forums offered by Academic Support Services. Including other support services in the Academic Success Workshops gave both the Writing Center and the Student Success Center a chance to teach and interact with students outside of the typical classroom and office settings, and with a student population that is often unaware that such services exist. In future semesters, I will continue to try to partner with other student support services on campus in the belief that collaborative efforts will result in the best possible assistance for students.

Related Items

  **SP1.Ind01: Pass rates: developmental and intermediate courses**

  **SP1.Ind05: Diversity -- access to diverse ideas/programs**

  **SP1.Ind06: Advising -- access to improved, comprehensive, and directed/targeted advising**

  **SP2.Ind01: Enrollment**

  **SP2.Ind02: Retention**

Section IV.a

Brief Description

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

The office of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies is a division of the Student Success Center and reports directly to the Executive Director of the Student Success Center. In most regards, the Director of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies functions as a one-person office, maintaining administrative duties while teaching all sections of CED 098 in the fall and CED 099 in the spring. Upper level students are hired using funds from Work Study, Regular Student Employment, and Graduate Assistantships to serve as peer tutors for the general student population.

The primary goals of the office Academic Support Services include:

- To provide the support services that are necessary for student success in college courses.
- To identify at-risk students and meet the needs of those students to increase student retention.
- To assist students in developing an educational plan consistent with life goals and objectives.
- To equip students with the skills and attitudes necessary for the attainment of personal goals.
- To provide accurate information about Delta State University's institutional policies, procedures, and programs.

The director works very closely with a number of other administrative offices on campus including the Student Success Center, Enrollment Management, Financial Aid, the Registrar, Student Housing, and Student Life and Orientation. One function of this office is to appropriately identify and register all students requiring developmental classes. This means that every student with an English, mathematics, and/or reading comprehension ACT subtest score of 16 or below is registered for the appropriate developmental class(es) by the director of this area. Students who require two or more of the developmental courses are also required to include CED 098/099 in their course schedule. These are the study skills classes that incorporate such topics as appropriate time management skills, note-taking techniques, test-taking techniques, general study skills development, academic major and career exploration, and enhanced reading comprehension. Students meet either three 50 minute classes each week or two 75 minute classes each week for two semesters. Most of the topics covered address attitudinal and behavioral changes that are required for the student to perform successfully in college course work. Additionally, the director also serves as coordinator for all developmental courses on campus and serves as liaison between the IHL and developmental faculty, as well as liaison between Delta State University's Provost and developmental faculty.

This office also works cooperatively with Financial Aid by offering three study skills workshops each semester. Students who have been placed on financial aid probation are required to attend at least one of the workshops during the semester of their probation. The director schedules the workshop presenters, makes the appropriate room reservations, and communicates with faculty, staff, and students through email and campus signage to publicize the workshops. The director also attends each of the workshops, maintains attendance records, and notifies all referring faculty members of their students who attended.

The Summer Developmental Program, which serves as an alternate route to university admissions for students who do not meet the admissions standards established by the IHL, is coordinated by this office. The Director of Academic Support Services also serves as the Director of the Summer Developmental Program and completes all admissions, registrations, and reporting for the program. Additionally, the current director serves as the instructor for CRD 090, the summer developmental Reading course.

Section IV.b

Comparative data

Enrollment, CHP, majors, graduation rates, expenditures, trends, etc.

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Enrollment in Developmental Classes
(Numbers represent those receiving final grades.)

Category	Fall 2008	Fall 2009		Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012	
	Enrollment	Enrollment	Change	Enrollment	Change	Enrollment	Change	Enrollment	Change
Combined Developmental : Unduplicated (CED + CRD + ENG + MAT)	148	158	+6.8%	160	+1.3%	114	-28.8%	141	+23.7%
CED 098	45	71	+57.8%	53	-25.4%	44	-16.9%	57	+29.6%
CED Enrollment as percent of Unduplicated Combined Developmental	30.4%	44.9%		33.1%		38.6%		40.4%	
Developmental Enrollment as percent of Freshmen Class (First-time Freshmen only: unduplicated)	34.9%	43%		42.1%		34.2%		36.7%	

The continued growth in developmental enrollment seems to indicate that the students graduating high school do not possess the academic skill base required to perform successfully in college level classes. As the table indicates, 36.7% of the Fall 2012 freshman class required one or more developmental courses, and 40.4% of all developmental students had deficiencies in two or more of the subject areas of math, English, and reading, as indicated by their enrollment in the CED 098.

Section IV.c

Diversity Compliance Initiatives and Progress

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

NA

Section IV.d

Economic Development Initiatives and Progress

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

NA

Section IV.e

Grants, Contracts, Partnerships, Other Accomplishments

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

NA

Section IV.f

Service Learning Data

List of projects, number of students involved, total service learning hours, number of classes, faculty involved, accomplishments.

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

NA

Section IV.g

Strategic Plan Data

Only use this section if you have strategic plan info to report that is not covered in other areas of your report

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

NA

Section IV.h

Committees Reporting To Unit

Each unit includes in the annual plan and report a list of the committees whose work impacts that unit or any other aspect of the university; along with the list will be a notation documenting the repository location of the committee files and records. Committee actions affecting the unit's goals may be noted in other applicable sections of the annual reports. Not required to be included in the unit's annual plan and report, but required to be maintained in the repository location, will be a committee file that includes, for each committee: Mission and by-laws, Membership, Process, Minutes.

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

NA

Section V.a

Faculty (Accomplishments)

Noteworthy activities and accomplishments

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

NA

Section V.b

Staff (Accomplishments)

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Doug Johnson serves as director of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies, instructor of the CED 098/099 classes, director of the Summer Developmental Program, instructor for CRD 090, and coordinator of the Developmental Studies program at Delta State University.

The peer tutoring program offered through Academic Support Services continues to serve the general DSU population well and has expanded greatly over the past year. During the 2012-2013 academic year, the tutors in the Academic Support Lab served 2585 students. Each week during the Fall 2012 semester, peer tutors provided 8 hours of writing help, 18.5 hours of math assistance, 12 hours of tutoring in computer courses and Accounting, 15 hours of assistance in general business-related courses, and 6 hours of tutoring in Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, and Chemistry. Additionally, each week during the Spring 2013 semester, tutors provided 10.5 hours of writing assistance, 23 hours of math help, 10 hours of assistance in computer courses and Accounting, 15 hours of assistance in general business-related courses, and 7 hours of tutoring in Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, and Chemistry.

Extensive help is offered during exam week, as well.

The Study Skills Workshops sponsored by Academic Support Services are an effective means of reaching students from every area of the campus. Attendance at these workshops totaled 1054 during the 2012-2013 academic year. Twenty-six different DSU faculty members were listed on the sign in sheets as the person or persons who referred the students to the workshop throughout the fall term while twenty-nine different faculty referred students to the workshops during the spring term. The speakers for these workshops did an excellent job of presenting information pertaining to academic success.

Through presentations to the First Year Experience classes, the social science introductory classes, and lab orientation sessions with various athletic teams, information on study skills, time-management, goal setting, and note-taking has been disseminated to well over 300 students in a small-group setting.

For additional information, the vita and activity report for the director can be found in the document directory.

Section V.c

Administrators (accomplishments)

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

NA

Section V.d

Position(s) requested/replaced with justification

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Graduate Assistants are merited by the scope of this program, particularly considering the significant increases in Academic Support Lab attendance and the expansion of lab hours for the Fall 2013 semester. Attendance in the Academic Support Lab during the 2012-2013 academic year was 2585 visits, an 80% increase over the previous year (1433 in 2011-2012). Lab hours for the Fall 2013 semester will be expanded to include Monday-Thursday mornings from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Monday-Thursday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., more than doubling the hours of operation of the previous academic year.

Section V.e

Recommended Change(s) of Status

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

No changes of status are recommended at this time.

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Section VI.a

Changes Made in the Past Year

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

Doug Johnson was hired as Director of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies, effective July 1, 2012.

The Office of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies was restructured as a division of the Student Success Center, effective July 1, 2012. The Director of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies now reports directly to the Executive Director of the Student Success Center.

The Office of Academic Support Services and Developmental Studies acquired a second computer lab, Union 302B, which now serves as the official Academic Support Lab. Union 311 remains a classroom lab for CED 098/CED 099, a testing lab for the Accuplacer test, and an office for the Director.

Section VI .b

Recommended Changes for the Coming Year

Judgment

Meets Standards Does Not Meet Standards Not Applicable

Narrative

No changes are recommended at this time.