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Probation Student Success 10-11
The Academic Success Center (ASC) opened its doors to students at Texas A&M University in January 2013. Housed on the second floor of the YMCA building, the ASC offers all undergraduate students programs designed to help them improve their level of academic success, graduate in a reasonable amount of time, and without a mountain of debt. The Academic Success Center’s mission is to help all Aggies enhance their academic performance. The ASC, a collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, offers a holistic approach that helps students identify roadblocks to academic success and ensures that all students have access to comprehensive resources necessary to becoming academically successful.

Programs offered by the Academic Success Center include: workshops, courses, tutoring, supplemental instruction, academic coaching, the transfer student program and the Texas Success Initiative.

The services provided by the Academic Success Center may be accessed by students either singly or in combination. Some students choose to participate only in Supplemental Instruction (SI), while others might participate in SI, engage in a series of workshops and visit with an academic coach over the course of the semester. Academic coaches can assist a student in designing a personalized program for success.

While courses, workshops, and academic coaching reached approximately 800 students in spring 2013, by spring 2014 the number of students taking advantage of these services had risen to almost 2,000. Participation in Supplement Instruction rose to approximately 28,000 student contact hours and more than 500 students participated in the transfer student program. The increases in students participating in ASC programs indicate that students think of these services as a valuable tool to becoming more successful in the classroom.

I extend an invitation to you to stop by the Academic Success Center and see how the ASC staff assists student to Commit – Engage – and Succeed!

Dr. Jim Kracht

Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Executive Director, Academic Success Center
2013-14 Highlights

- August/Sept. 2013: During Gig’em Week and the first week of fall classes, ASC staff spoke to several student groups including Freshmen Cadets from the Corps, Regents’ Scholars, and several student organizations.
- January 2014: Staff and programs of Peer Academic Services (SI, tutoring, Transfer Student Program) merged with the ASC.
- January/Feb. 2014: A record 1,420 students attended Fresh Start orientation sessions as part of requirements for academic probation.
- February 2014: Began “Next Step” initiative to help students with change of major and career awareness. This was a cooperative effort with Student Counseling Service, Transition Academic Programs, and the Career Center.
- March 2014: ASC staff participate in UAC Symposium.
- April 2014: The Federation of Aggie Mother’s Clubs dedicates 2014 Yearbook to the ASC.
- June/July 2014: ASC staff meet incoming class of 2018 at New Student Conferences.
- July/August 2014: ASC provides Gateway courses, Academic Coaching, SI, and tutoring services to approximately 400 Gateway students.
Academic Coaching

Academic coaches work one-on-one to help any and all students learn to the best of their ability. We help them identify roadblocks to their academic success. We help students improve in areas such as time management and effective learning strategies. We also help keep them accountable by providing opportunities to monitor their progress throughout the semester.

Highlights (2013-14)

✓ A total of 1,967 students participated in Academic Coaching completing 4,428 coaching appointments.
✓ Students on probation who completed a Success Plan with an Academic Coach saw an increase in semester GPA of .51 and an increase in cumulative GPA of .16 on average.
✓ 72% of probation students who completed a Success Plan with the ASC had an improvement in their term GPA.
✓ Students from all 10 colleges and 110 different majors participated in coaching.

TESTIMONIAL FROM A COACHING STUDENT FROM SPRING 2014:

“My experience has been so valuable. My spring 2014 semester course schedule was the most rigorous schedule in my undergraduate career, but indeed was my best semester. My spring 2014 semester gpa was 3.54. This is not only the first time that I ever earned 3.0 gpa or higher in any one semester, but this is first time that I hit a 3.5 gpa or higher. I went from a 2.6 semester gpa back in fall 2013 with two D’s in organic chemistry 1 and molecular cell biology to a 3.53 gpa in spring 2014 semester with an A in organic chemistry and a B in molecular cell biology. This was also the first semester that I never made any C’s in my courses and was the first time I made B’s in my biology major courses. My Academic Coach has really helped me achieve a great semester and now my confidence has returned to pursue my career in medicine. My coach is great and an excellent catalyst to my success this past semester and more success coming up in the near future!”

Cum. GPA Change After Two Semesters based on Academic Coaching Visits (Fall 2013 to Spring 2014)
Instructional Programs

The ASC offers a variety of credit and non-credit courses, workshops, and workshop series. These courses and workshops cover a variety of topics, but the overall objective is to help students better understand how people learn and to help students develop effective study strategies.

Highlights (2013-14)

✓ Total enrollment in ASC courses was 670.
✓ 32 sessions of the “Commit to Success” workshop series were offered throughout the fall and spring semester. A total of 672 students completed the course.
✓ 884 students attended “Fun Friday” workshops.
✓ ASC instructors taught a non-credit transition to college course for approximately 400 summer 2013 Gateway students.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

About STLC 101:

“[This course] has helped me improve on my test scores since the beginning of the school year.”

“My instructor has helped me learn how to learn more effectively.”

About Commit to Success:

“This course helped me see new strategies with which I can approach my schoolwork for academic success.”

“Great instructor – very eager to help and seemed like she really cared about our academic well-being.”

“I found this course extremely helpful and plan on continuing what I’ve learned.”

About “Fun Friday” Workshops:

“Learning methods of a good time management process helped make my life less hectic.”

Participation in Courses and Workshops: 2013-14
Supplemental Instruction

SI is a program to help students become successful in lower-level, core curriculum courses that have traditionally been difficult. It provides students with three 50-minute, peer facilitated study sessions each week. The facilitator (SI Leader) is a student who has previously taken the course and has been successful.

Highlights (2013-14)

✓ SI was provided in 321 sections of 21 courses with a total enrollment of 31,078 students.
✓ Supported summer 2013 Gateway program with six SI sections.
✓ Students who regularly attended SI (10 or more times during the semester) had an average final course grade of about one full letter grade higher than those who did not attend any SI sessions.
✓ SI is partially funded by a gift from the Association of Former Students.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“SI sessions have helped me identify the main ideas and the areas I need to focus on in preparing for exams.”

“SI has given me more confidence when taking my exams. It’s great having extra resources like this!”

“SI sessions were a good way to go over the lecture more in depth, which helped me understand the material better.”

“Organic Chemistry SI prepares me for every test and I feel more confident going into exams.”

“I’m really thankful for SI because it reinforces what I learned in class, but in a much clearer sense. It allows me to thoroughly understand the lessons”
Texas Success Initiative

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is designed to help academically underprepared students achieve the necessary skills to succeed in college-level course work. The focus is on math, reading, and writing skills. Instruction, for the most part, is one-on-one and individualized.

Highlights (2013-14)

- 56% of participating students succeeded in passing at least one part of the TSI requirements after one semester and 82% after two semesters.
- 64% of students completed all TSI requirements within two semesters.
- Individualized education plans were developed for each student to address specific academic weakness.
- A total of 247 students were enrolled in at least one developmental course.

TSI Student Progress 2013-14

What Students are Saying...

“What I liked about [this program] was the actual one-on-one basis we had with the tutors, the ability to ask about what we didn’t know.”

“I’ve applied the skills of taking my time to work things out in other courses…”

“[I liked the…] individual attention put on individual needs. The instructors never made anyone feel less. They were always very positive.”

“[I liked …] the tutors and the level of passion they present to the students and how they build friendships with us.”
Transfer Student Program

Transfer students are not new to the college experience nor are they freshmen. They are veterans, nontraditional students, international students, and others who have been successful academically prior to coming to Texas A&M. We provide mentoring, academic help, social opportunities, and other programs to help transfer students maintain their confidence and fill in the gaps academically as needed.

Highlights (2013-14)

✓ 247 Transfer Student office hour appointments
✓ 548 Transfer Students had two or more points of contact with TSP during the fall 2013 semester.
✓ The “Let’s Talk” program for international students conducted 193 total appointments.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“Your information is extremely informative! As another Aggie aiming to make Transfer students’ first semester an easy transition, I really love how helpful your emails have been! Thank you so much!”

Megan, AG Business Major

“Thanks for all your time, help, and information. Not everyone will tell you, but I bet they appreciate it too.”

Elijah, RPTS Major

“I wanted to tell you thank you for continuing to email me. I know I haven’t answered before, but I do read them and make notes on what to try. Thank you for you time!”

Kacie, History Major
Peer Tutoring

Tutoring is a program designed to assist students in understanding course content they may not have.

Highlights (2013-14)

- Tutoring had more than 2,000 visits during fall & spring semesters
- Tutoring was offered in three locations, five days a week: Hullabaloo, the Commons, and Evans Library.
- Supported 22 different courses including Physics, Chemistry, Math, Economics and Biology.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

“The times I have attended tutoring have been helpful. I received help not only on the class that I came for, but I also learned different ways to prepare for future exams which I can apply to all of my classes. “

  - Justin Bradish ’16

“The free tutoring really helped me break down concepts from class I didn’t completely understand. It’s a great place to ask questions since you work with a fellow Aggie who has already completed your class!”

  - Jacinda Webb ’17

Tutoring Attendance by Subject

- Organic Chemistry 23%
- Chemistry 31%
- Business Math 16%
- Engineering Math 9%
- Physics 7%
- Other 7%
- Biology 7%
During the 2013-14 Academic Year, a total of 3,055 students on probation were referred to the ASC to complete a Success Plan.

A total of 2,017 of these students attended a Fresh Start orientation session where they chose one of three options for completing a Success Plan (STLC 101, Commit to Success workshop series, or Academic Coaching).

1,739 of the referred students successfully completed a Success Plan. The charts on the left and the following page highlight the success of students who completed a Success Plan with the ASC.
Change in Cumulative GPA by Plan Status

Students 2.0 or below.
GPA Improvement by Intervention.

- None (n=368)
- Initial Contact (n=166)
- Incomplete (n=176)
- Complete (n=1485)

- STLC 101 Only (n=14)
- Coaching only (n=519)
- CTS Only (n=365)
- Coaching & CTS/STLC101 (n=61)