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Greetings!

In 2014-2015, nearly 10,000 undergraduate students at Texas A&M University found that their journey to academic success was supported by using the resources of the Academic Success Center (ASC). Housed on the ninth floor of Rudder Tower, the ASC offers programs designed to help all undergraduate students improve their level of academic success and graduate in a reasonable amount of time. 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 they have access to comprehensive resources necessary to becoming academically successful.

Workshops on time management and study skills, courses, tutoring, supplemental instruction, academic coaching, the transfer student program, and the Texas Success Initiative meet the needs of individual students. These services can 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. The ASC’s academic coaches assist students in designing a personalized program for success.

Students who come to the Academic Success Center are a diverse group. They include first year students who are struggling with transition to college, transfer students who are adjusting to a very different higher education environment, or 3rd and 4th year students who want to raise their GPA in order to be more competitive for graduate or professional school. Some are referred by their academic advisor, while others visit because a friend found help at the ASC. It really doesn’t matter why students come to the ASC or what academic challenges they are facing; each one finds a friendly welcome, a positive environment, and a personalized plan for success. Nearly all leave with a new sense of motivation and the power to cope with the academic environment at Texas A&M.

Thanks for taking time to review the Academic Success Center’s annual report and please stop by and see how the ASC staff assists students to Commit – Engage – and Succeed.

Dr. Jim Kracht

Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Executive Director, Academic Success Center

“It really doesn’t matter why students come to the ASC or what academic challenges they are facing; each one will find a friendly welcome, a positive environment, and a personalized plan for success.”
2014-15 Highlights

- Held Welcome Dinner for over 300 new transfer students.
- Introduced effective study strategies to Freshmen members of Corps of Cadets during Freshmen Orientation Week.
- Offered “Next Step” workshop series during fall and spring semesters in cooperation with Student Counseling Service, Career Center, and Transition Academic Programs.
- Moved ASC from YMCA to 9th and 10th floors of Rudder Tower.
- Received $55,000 funding support from A&M Association of Former Students.
- A total of 2,296 students attended Fresh Start orientation sessions as part of requirements for academic probation.
- 9,859 students participated in at least one ASC program. This was over 22% of the undergraduate students enrolled at A&M.
- 4,094 students were referred to the ASC for completion of a Success Plan.
- Hosted 7th Regional Conference on Supplemental Instruction in May.
- ASC staff presented to 14 separate Aggie Mother’s clubs in Texas.
- ASC provided Gateway courses, Academic Coaching, SI, and tutoring services to approximately 400 Gateway students.
Highlights (2014-15)
✓ A total of 2,064 students participated in Academic Coaching completing 4,284 coaching appointments.
✓ 1,117 students on probation chose Academic Coaching for their Success Plan option.
✓ 74% of probation students who completed a Success Plan with the ASC had an improvement in their term GPA.
✓ Over 95% of students who met with coaches reported that Academic Coaching was helpful. 63% reported coaching was “extremely” or “very” helpful to them.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:
I loved my academic coach, and looked forward to meeting with her.
I will continue to use Academic Coaching.
Very motivational, very helpful, very welcoming.
They helped me figure out what I was struggling with and how to fix it or improve.
I was able to voice my concerns about grades in a safe environment and was able to receive help in improving my areas of weakness in classes.
Coaching gave me a better understanding on how to prepare and study for each of my classes.
My coach was very encouraging and helpful these past two semesters and my grades improved drastically. She also helped with my stress and anxiety.
Highlights (2014-15)

- Total enrollment in ASC courses was 904.
- 51 sessions of the “Commit to Success” workshop series were offered throughout the fall and spring semesters with a total enrollment of 1,212.
- “Return to Success” was offered in fall 2014 with an enrollment of 149.
- 53 “Wednesday Workshop” sessions were offered with a total of 1,098 participants.
- Students received approximately 36,274 contact hours of instruction.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

STLC 101:
My instructor was incredibly supportive and insisted we go to her if anything was throwing us off or just to have a chat with. Definitely my most one-on-one professor up to date. Cares about her students and always pushes us.

Commit to Success:
My Commit to Success instructor made the course worthwhile. She was always happy to be teaching the course and I genuinely believe she is rooting for all of us.

STLC 289 for Gateway:
I had a great instructor who made me realize that being successful at A&M is possible. I learned a lot from this class that I will use forever.

Total Contact Hours in Courses and Workshops: 2014-15

- STLC 101, 7860
- STLC 102, 1740
- STLC 289 (Gateway), 5550
- Other Workshops, 1098
- Return to Success, 894
- Fresh Start Orientation, 2380
- Commit to Success, 7272
- Other Workshops, 1098
**Highlights (2014-15)**

- SI was provided in 64 total courses with a total enrollment of 16,353.
- Supported summer 2014 Gateway program with six SI sections.
- Students who regularly attended SI (10 or more times during the semester) made a C or higher in the course 88% of the time compared to only 76% for students who did not attend SI.

**WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:**

I loved my SI leader. She was the best!

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.

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 (2014-15)

✓ 57% of participating students succeeded in passing at least one part of the TSI requirements after one semester and 83% after two semesters.
✓ Individualized education plans were developed for each student to address specific academic weakness.
✓ 86% of new developmental math students (fall 2014) were ready for college level math within 2 semesters.

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.

TSI Student Progress 2014-15

- Completed TSI Within 2 Semesters: 83%
- Still in Progress: 17%
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 (2014-15)

✓ TSP students participated in high-impact service learning activities with Habitat for Humanity and the Twin City Mission.
✓ Mentor office hours were held at Rudder Tower and a Satellite Station in Evans Library.
✓ 874 Transfer Students participated with the TSP.
✓ Transfer students who fully participated in TSP and ASC programs saw an 8% improvement in their cumulative GPA after two semesters of participation.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

My (TSP) mentor has helped me out more than anyone knows.

Patrick, Transfer Student

With the help of the Transfer Mentor program I was able to find so many resources on campus that really benefitted me. The mentors within the program are so encouraging and really want to help transfer students.

Preston, Transfer Student

I decided to participate in the TSP because I wanted something to refer to when I came across a hurdle.

Tripp, Transfer Student
Tutoring

Tutoring is a program designed to assist students in understanding course content they may not have understood in class, while also teaching valuable learning and study skills. Students can expect to receive assistance for their immediate needs and acquire the tools necessary to take charge of their future learning.

Highlights (2014-15)

- Tutoring was offered in three locations, five days a week: Hullabaloo, the Commons, and Evans Library.
- Tutoring had more than 4,100 visits during Fall & Spring semesters.
- Tutoring supported 43 different courses including physics, chemistry, math, economics, political science, psychology, and biology.

Tutoring Contacts by Subject Area

- Chemistry, 1024
- Math, 607
- Physics, 108
- Political Science, 161
- Biology, 78
- Other, 53

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
PROBATION STUDENT SUCCESS

During the 2014-15 Academic Year, a total of 4,094 students on probation were referred to the ASC to complete a Success Plan. This was a 34% increase over 2013-14.

Of these, a total of 2,449 of these students attended a Fresh Start orientation session where they chose one of three options for completing a Success Plan: STLC 101 *Application of Learning Theories to College Studies*, Commit to Success workshop series, or Academic Coaching.

2,084 of the referred students successfully completed a Success Plan. The charts that follow highlight the success of students who completed a Success Plan with the ASC.

![Change in Cumulative GPA by Plan Status](chart.png)

Change in Cumulative GPA by Plan Status
(Students Required to Complete a Success Plan in Spring 2015)
Spring 2015
Required Students 2.0 or below.
GPA Improvement by Success Plan Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>GPA Improvement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STLC 101 (n=44)</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commit to Success (n=555)</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching (n=311)</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None (n=338)</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of Students Who Improved Cumulative GPA by Success Plan Option (Spring 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STLC 101 (n=44)</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commit to Success (n=555)</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching (n=311)</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None (n=338)</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How did your experience at the ASC compare with your expectations? (% of students who said it was more positive than they expected)

1st Generation in College (n=164)
- 70.7%

African American or Hispanic (n=142)
- 75.4%

White (n=187)
- 65.8%

Would you recommend the ASC to other students? (% of students who said "Yes")

1st Generation in College (n=166)
- 90.9%

African American or Hispanic (n=139)
- 90.7%

White (n=187)
- 89.8%
How likely are you to use the ASC next semester? (% of students who said they were likely to use it again)

1st Generation in College (n=164) 70.7%
African American or Hispanic (n=142) 75.4%
White (n=187) 65.8%