Evidence-Based Decision-Making: Planning for Student Success – the UC Merced Academic Policy Study Group

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Presentation Overview: UC Merced’s Academic Policy Study Group (APSG)

Goals and Process

Work Product Examples

Current and Future Projects

Q&A
APSG Composition, Goals, & Process

Group Composition

Charge: **Identify and investigate barriers** to undergraduate student success. **Make recommendations** for changing policy and practice.

Initial student success outcomes of interest: (1) timely progress and (2) degree attainment

Reviewed existing policies and developed list of data questions for IR

Data presentation, discussion, interpretation, and report production
Report Data Summary

Unsatisfactory course completion

- It is important that students are successful the first time they attempt a course, particularly gateway courses.

Academic probation

- Students who go on probation in the first term are not likely to make timely progress to degree or to graduate in 4 years.

In sum, the first semester and first year are very important for student success at UC Merced.
Current Interventions and Recommendations

Current interventions are reactive, but present some opportunities

- Implemented consistent messaging to students who repeat courses

Recommendations – how can we be proactive to help students succeed the first time?

- Recommend faculty, academic support staff, advisor, and academic administrator review of effective student success practices and consider implementation at UCM
- Share the data with those involved in student success efforts and foster conversations about programming and assessment
First Year Student Success (FYSS) Workshop

General Agenda:

- Provided data from the literature on student success
- Shared UC Merced data on importance of first year
- Facilitated introductions and small group discussions about programming
- Provided an overview of logic models and logic model practice to assess student success programming
- Closed with group conversation about next steps

Collected notes and observations throughout

Event Website: [http://ue.ucmerced.edu/student-success/workshops/fyss2016](http://ue.ucmerced.edu/student-success/workshops/fyss2016)
Current and Future Work Products for APSG
Produce report summarizing APSG charge, work products, and future plans
• Group composition has evolved over time

Follow up to FYSS workshop
• Student success website and listserv; myth busters report; logic model working groups

Contribute to development of campus definition of student success

Predictive analytics for identifying students at risk of poor academic standing at end of first term
• Examine midterm grades
• Discuss privacy concerns
Current and Future Work Products for APSG

Future policy analyses:

- Recommendations to facilitate major declaration for undeclared students
- Recommendations for redirecting students who are unsuccessful in STEM majors into alternative majors
- Recommendations for changes to academic standing policy

Help students make connections between academic program and post-baccalaureate plans

- Enhance communication between academic advisors and career center