

Achieving College Success (ACS)

A First Year Experience (FYE) Learning Community Program for Skyline College.

MISSION STATEMENT

We believe in a holistic approach to education, fostering academic excellence and success with a strong social component. Our mission is to improve beginning college experiences through academic achievement and creating a sense of community and connectedness to college; to increase student success and retention rates; and to provide a foundation upon which future academic and career goals are built.

Contents

- Background
- The need for a basic skills LC at Skyline
- ACS so far.
- SLOs and Objectives
- Questions and potential problems

Background

- Initiated as part of the Basic Skills Initiative (BSI) action plan. (Now called College Success Initiative- CSI)
- Fall 2008, Coordination and Curriculum group develop ACS proposals and elements of curriculum: Student Success Handbook
- Spring 2009: ACS coordinator position is approved by Academic Senate . FIG planned for Fall 2009
- Goal: Fall 2010 pilot.

Why Learning Communities?

- Research shows it improves retention and success!
(<http://www.evergreen.edu/washcenter/home.asp>)
- Faculty collaboration
 - Interdisciplinary/Integrative assignments deepen student learning
 - Promotes student-centered environment
 - Unified interventions tailored to each student
 - Opportunities to develop pedagogy
 - Incorporate counseling and case management into class room
- Community Building
 - Students form mutual support network
 - Learn to work collaboratively
 - Personal formation around college success

Need for basic skills LC at Skyline.

- About 70% of incoming students (~1800) place below transfer (i.e. into basic skills)
- Many high risk courses such as Math 811, Eng 826, Eng 836 *not taught within LC's.*
- Basic Skills Math and English courses taught within LC's:
 - 5 sections of Eng 846 (PUENTE, SA, ASTEP, KABABAYAN)
 - 2 sections of Math 111 (WIT, PUENTE)
 - one section of Math 110 and one Math 120 (ASTEP)

Basic Skills Success Rates

- [Basic Skills Cohort tracking data: by placement.](#)

Available at:

http://www.skylinecollege.edu/facstaff/office_instruction/college_success_initiative/basic_skills_data.html

- FYE focuses intervention at the transition into college: forming a "Bridge" to success.
- Ease the transition into college

Elements of proposed ACS LC

- Focus on basic skills Math and English, perhaps add ESOL later
- Basic Skills courses *linked* with counseling
- Integration of study skills and self management with content courses: utilizing elements of On Course in all classes.
- Community Involvement Component: Applied research project
- Events throughout semester such as guest speakers, career or transfer related field trips.
- Could incorporate themes such as: understanding poverty, health care equity etc.

SLO's proposed for ACS LC

- Assessable goals for the students
- So far they are:
 - demonstrate a sense of what college requires
 - be able to assess college responsibilities and make informed choices contributing to their college success
 - apply the academic skills learned to their other courses
 - identify specific career goals
 - establish a connection with campus and community members and resources

Objectives proposed for ACS LC

- Overarching goals for the program
- So far they are:
 - provide academic, personal, and professional assessment and direction
 - provide a campus-wide climate of a 'students first' philosophy
 - foster a positive student-faculty academic relationship
 - provide a connection between students, campus, and community that fosters a sense of social responsibility
 - collect data to follow retention and success rates and administer pre and post surveys to ACS students

Questions for us to discuss today

- What is already happening at Skyline that could be extended to new LC's?
- How can students be better prepared for entry into your classes and programs?
- What kinds of values, behaviors and expectations would you like to see reinforced?
- What's the best way to start?
 - Link Math and English and Counseling?
 - Start with complete full-time package or part-time?

Potential problems

- Counseling resources: no money for release time
 - Have Counselor as SI?
- Release time for extra faculty meetings
- Coun 100 too advanced for Eng 828 students
 - Could create CRER 650 course as a lower-level version.
- Recruitment
 - very specific placement limits population
 - Competition with other LCs