TRiO Scholars Program

Mission

Our mission is to assist low-income, first generation students with an identified academic need for services to overcome the cultural, academic, class, and social barriers to success in higher education. In order to fulfill our mission, we strive to attain the following four goals:

Goals

Goal 1: The academic success of our participants
Goal 2: The adaptation of our participants to the culture of higher education
Goal 3: The financial literacy of our participants
Goal 4: The development of a positive social network among participants

Learning Outcomes

During the fall of 2013, we implemented a coaching model of service delivery in order to increase our success in reaching our first goal.

Goal 1: Academic Success:

Learning outcome 1: As a result of regularly scheduled meetings with coaches, freshmen will develop three clearly defined, measurable outcomes for academic success. The goals will relate to at least two of the following three areas: Academic Achievement; Personal Responsibility; and Leadership.

Learning outcome 2: As a result of weekly contact with an assigned coach, freshmen will attain 80% of the points associated with achieving each of the three personal goals.

Learning outcome 3: Frequent, regularly scheduled contact with a committed coach will assist students to overcome academic barriers to their success so that at least 85% of participants will be in good academic standing at the end of their first semester at the University.

Methodology

Each of 27 freshmen were assigned to one of four coaches at the start of the 2013 fall semester. Each coach was charged with meeting with each student in his/her caseload weekly for a target goal of 16 contacts. Students were allowed to count up to two workshops or other campus activities as two of the 16 contacts. Coaches committed to meeting individually with each assigned student a minimum of 14 times during the semester.

During the first few meetings, coaches assisted students to develop three academic outcomes for the semester related to three general areas: Academic Achievement, Personal Responsibility, and
Leadership. The attainment of each outcome was worth up to 15 points, for a total of 45 semester points. Students signed contracts stating their understanding of how these points would be used to determining eligibility for financial aid from the program during the spring semester. Coaches reviewed outcome goals during subsequent student meetings. Each meeting was recorded and labeled according to contact type: Academic Advising; Personal Counseling; Financial Aid Advising; Graduate School Information; Academic Counseling; Career Counseling; or Financial Literacy Training. Coaches maintained contact logs throughout the semester.

The program will be assessed at the end of the semester to identify outcomes related to goal identification, goal completion, and good academic standing. Students will also have the opportunity to provide survey feedback regarding their perceived value of the coaching model. Student and staff feedback will be used to strengthen the evaluation process and to identify areas for improvement in assessing the coaching model as a vehicle for service delivery.

**Results for 2013-2014 – Still to come!!**