Transitioning to College: The University of Iowa’s Comprehensive Approach to Student Success

Andrew Beckett, Assistant Dean University College
Lisa Ingram, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management and Director of the Academic Advising Center
Challenges: Academic Preparedness

• Median ACT Composite 23-28
• 25% are first-generation students
• 18% receive a Pell-Grant
• Increase in academic rigor
  • Average GPA in high school 3.6
  • Average first semester at Iowa 2.9
• 12% are Open majors, 20% in a pre-professional major
Challenges: New Learning Environment

• Autonomy and independence
  • Time-management
  • Healthy choices

• Living and learning with other students
  • Sharing a room for the first time
  • Group work

• Iowa City
  • Viewed as a large city by some, small town by others
Transitional Programs for All Students

• Orientation
  • 2-day program for students and families during the summer
• OnIowa!
  • 4-day immersion program prior to start of the fall term
• Success at Iowa Course
  • Part 1: Prepare for orientation and registration for fall
  • Part 2: Prepare for move-in
  • Part 3: Provide support resources
  • Part 4: Assess student’s transition
Transitional Programs Available

• Living-Learning Communities
  • 23 options; serves all on-campus students

• Courses in Common
  • 840 first year students

• First-year Seminars
  • 130 sections; 1800 first-year students

• Supplemental Instruction
  • Support for 24 courses; 2442 unique students; 13,621 visits

• College Transition Course
  • 48 linked course options serving 480 first-year students

• Specific sub-populations (Iowa Edge, Honors Prime-Time, etc.)
Advising

• First-year Advising
  • Academic Advising Center
    • Almost all students who are new to the University
    • Students trying to earn admission to competitive admission programs
    • Students uncertain about major at any point (one-stop shop)
  • Mandatory
  • Caseload based
  • Proactive
  • Intensive (5 meetings in the first year)
  • Teaching-oriented
Early-Intervention

• Early-Intervention Team

• Early-Warning Indicators
  • Excelling@Iowa
  • Non-attendance
  • Mid-Term Grades
  • Early-Registration

• College Success Seminars
  • For students who earn less than a 2.2 GPA in their first semester
After the First Year

• Ensuring course availability in key courses
• Sample 4-year plans now included in General Catalogue
• Curricular planning tool project is beginning
• Summer Hawk Tuition Grant
• Second or third year students move to department/college advisors
  • Mix of professional and faculty advisors (increasing number of professionals)
  • Mandatory advising for at risk students
  • Increased focus on time to graduation/gpa issues
Questions