

Project: Further Develop Cooperative Programs with Ivy Tech
(Math Remediation)

Start Date: 1 Aug 2012

Client: Ivy Tech Transfer Students

Program Manager: Ms. Cindy Otts/Dr. Robert English

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Thesis Statement: We believe that a major roadblock to retention in the College of
Technology is math preparation.

Introduction/Background

This initiative includes increased enrollment and success of transfer students, primarily from Ivy Tech but also from other two-year institutions in the state and region. The initiative includes: 1) improving recruitment and communication procedures; 2) providing greater alignment of academic programs to include additional Bachelor of Science (BS) programs and Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) programs; 3) improving second-year retention and graduation rates for new fall transfer students who are full-time bachelor's degree seekers; and 4) improve course success rates in math intensive technical courses. There is speculation that the enrollments at Ivy Tech will decrease, rather than increase, over the next few years (nontraditional students).

Proposal/Purpose/Justification – Why?

- To increase transfer enrollments by increasing the number of students who are successful in math intensive technical courses.
- To improve the viability of academic programs.
- To build a strong relationship with Ivy Tech.
- To immediately and positively influence the dropout rate of transfer students during their first year at ISU.
- To improve the retention of transfer students into their second year at ISU.
- To achieve the overall success of student education as evidenced by improved graduation rates.

Work Plan/Action Steps/Process – How?

Enhance efforts targeting retention of transfer students: A primary tactic will be identifying students who are “at risk”. This population fails to take advantage of opportunities for mentoring and is deficient in attendance, prior academic performance, engagement in major, math preparation and time management issues. The behavior of at-risk students will be monitored and intervention methods will be utilized. Student workers and a part-time person (Mr. David Sivley) will manage this initiative. Assessment tools will be utilized and particular focus will be the student’s preparation for success. Early detection of problems is crucial. In particular, for math readiness, there are systems to determine a student’s deficiencies long before it becomes apparent to the professor of a class. Rather than wait for the student to make an obvious fall, a proactive approach to math preparedness can achieve greater success of the student and improve their overall education experience.

Reporting/Deliverable Schedule – When?

Data regarding the status of communication, retention intervention productivity, number of group sessions and individual sessions, status of student progress, increase in students enrolled at ISU, retention statistics, and the general health of the initiative will be provided each semester. Mr. Sivley will focus on the implementation of an assessment and math preparedness program to target specific needs of Ivy Tech transfer students into the College of Technology to improve their retention and ultimate success.

Budget – How Much?

Retention/graduation rates - \$35,000

Stakeholders/Management Plan – Who?

Members of the Team: Dr. Robert English, Ms. Cindy Otts, Dr. Bruce McLaren, Mr. Ron Payne, Mrs. Melissa Hughes, and Prof. Esther Acree

Advisory Team Members: Ms. Samantha Penney, Kara Harris, Mr. David Sivley, Dr. Liz Brown, Dr. Rob Jeffs, and Prof. Carrie McCammon

Advisory team members are necessary to address specific strategic components. Ms. Samantha Penney helps us align with what the university is doing in the area of distance education. Mr. David Sivley, Dr. Rob Jeffs, and Prof. Carrie McCammon are a part of the Ivy Tech team designed to combat the math deficiency/student retention concerns. Dr. Jeffs and Prof. McCammon are a part of Ivy Tech's central administration team guiding Ivy Tech on math remediation as well. Mr. Sivley is a faculty member at Ivy Tech who has a background in math education, remediation efforts and management of successful transition through innovative solutions. This part of the team will be overseeing the operation processes and achievement levels. Mr. Sivley will be focused primarily on the implementation of an assessment and math preparedness program to target specific needs of Ivy Tech transfer students into the College of Technology to improve their retention and ultimate success.

Outcome Assessment/Future Testing – How Well?

This year we will be establishing new avenues and optimizing current methods of enhancing retention and graduation rates. We must identify the students who are in need of help, we must collect data on what we are doing, and we must use the data to determine which methods to use and ways of improving the processes. We know that students coming into ISU have changed greatly over the years. We also know that traditional methods of retention have had very limited success, as evidenced by the continuing high dropout rates. The resulting cost to the University is huge, in both lost tuition and student discouragement in meeting their educational goals. However, since the current retention rate leaves so much room for improvement it only increases our resolve to make a difference. The educational challenge to the University has perhaps never been greater. We intend to be part of the solution.