Colorado State University

Proactive Outreach Implementation Strategies

Early Warning System

Faculty are Key to identifying at-risk students

Successes

Identify Department Coordinators that communicate and get buy in with faculty in their department. University coordination with the Department Coordinators.

Targeted courses with high D,F,W rates and those courses that have strong correlation with graduation rates, but work with those that agree to participate.

Challenge

Because not all courses participate in Early Warning a student could be struggling and not receive any early warning alerts.

At times students do not have a complete understanding of the criteria of the unsatisfactory ratings.

Make it simple, timely and flexible

Successes

Implemented a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory model for a one-time feedback model

University coordination to create a column in Canvas for S/U ratings and provide various ways that this information can be inputted into the system

Challenge

Flexibility in the timing of the feedback and outreach is challenging since some faculty would like the feedback to be later in the semester but that is difficult because we want to outreach to take place as early as possible in the semester

For students the outreach often happens after they have earned additional graded coursework, which may change their status

Make it all-inclusive

Success

Integrated this outreach within Canvas which is the system that most faculty are already utilizing

Challenge

Currently working with other Early Warning Systems for Athletes and some of our student success programs and discussing possibilities for integration

Keep it positive

Successes

Developed a U-Turn program where students can connect to campus resources and develop a plan of action

Challenge

Discussing how we can message this initiative in a way that promotes positive action to improve rather than defining failure

Illustrate the impact

Successes

Send Department Coordinators reports on percentages of S/U's and grade outcomes

Five year evaluation of initiative

Challenge

As with other student success initiatives, the assessment information does not determine causality

Strategies adapted from EAB: https://www.eab.com/research-and-insights/academic-affairs-forum/expert-insights/2016/early-warning-systems