

Executive Summary of SS 1500

History

In 2006, YSU started admitting students conditionally (AR attribute) to identify at-risk students for extra support through academic coaching at the Center for Student Progress. The students were limited to taking 14 SH, had a list of approved courses from which they could choose, and were required to meet weekly with an academic coach. In 2019, a proposal to Academic Senate Strong Start was approved by Academic Senate to provide wrap around support to academically underprepared students.

Special Population Background

Students who are admitted with restrictions have one commonality: They are all academically underprepared as determined by HSGPA and GPA. Because we are now test optional (as of 2020), the current admission guidelines are:

- Weighted Cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher from high school
- Unweighted Core GPA between 2.25 – 2.69
- Test scores – if submitted, composite is below 17 on ACT or 920 on SAT or has no scores on file

*Test optional is approved through Spring 2023

A large percentage of the Strong Start population is first generation (64% F22) and minority (43% F22) Nationally, 20% of college students enrolled in 4-year colleges are FGCS. This population faces unique challenges and are 71% more likely to leave college than their peers. The differences persist throughout college and result in a much lower graduation rate for FGCS when compared to non-first gen; 13% vs 33%. (Pratt, Harwood, and Ditzfied, Journal of College Student Retention)

Some risk factors of note for FGCS include: financial insecurity, lack of confidence regarding their academic ability, fear of fitting in at college and fear of being disconnected from their families if they do fit in. FGCS have many obstacles to overcome and Strong Start was developed to address these obstacles.

Course Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Students will:

- Describe various motivational strategies and apply them to their success in college.
- Describe vocational interests, values, and personality theory to evaluate appropriate careers and college majors.
- Evaluate learning strategies (memory, reading, note taking, test taking, time management) and demonstrate how to use brain-based strategies to facilitate college success.
- Demonstrate lifelong success skills that facilitate optimal communication, critical and positive thinking.

Course Outcomes:

| RETENTION | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Strong Start 2020 | Strong Start 2021 |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 214 | 163 | 187 | 164 | 128 | 134 |
| Fall- Spring | 153 (71.5%) | 124 (76.1%) | 143 (76.5%) | 134 (81.75%) | 93 (72.7%) | 87 (64.9%) |
| Fall-Spring-Fall | 120 (56.1%) | 93 (57.1%) | 108 (57.8%) | 107 (65.2%) | 72 (56.3%) | 63 (47%) |
| Fall-Fall | 121 (56.5%) | 94 (57.7%) | 111 (59.4%) | 108 (65.9%) | 76 (59.4%) | 66 (49.4%) |

| | First Term GPA | | | | | | First Year CUM GPA | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Financially suspended | Withdrew | < 2.0 | 2.0-2.49 | 2.5-2.99 | 3.0 + | < 2.0 | 2.0-2.49 | 2.5-2.99 | 3.0 + |
| 2019 (pre SS, prescribed courses) | 0 | 3 (1.7%) | 35 (19.8%) | 21 (11.9%) | 19 (10.7%) | 99 (55.9%) | 17 (12.3%) | 17 (12.3%) | 22 (15.9%) | 82 (59.4%) |
| 2020 Strong Start | 5 (3.7%) | 0 | 38 (28.4%) | 18 (15.7%) | 29 (21.6%) | 44 (32.8%) | 13 (13.7%) | 18 (18.9%) | 27 (28.4%) | 37 (38.9%) |
| 2021 Strong Start | 8 (5.8%) | 7 (5.1%) | 45 (32.6%) | 19 (13.8%) | 19 (13.8%) | 40 (29%) | 6 (7.8%) | 19 (24.7%) | 23 (29.9%) | 29 (37.7%) |

Advising Outcomes

Results from NSSE (See Teams, First Year Advising NSEE, FYE F20 assessment folder) Overall, the S21 NSSE results show positive outcomes for the Strong Start Program Advisors in creating a sense of belonging at YSU, supporting student success, and being available to our students. We also scored very high in the inclusiveness section of the NSSE – see results below.

Diversity and Inclusion: The Fall 22 Strong Start cohort is 64% first generation students and 43% minority students. The NSSE results indicate the SS program advisors are excelling in the area of inclusiveness and engagement with our diverse student population.

| Inclusiveness & Engagement with Diversity Module | | First-Year | | First-Year Success Seminar | |
|--|---|--------------|-----|----------------------------|----|
| | | Not Enrolled | | SS 1500 | |
| | | Mean | N | Mean | N |
| . During the current school year, how much has your coursework emphasized the following? (1 Very Little, 2 Some, 3 Quite a Bit, 4 Very Much) | Coursework emphasis: Sharing your own perspectives and experiences | 2.72 | 193 | 3.50 | 12 |
| | Coursework emphasis: Discussing issues of equity or privilege | 2.37 | 192 | 3.08 | 12 |
| | Coursework emphasis: Respecting the expression of diverse ideas | 2.69 | 191 | 3.17 | 12 |
| How much does your institution emphasize the following? (1 Very Little, 2 Some, 3 Quite a Bit, 4 Very Much) | Institutional emphasis: Demonstrating a commitment to diversity | 2.94 | 192 | 3.17 | 12 |
| | Institutional emphasis: Ensuring that you are not stigmatized because of your identity (racial/ethnic, gender, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, etc.) | 3.08 | 191 | 3.33 | 12 |
| | Institutional emphasis: Providing information about anti-discrimination and harassment policies | 2.97 | 192 | 3.17 | 12 |

Pre/Post Course Content: We administered a pre- and post-assessment for each chapter topic. There was significant improvement between pre-post in most categories. Areas with largest improvement are noted below.

| Fall 2020 Strong Start | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| | Pre | Post | Change |
| Memory | 75.6% | 86.9% | + 11.3% |
| Study Skills | 69.1% | 86.0% | + 16.9% |
| Note Taking | 64.4% | 79.9% | + 15.5% |

Changes implemented in Fall 2022

The Strong Start Team researched and created a new model for fall 2022 which included 8 weeks of class and 8 weeks of academic coaching and advising. The Team is using bookings appointments for ease of scheduling.

We also did a complete overhaul of the SS 1500 syllabus to make it more student centered. See TEAMS, FYE, General, sample syllabi.

Finally, we re-did each content area power point to be much more interactive. We've included activities, polling, etc. to engage our students.