

Purdue University Calumet

Academic Advisor Training



First Generation College Students

Part III

Let's Review



- Part I
 - Who are first-generation college students?
 - Preconceived perceptions
 - Time management & Financial literacy
 - *Discussion*
- Part II
 - Being a self-advocate
 - Student referrals
 - Campus Network and Resources for Students
 - *Activity*

Topics covered

- Having difficult conversations
- Being a coach/mentor
- Advisor Resources
- *Discussion*
- Wrap Up

Mentor
Students
College
Academic
Learning
Success
Difficult
First-Generation
Coach
Conversations

Having difficult conversations



- Having a conversation with a student who is having an academic block
 - Identify the problem
 - Suggest career counseling, supplemental instruction, or other resources
 - Reinforce the degree requirements
 - Are they able to fulfill these requirements?
 - “Plan B” option?

Having difficult conversations

- Convincing a student to change their degree due to academic performance
 - Best thing (if possible): Be Honest.
 - Have a “real” talk (if that is okay with the student)
 - Show them the “real picture”
 - Use yourself as an example
 - Introduce a “Plan B”



Being a coach/mentor



Coaching students to reach out to instructors for assistance:

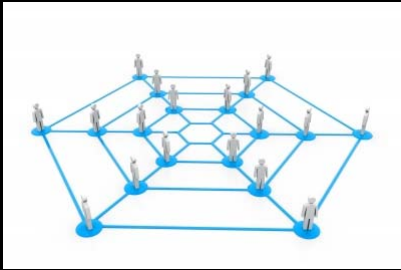
- Help them overcome their intimidation of their professors
 - Give them confidence and a “back bone”
 - Work on their communication skills
 - Encourage them to take advantage of the communication mediums offered
- Teach them to ask a question and not be offensive when asking for help
 - Show respect towards their peers and their professor
 - Let them know the professors are there to help

Being a coach/mentor

- Maintain frequent contact with the student
 - Inform them of your “open office” policy
 - Make them feel comfortable giving you feedback whether it be in person, by phone or email, etc.
- Utilize your experience as an advisor
- Help the student become acclimated to the campus and educational environment
 - Provide them with information on campus resources during their first semester



Resources and Tips for an Advisor



- Best resources:
 - Center for Learning and Academic Success
 - Supervisor
 - Peers and other advisors
 - Campus Departments
- Additional Tips:
 - Learn about the “little golden nuggets” of information (sources) to help students
 - Guest speakers share vital information during freshman seminars
 - Create a personal resource manual for yourself
 - Keep a checklist for each student
 - Accept the fact that you can't do, nor know everything: Always learning/Always teaching

Discussion

How would you handle a situation where a student is not performing well in their major related courses but has always wanted to be in that major/career and is adamant about continuing?



Review of Part III



- Having difficult conversations
- Being a coach/mentor
- Resources for Students
- *Discussion*

Wrap Up

Part I

- Who are first-generation college students?
- Preconceived perceptions
- Time management
- Financial literacy

Part II

- Being a self-advocate
- Student referrals
- Campus Network and Resources for Students

Wrap Up

Part III

- Having difficult conversations
- Being a coach/mentor
- Advisor Resources and Tips

Thank You!

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