How Faculty Help UTSA Students Succeed

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UTSA Student Demographics

- Who comprise our majority populations?
- What assets do they have?
- What challenges do they have?
- How can we offer support?
1st Generation Students

- Nationwide - First-Gen students comprise 33%, entering freshmen class.

- UTSA - First-Gen students, entering freshmen class
  - 2014, 49%
  - 2015, 47%
UTSA is a Hispanic Serving Institution (HIS)

- 2008 Entering Class Graduation Rates
  - 4-year = 12% (2012)
  - 6-year = 36% (2014)

- Latina/o Student Population
  - UTSA overall = 49%
  - Fall 2014 entering class = 56%

[San Antonio = 63% Latina/o]
# First-Gen Assets

| Aspirational | • Set high aspirations  
|             | • Recognize value of education |
| Linguistic  | • Employ two or more languages  
|             | • Engage with formal and informal modes of expression |
| Social      | • Create social networks  
|             | • Make new friends and form new relationships |
| Ganas/Perseverance | • Develop inner strength, become self-reliant and determined to succeed  
|             | • Recognize and embrace sacrifices that must be made to attend college |
| Pluriversal | • Operate in multiple worlds/diverse educational and geographical contexts (college, peers, work, family, spiritual, native country)  
|             | • Hold multiple and competing systems of meaning in tension |
First-Gen Challenges: Operating in Multiple Worlds

Entre Mundos

Family
Native Country
Barrio y Community
Spiritual
Peers

Navigating the College World

Separating from Family/Transition to College--Endings & New Beginnings

Completion, Renewal & Transformation
--Academic Completion
--Psychological Transformation

Liminality Positive and Negative Aspects of Operating in Multiple Worlds

Academic and Social Engagement/Preparation

First-Gen Support in and out of Class

- Provide **regular**, constructive feedback and interventions via Blackboard, Advising tools
- **Frequent, low stakes**, assignments and evaluations
- Be familiar with **Campus Resources** and Encourage Their Use
- Foster a **sense of community** in your classroom
- **Faculty-student engagement** beyond the classroom: office hours, email, events, and more
- **Share** your college stories
- Encourage them **to join student organizations**. Become a student org advisor
Increased student success requires **sustained effort from across the University**; thus the University must make **intentional efforts** to establish, develop, and nurture a **“culture of student connection”** within the institution. Students who feel connected to their surroundings through relationships with classmates, faculty, and staff are **more likely to choose to persist in their goal of obtaining a degree** (Astin, 1984; Rendon, 1994).


UTSA’s Student Success Plan

- Goal: A campus-wide, coordinated effort to increase student academic success, retention, and graduation rates.
- Several Initiatives:
  - Use of data analytics to pre-emptively address student academic and financial need
  - Improved student academic and social preparedness
  - Redesigned curriculum and innovative course delivery
  - Centralized academic advising
  - Enhanced academic support services
UTSA’s First-Year Experience Program

All first-year college students are admitted into UTSA through the University College and participate in a comprehensive First-Year Experience Program designed to help transition from high school to college.

In UTSA’s First Year Experience Program students complete:

- Academic Inquiry & Scholarship (AIS) 1203
- University Peer Mentorship Experience (UPM) 1000
- Campus events and programming designed to help students determine an appropriate major (i.e. March Into Your Major; Sokanu; Career Services Workshops, etc.)
- Programming designed to help students successfully navigate UTSA
- Campus events designed to enhance social connections on campus
UTSA’s Undergraduate Academic Advising

**UTSA’s Advising Structure:**

- Centralized advising model
- 1-on-1 assigned academic advising
- Focus is on mentoring and relationship building
- Use of advising technologies to enhance student experience
  - EAB Campus
  - EAB Guide
  - Degree Works (Sem X Sem Planner and Audit functions)
UTSA’s Undergraduate Academic Advising

- **Academic Advisors serve as a primary resource person and assist students by**
  - Using data analytics to pre-emptively address student needs,
  - Guiding students to academic support resources and leadership/development opportunities,
  - Establishing a connection to the university,
  - Becoming aware of university and state policies,
  - Understanding degree completion requirements, and
  - Selecting an appropriate major/career field
Faculty should assist students

- When they exhibit signs that they are struggling in the course by guiding them to UTSA’s academic support services
- With developing a clear understanding of career options within major degree
- With developing leadership, networking, and professional skills
- With understanding graduate school expectations and opportunities
Millennial Characteristics

- Optimistic, generous, practical
- Team oriented
- Ability to organize and mobilize
- Less self-reliant
- Tech savvy, a part of their lives
- Multitaskers
- 24-7 and service oriented culture
- Less formal
Ways to engage students

- Engage in experiential and Active learning
- Provide relevance and rationale
  - Elaborate on the meaning
- Create rapport
- Provide feedback on performance
Mandatory Grade Reporting by Faculty

- Mid-term grades must be submitted manually through ASAP or through Blackboard
- Final Grades must be submitted manually through ASAP or through Blackboard
- All grades in a course must be posted to students through Blackboard throughout the semester.
- To submit grades through Blackboard
  - Must set up your gradebook in the correct format
    - See tutorial, [https://utsacloud-public.sharepoint.com/Pages/OnlineLearning/FacultyAndStaff/GradeTransfer.aspx](https://utsacloud-public.sharepoint.com/Pages/OnlineLearning/FacultyAndStaff/GradeTransfer.aspx)
    - F and I (incomplete) will not transfer must be reported manually through ASAP
- Other resources/tutorials for using Blackboard
  - [https://utsacloud-public.sharepoint.com/Pages/OnlineLearning/FacultyAndStaff/DigitalLearning.aspx](https://utsacloud-public.sharepoint.com/Pages/OnlineLearning/FacultyAndStaff/DigitalLearning.aspx)
EAB Student Collaborative

- New software for students, advising and faculty
- Allows advisers to track student progress, make notes, send messages, reporting, etc.
- Allows students to track their progress, see degree plan, etc.
- Allows faculty to see information about students in their courses, early warning notification system, etc.

- Still in the Beta stage
Students Success Collaborative

Advisor Home

My Assigned Students For Fall 2016

No matching records found

Advisor Reporting
Graduate Students

- Depending on your department/college demographics can be very different
  - Full-time
  - Part-time
  - International
- Develop your own mentoring plan
  - Expectations
  - Research meetings
  - Reporting
- Identify strong undergraduate students to work with or recruit to graduate program
Syllabus Tips

- The syllabus is your contract with the students
- You can access syllabi advice and formats via the Library’s Faculty Center Resources at http://faculty.utsa.edu/resources
- Be as organized as possible, try to have assignments and due dates ready for the 1st day of class
Syllabus Tips

- Make sure you clearly outline expectations for the course
  - Attendance, late work, make-up work, what is excused, classroom behavior etc.
  
  - Example: “It is encouraged that homework problems be studied together but each person does and turns in their own work. Please check Blackboard daily for updates and announcements and any changes in the schedule. Attending class is essential to success in the class. This course will move quickly and you could easily fall behind if you do not attend. Please be on time for class it is disruptive to both the other students and me when you come in late. It is understandable that life happens; you must speak to Dr. Shipley prior to your absence from class to be excused (24hrs prior). If you miss an exam due to an excused absence it can be made up within 48hrs of the original exam, but you must speak with Dr. Shipley before the missed exam. Examples of excused absences are you are in the hospital; at the doctor due to throwing up, fever, diarrhea, contagious illness, seizures; death in the family; car accident; or military duty. You must provide documentation for these to be excused. If your absence is unexcused it will result in a zero on the assignment (homework, quizzes, exams, etc.).
Syllabus Tips

► Include information on how you will handle academic dishonesty

► Example: “Any scholastic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, collusion, etc.) on homework and quizzes will result in a zero on the assignment (you will receive 1 warning). If it occurs on projects, papers, or examinations it will result in a Failing grade in the class. All violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. If you have any questions about this, please stop by my office and I’d be happy to discuss it with you. Using the solutions manual, internet websites, other people, or Chegg.com to complete the assignment as your own work without giving credit or gaining access to information not available to you is considered scholastic dishonesty.”

► Let them know how you will provide feedback for grades, assignments, etc.

► Consider including a disclaimer

► Example: The Calendar and syllabus will be modified to fit the needs of the class and progress. Anyone having special needs will be accommodated, please talk to Dr. Shipley, at the beginning of the semester at ...
Faculty Center

https://faculty.utsa.edu/
Hybrid automobiles have always been mass produced.

They have grown up treating Wi-Fi as an entitlement.

"No means no" has always been morphing, slowly, into "only yes means yes."

Cell phones have become so ubiquitous in class that teachers don't know which students are using them to take notes and which ones are planning a party.

Their parents have gone from encouraging them to use the Internet to begging them to get off it.
Student Success Support

Everyone is responsible for student success at UTSA!

As a faculty member, your responsibilities include:

- Developing and delivering academically appropriate and rigorous curricula
- Meeting students where they are and assisting them in reaching high academic goals
- Promoting and encouraging student participation in numerous student support programs available at UTSA
- Assessing student academic progress throughout the semester and posting grades in a timely manner throughout the semester
- Mentoring students through leadership, professional development, and research opportunities
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