

Impacting Retention Through an Academic Counseling Program. (A01-knauft154531-Poster)

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Abstract:

Many students with the academic capacity to succeed in college do not make adequate progress toward graduation and are subject to academic dismissal. To address these issues, the Office of Academic Affairs at the University of Georgia created an academic counseling program. A graduate assistantship was awarded to a Ph.D. student in the counseling psychology department who was given the responsibility of implementing the program. Students worked with the counselor in one-on-one sessions where together they identified sources of academic difficulties and created action plans to resolve the problems. Problems identified by the students included difficulty with subject matter material (usually math), difficulty adjusting to a large university, financial/work issues, relationship difficulties, and family, medical, and mental health issues. The academic counselor was able to work with each student to develop strategies to address the specific issues affecting their academic performance. This program has resulted in a significant increase in the grades and academic performance of participating students. Student response to the program has been highly positive, and since its implementation the number of students in the college on academic probation has been reduced by 50%.

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