Bridge to Success: Developing Library Services for Transfer Students

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Presentation Objectives

- Characteristics of Transfer Students at ASU
- Role of the library in the transfer student experience
- How our library is working with transfer populations
- Strategies for collaborating with other units on campus in order to assist transfer students
Our University

- Public, comprehensive university
- 1 of 17 campuses in the University of North Carolina (UNC) system
- Degrees offered: baccalaureate, master’s, specialist’s level, as well as Ed.D in Educational Leadership
- Current student enrollment: 18,295
- Current transfer student enrollment: 1,596
Why do transfer students matter?
Transfer Student Enrollment

Headcount

Source: ASU Fast Facts
Our Transfer Students

Transfer Class First Term

- Freshman: 164
- Sophomore: 632
- Junior: 426
- Senior: 44

Source: Fall 2016 Transfer Student Talking Points

Transfer Institution Type

- Community Colleges/2-Year: 71%
- 4-Year Institutions: 27%
- Other: 2%

Source: Appalachian State University
Transfer Students Matter

- Transfer students represent a significant population in four-year colleges and universities today.

- 49% of students who graduated from four-year institutions in 2015-16 had been enrolled at a two-year institution during the previous ten years.

- About half of these students earned their bachelor’s degree within three years of having been enrolled at a two-year institution.

(National Student Clearinghouse Research Center Spring 2017 Snapshot Report)
Transfer Students Matter

- Governing and accrediting bodies use statistics on student GPAs, retention rates, graduation rates, time to degree completion, job placement, and other measures to evaluate college and university effectiveness (Bailey, 2006).

Source: Fall 2016 Transfer Student Talking Points
Institutional Initiatives that Impact Student Success

- Helping students gain an understanding of institutional expectations
- Providing academic, social, and financial support
- Offering frequent feedback on academic performance
- Insuring that students have opportunities to be involved in classes and campus activities
- Making a commitment to student success

Tinto and Pusser, 2006
Library Contributions to Student Success

Cognitive

- Studies indicate that library use correlates with student retention and higher GPAs (ACRL, 2016; Haddow, 2013; Hadow & Joseph, 2010; Murray, et al., 2016; Soria, et al., 2013 and Thorpe et al., 2016).

- Course-integrated library instruction can help to promote student persistence and success (Cuseo, 2003).

- Single institution studies have shown positive correlations between library instruction and student’s GPAs (ACRL, 2016; Bowles-Terry, 2012; Wong & Cmor, 2011), Zhong & Alexander (2007).

Affective

- The availability of library space used for studying and academic and social activities impacts student retention (Hess, et al., 2015).

- The friendliness of librarians and student perception of the library as a safe, welcoming place also impacts student retention (Elteto, et al., 2008; Grallo, et al., 2012; Stemmer & Mahan, 2016; Zhong & Alexander, 2007).
What library services do transfer students need?
Do transfer student receive the same level of services as native students?

How do we identify student learning outcomes for transfer students?

How do we conduct assessment of information literacy skills of transfer students?

How do we structure information literacy instruction for this population?
We realized we did not know what level of information literacy skills our transfer student had.

We assumed that transfer student had received some type of information literacy instruction at their former institution.

How well prepared would they be for upper level research?

What did they know? What didn’t they know?

We decided to find out.
Library Support of Transfer Students

- Hosted a workshop for librarians at feeder schools
- Offered customized tours and library resources to Jump Start program
- Collaborated with the Office of Transfer Services
- Participated in Transfer Orientations

- Develop Transfer specific LibGuides
- Market Individualized Research Consultation
- Serve as Transfer Mentors
- Participate in social events
- Liaise with administrators, faculty, and staff
- Participate in transfer focused institutional initiatives
- Conduct research about transfer students
- Present at national conferences
- Membership on Transfer Services Team
Strategies for Library/Campus Unit Collaboration

- Educate yourself about the characteristics and needs of your transfer student population
- Work within the library
- Develop relationships with feeder school librarians
- Create transfer specific library resources
- Liaise with campus units serving transfer students
- Market your information literacy program and library services to campus units
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guides.library.appstate.edu/transferstudents_libraries

Appalachian State University
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