

Factors of Undergraduate Programs Which Most Contribute to Student

Success: (Internal Version)

The Writing Center at North Park University

-Carol Martin 2007

Level of Academic Challenge

- Preparation for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing)
- Reading and writing
- Using higher-order thinking skills
- Working harder than students thought they could to meet an instructor's standards
- An institutional environment that emphasizes studying and academic work

Active and Collaborative Learning

- Asking questions in class or contributing to class discussions
- Making class presentations
- Working with other students on projects during class
- Working with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments
- Tutoring or teaching other students
- Participating in community-based projects as part of a regular course
- Discussing ideas from readings or classes with others

Student Interactions with Faculty Members

- Discussing grades or assignments with an instructor
- Talking about career plans with a faculty member or advisor
- Discussing ideas from readings or classes with faculty members outside of class
- Working with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student-life activities, and so forth)
- Getting prompt feedback on academic performance
- Working with a faculty member on a research project

Enriching Educational Experiences

- Talking with students with different religious beliefs, political opinions, or values
- Talking with students of a different race or ethnicity
- Encouraging an institutional climate that encourages contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds
- Using electronic technology to discuss or complete assignments
- Participating in:
 - Internships or field experiences
 - Community service or volunteer work
 - Foreign language coursework
 - Study abroad
 - Independent study or self-designed major
 - Cocurricular activities
 - A culminating senior experience

Supportive Campus Environment

- Helps students succeed academically
- Helps students cope with nonacademic responsibilities (work, family, etc.)
Helps students thrive socially
- Promotes good relations between students and their peers
- Promotes good relations between students and faculty members
- Promotes good relations between students and administrative staff

List developed based upon the research of the Documenting Effective Educational Practice project of the Center for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University (George D. Kuh, Jillian Kinzie, John H. Schuh, Elizabeth J. Whitt, and associates
Student Success in College: Creating Conditions That Matter [Jossey-Bass, 2005] 11-13, passim)