Assisting First-Year Pre-Majors in Competitive Programs: Behind-the-Scenes Perspectives

Amy Collins-Warfield, College of EHE
Breanna Falb, School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Jill Auxter, College of Nursing

FYE Conference 2016
Introductions

• **Amy Collins-Warfield**, College of EHE
  • Human Sciences advisor
  • Coordinator of First-Year Programs

• **Breanna Falb**, School of HTHRHSC
  • Pre – major advisor
  • Coordinator for Orientation & Survey Programming

• **Jill Auxter**, College of Nursing
  • Pre-Nursing major advisor
  • First Year Experience Coordinator
What is a Pre-Major?

- When students are not directly admitted
- Students do have a major and a degree plan
- Haven’t met a set of criteria
- Applies to both competitive and non-competitive
Example Non-Competitive Major

Sport Industry major (EHE)
To move from pre-major to major, students need:
• 2.75 GPA
• 12 OSU hours
Example of Competitive Major

Athletic Training (HTHRHSC)

• Students who wish to apply to AT must have completed all of the following program pre-requisite courses or their equivalent with a C- or higher by the end of Spring semester:
  • Math 1148
  • Chem 1210
  • Bio 1113
  • Anatomy 2300.04
  • Athletic Training 2000
  • Athletic Training 2010
  • HTHRHSC 2500
What is a Competitive Major?

- Requires an application to move out of pre-major
- Limited number of students admitted
- Minimum criteria vs. preferred criteria
Who Pursues These Majors?

• NFYS
• Transfers
• Often high-achieving, motivated students
• Specific career goals
• Professional school aspirations
Orientation Concerns
(Example: NFYS)

Concerns
• Students who have AP/post-secondary credit
• Not understanding that they will still need to apply
• Challenges with low math placement

Positives
• Relatively easy scheduling
• Advantages of AP/transfer credit
• Direct career path
• Enthusiasm
Pre-application Semesters
(Example: Transfer Students)

Concerns
• Courses aren’t directly equivalent
• Graduation date may be pushed back
• Student’s motivations
• Major/Career awareness

Positives
• More college experience
• OSU GPA is 0.0
• Previous shadowing or other experiences
Application Semester

Concerns
• Not being prepared
• Not knowing what to expect

Positives
• Academic Offices providing workshops
• Spillover of improved interpersonal skills
Post-Application
(Next Steps)

Concerns
• Not getting accepted
• All the eggs in one basket
• Shadowing the curriculum
• Managing disappointment

Positives
• Getting accepted!
• Grad school plans often not impacted by changing your major
How Can You Help?

- Advising
  - When to discuss student preparedness and qualifications?
  - Resources to provide?
- Staff/Faculty
  - Look for and manage student behaviors
  - Anxiety, high emotions
  - Provide career/professional advice
  - Letters of rec, observation/research
- Sharing own story about academic and career successes and failures
  - Model the way to accomplish a goal and overcome adversity
Discussion Activity