What’s Not Working: Helping Students Talk about Motivation, Strategies and Skills

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University Exploration
• 6978 NFYS
• 28.9 Average ACT
• 62% in the top 10% of their class
• At the end of AU 15 ~2400 were in the “Murky Middle” between a 2.0 and 3.0 GPA

2015 NFYS
Decision Making Process

What's Not Working
Majors
Majors

Interests

What’s Not Working
Majors

Interests

Career/Goals

What’s Not Working
• What subjects do they naturally seem to understand
• What kinds of writing assignments are easier for them (lab reports, persuasive writing, critical analysis, research)
• Do they work better independently or in a group
• Do they learn better from lecture, hands on work, discussion or reading

Academic Strengths
• Guiding students through the process of analyzing their class performance and how that relates to major selection can be challenging
• One tool we have used in UEXP Survey is a flow chart of questions regarding academic performance and some of the factors that may influence performance
Am I Doing Well in My Classes?

Yes

What factors are leading to your success in these classes?

Do you enjoy the content of these classes?

No

Am I motivated to learn the material? (see next page)

Yes

Would you consider a major or minor in these subjects?

No

Talk to students in the major

Take another course to explore further

Talk to an advisor about major/minor options

Concerns about career

Don't like the subject enough for further study

What's Not Working
Am I motivated to learn the material

No

Can I significantly improve my study habits? (see next page)

I don't like the content

Yes

What factors are impeding my motivation

I don't like the instructor's teaching style

Can I significantly improve my study habits? (see next page)

Other personal factors

Consult with appropriate campus resources

What’s Not Working
Can I significantly improve my study habits

Yes
- Review Support from the Start resources
- What kinds of classes do you do well in (lab, lecture, discussion)?

No
- Reassess academic strengths
- What kinds of subjects come easily to you?
- What kinds of writing assignments are easy for you (Lab Reports, Critical Essays, Persuasive Writing)?

Should I consider dropping the class?
- I am in danger of failing and don't think I can improve my performance in the class.
- I am not in danger of failing, but am not doing as well as I would like.

Consult with an advisor

Yes
• For exploring majors/careers
  • Career Counseling and Support Services
  • University Exploration
• For help with academics
  • Walter Dennis Learning Center
  • Tutoring
  • Professor/TA office hours
• For help with personal issues/concerns
  • Counseling and Consultation Services
  • Student Wellness Center
• Other
  • Student Advocacy
  • ODS

Campus Resources

What’s Not Working
A Fork In The Road
• Not telling students they “can’t” do that major
  • Focus on how much work they are putting in vs. results they are getting out
    • Do they want to have time for other pursuits?
    • Do they feel frustrated about amount of time spent working on classes?
    • How will this impact time to degree?

Input vs. Outcomes

What’s Not Working
Impact on Careers/Goals

- How does changing their major/academic focus impact career/goals?
  - For some, it has minimal impact (e.g. business related majors outside of Fisher)
  - For others, it can have a larger impact (e.g. always wanted to be a doctor but struggling with Chem)
    - Talk about underlying appeal of career/goal (helping people, prestige, salary, lifestyle, etc.)
Questions

What’s Not Working