

#NISTS2019 CONFERENCE

WORKING TOGETHER TO SIMPLIFY TRANSFER

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Embedded Academic Advising: Bridging the Gap between the Community College and University

Transition Programs & Services, Matriculation Trends and Issues

The purpose of this session is to learn how academic advising collaboration between community colleges and universities ensure a seamless transition for transfer students. Specifically, best practices on how university advisors can provide academic advising at the community college level to build a foundation for transfer success. Strategies, outcomes, and resources to support the transfer student population will be discussed. Administrators and advisors at both the community college and university level are encouraged to attend.

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Embedded Academic Advising:

Bridging the Gap between the
Community College and University

University of South Florida



Presenters:

Office of Transfer Student Success

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Learning Outcomes

- Information on the Office of Transfer Student Success at the University of South Florida.
- Research/best practices to support transfer students matriculating from two year to four year institutions.
- How to begin forming partnerships with feeder institutions.
- Strategies to make embedded advising successful.

USF at a Glance

- Founded: 1956
- Type: public research university
- USF System includes three, separately accredited institutions: USF Tampa, USF St. Petersburg, and USF Sarasota-Manatee.
- Serving more than 50,000 students



Enrollment Data as of Fall 2018

	USF System	USF Tampa	USF St. Petersburg	USF Sarasota-Manatee
Undergraduate	37,333	31,389	4,102	1,842
FTIC Students	3,265	2,800	369	96
Transfer Students	4,660	3,787	545	328

Transfer Students Breakdown	USF System	USF Tampa	USF St. Petersburg	USF Sarasota-Manatee
New transfer students from the Florida College System	3,183	2,545	394	244
Other new transfer students	1,477	1,242	151	84

Office of Transfer Student Success

Mission

To provide dedicated services and customized support to prepare students for a seamless transfer.



Our Services

- Embedded Advising at partner schools
- Online Advising
- Creation and administration of the Fuse partnership program
 - Data sharing between schools
 - Assist in creation of major academic pathways
- Educational Liaisons:
Visit high schools & college partners
 - Provide policy updates
 - Provide advisor cross training workshops

Transfer Challenges

- Onboarding issues into the university
- Students are not academically prepared
- The loss of transfer credit



Research & Best Practices

The Transfer Student Playbook

- Three major strategies:
 1. Make transfer student success a priority
 - Incorporate transfers into mission, share data, dedicate resources
 2. Create clear programmatic pathways with aligned high-quality instruction
 - Partner schools jointly create major-specific program maps
 3. Provide tailored transfer student advising

Academic Recruiter Advisor Role

- Encourage students to explore majors/careers early at partner schools
- Clearly outline major requirements to prepare for USF
- Create academic plan for students to seamlessly transfer into major at USF
 - Encourages Associate degree completion
 - Ensures that all credits taken will transfer to USF and are relevant for major
- Guides students through the admissions process

Roles & Responsibilities

Academic Recruiter Advisor

- ❑ Focuses on working with students pre-admissions
- ❑ In depth knowledge of USF major requirements
- ❑ In depth knowledge of partner school's A.A. requirements
- ❑ Can also assist with admissions process

Admissions

- ❑ Outreach events
- ❑ Admissions assistance
- ❑ Broad knowledge of major options

Major Advisor

- ❑ Only sees students with specified major at USF
- ❑ Some don't have time to meet with prospective students
- ❑ Focus on major progression towards graduation
- ❑ High impact practices (study abroad, internships, etc.)

Marketing Strategies for Advising

At our partner schools ...

- Create advising flyers listing our dates and times
 - Work with multiple departments to post on campus and on social media platforms
- Attend transfer fairs
- Host group information sessions
- Post yard signs around campus the day of visitation
- Use office space on busy campuses and use tabling on campuses with less traffic

The Fuse Program

- Official, signed articulation agreement between USF and 8 partner schools
 - Provides formal structure for administration, faculty, and advising collaboration
- Promotes timely degree completion through creation of “graduation pathways” for specific majors
- Provides...
 - Guaranteed admission into specific majors
 - Activities and workshops for students
 - Additional funding resources for students



Strategies to Form Partnerships

- Upper Administration Collaboration
 - Gather transfer student data from your institution
 - Hold high level meetings with administration points of contact
 - Determine fundamentals of the partnership
- Curriculum Alignment
 - Strategically align curriculum to create pathways for majors
 - Faculty collaboration is essential
- Data
 - Determine short term data share process
 - Create ways for long term, streamlined data sharing



Strategies to Form Partnerships

- Advising Collaboration
 - Create networking events for advisors at both institutions
 - Invite each other to attend advising meetings at each other's institutions
 - Allow embedded advising to be present on campus
 - Providing dedicated space and marketing to students
 - Allowing advisor to have system access to be able to view student transcripts
 - Hire advising staff that have knowledge of both institutions



Results of Partnerships

- At 3 partner schools: June 2016 – December 2016
 - Saw 465 students
- At 4 partner schools: January 2017 – December 2017
 - Saw 1,496 students
- At 8 partner schools: January 2018 – present
 - Saw 1,823 students
- Out of the 3,784 visits total, 550 visits were duplicates

Student Experience Feedback Survey

- “She answered my questions perfectly and she made me feel reassured that I’m on the right track for my major.”
- “This advising experience was wonderful, the advisor was very nice and made sure to listen and answer every question I had, I really appreciated her time and would definitely advise any other FUSE students or USF students in general to meet with her.”
- “Shaun provided answers to all my questions, as well as answers to questions I didn't have, but needed to have asked. She made sure I knew about FAFSA and deadlines, and went over my application with me and provided comments when needed.”
- “Justine was a pleasure to work with and her confidence, knowledge base of both SPC and USF options were impressive and ultimately led me to making a confident decision in my career path.”
- “Absolute lifesaver. She was direct, knew what I needed, and sent me home with an orderly list of action items. My best experience with USF so far.”

Think-Pair-Share Activity

- Thinking of implementing an embedded advising position within your institution – great! But it doesn't exist within a vacuum.
- Let's examine the 3 Transfer Playbook strategies at your institution.
- Pair up and share your thoughts.



Questions?

References

- Fink, J., & Jenkins, D. (2017). Takes Two to Tango: Essential Practices for Highly Effective Transfer Partnerships. *Community College Review*, 45(4), 294-310.
- Wyner, J., Deane, K., Jenkins, D., & Fink, J. (2016). The Transfer Playbook: Essential Practices for Two- and Four-Year Colleges. Retrieved from Community College Research Center: <https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/transfer-playbook-essential-practices.pdf>

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