

STUDENT SUCCESS BEST PRACTICE: PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



ADDRESS: 501 COLLEGE DRIVE
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902

WEBSITE: WWW.PVCC.EDU

STUDENT SUCCESS CATEGORY --

- ACADEMIC PROGRAM
- STUDENT SERVICES
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- COLLEGE BUSINESS PRACTICE
- TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION
- OTHER:

TITLE: "SDV 100/101: WHERE STUDENT SUCCESS BEGINS AT PVCC"

PROCESS

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, completion rates in PVCC's STD/SDV 100/101 courses were low due to the fact that the course was graded on a pass/fail basis. This low completion rate impacted the college's overall fall to fall and fall to spring retention rates. The dean of students and several counselors were tasked with implementing a plan to increase the success rates in the STD/SDV course. A plan was developed to change the course to a graded format, with a standard textbook and syllabus. Over the ensuing years, counselors and teaching faculty have focused the content of the courses on particular learners (adults and recent high school graduates). In 2006, for recent high school graduates, the content of the SDV 101 course was focused around disciplines to make the content more relevant and contextualized. With the new focus on Meta Majors, teams of student services advisors, teaching faculty and administration are currently working on contextualizing the content of the SDV 101 and 100 courses around the five Meta Majors PVCC has adopted starting in the fall semester 2016.

STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION

In phase one, the dean of student services and student services counselors were tasked by the president to develop a plan to increase the completion rate of the SDV courses and thus to improve overall retention. The group examined data on completion and looked at best practices models in offering orientation courses. The group recommended that the SDV courses be changed to a graded course, and a common textbook and syllabus be adopted. In 2006, a review of completion data for the SDV courses was again undertaken. The data showed that the success rates could be improved. The dean of student services, as well as student services counselors, recommended that the SDV 101 course be contextualized around disciplines offered at the college with the goal of making the content more relevant to recent high school graduates. The SDV 100 course was targeted to adults, but the content was contextualized to topics and issues relevant to adult learners (time management, finances, personal life issues, etc.). Teams of teaching faculty were engaged to help contextualize the content of the courses, thus giving them buy-in and encouraging them to teach the courses. The system-level learning outcomes were the same for both courses; however, the content

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was made more specific to the respective type of student. With the new focus on Meta Majors, the SDV 101 course was contextualized around PVCC's five Meta Majors starting in the fall of 2016. Teams of teaching faculty and full-time academic advisors worked to contextualize the content.

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

In the area of assessment, PVCC evaluates the SDV program on number of students served, grade point average comparison to non-SDV students, and retention into the next semester. Students enrolled in the SDV program at PVCC have higher GPAs than students who do not take the SDV course and students who take the SDV course are retained at a higher rate than those that do not take the SDV course. Finally, SDV numbers served increases in conjunction with enrollment fluctuations.

PLAN FOR SCALE & SUSTAINABILITY

In order to sustain the SDV program and scale it to reach all degree-seeking students, plans are to merge the SDV 101 and SDV 100 courses into one SDV 100 course (Creating College Success) that is aligned and contextualized to Meta Majors. This will occur in the spring 2017 semester. Having one course will allow for full enrollment. Recent graduates and new students will be required to complete the SDV course in the first semester following VCCS policy.

COLLEGE DESCRIPTION

Piedmont Virginia Community College is a comprehensive, public institution of higher education that awards associate degrees and certificates. PVCC offers accessible, affordable, high-quality educational programs that promote student success and community vitality. PVCC serves the City of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson. For the academic year 2015-16, enrollment in credit classes totaled 7,595. 77% of the credit students enroll part-time, 59% are female and 12% are African-American. In 2015-16, PVCC conferred 869 career and technical awards and 376 transfer awards. PVCC employs 77 full-time faculty members, 20 administrative and non-teaching faculty, and approximately 250 adjunct faculty.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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