Academic Success During a Pandemic

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Fall Quarter 2020 at WWU

- Primarily operating remotely
  - About 10% of course sections have some face-to-face component
    - FtF component ends at Thanksgiving break
  - 1100 students are living on campus in dorms
  - All faculty and staff who can are working at a distance
- Testing program for all students on campus
  (https://www.wwu.edu/coronavirus)
  - 4327 students tested (including retests) since September 15th
    - 4 positive test results
- Quarantine facilities for students living on campus – currently empty!
- A large, but unknown number of students are in Bellingham living off-campus.
Fall Quarter 2020 at WWU

• Most students are taking classes remotely
Challenges

• Information overload
• Asynchronous vs synchronous learning
• Online exams and academic integrity
• Online behavior
• Zoom fatigue
• Social isolation and mental health challenges
• Drop in student retention
• Drop in new student enrollment
• Budget
Opportunities

• Technology
• Advantages of online teaching
  • Feedback
  • Flipped classrooms
  • Invitation for more equitable participation
• Online advising
Winter Quarter and Beyond

• WQ mode of instruction announced today (10/16)
  • “We have decided to move forward with a Winter Quarter with approximately the same levels of face-to-face instruction and campus residency levels as Fall Quarter”
  • “Winter Quarter will start at its scheduled time of January 5 but all classes will be remote until January 11”
Student Success Strategies

• Impacts of pandemic on students
  • Ranging from inconvenience to challenges to basic needs/survival
  • Maslow’s hierarchy of needs!
Student Success Strategies

• Emergency responses to COVID-19
  • Access to funding: https://www.finaid.wwu.edu/scholarships/pages/
  • Food/community assistance: https://wp.wwu.edu/officeofstudentlife/covid-19-student-assistance/
  • Access to technology: https://wwuhelp.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/1/group/1/create/172
Student Success Strategies

• Self-care
  • Eating, exercise
  • Managing expectations

• Mental health resources
  • https://counseling.wwu.edu/
    • BIPOC Meditation Space
    • Yoga for Resilience
    • Virtual Care Package
Student Success Strategies - Communication

• WWU email!
Student Success Strategies - Registration

• Preference for Asynchronous or Synchronous Learning
  • Plan for a balance that avoids more than a couple of hours on live video per day.
• Graded vs. non-graded courses
Student Success Strategies - In Class

- Read the syllabus!
- Talk to the instructor during on-line office hours
- Time management
  - Plan for a balance that avoids more than a couple of hours on live video per day.
- Zoom fatigue
  - Video on vs off for lectures
Student Success Strategies- In Class

• Time management
• Poor time management, especially undermining your efforts to establish and follow your priorities can be a result of:
  • Over-Scheduling
  • Procrastination
  • Distractibility
  • Procrastination
  • Over-Accessibility
  • Troublesome Self-Talk
  • Perfectionism
• What Can Be Done
  • Allocate Adequate Time for School Each Week
    • If you have a total of 14 to 18 hours of scheduled class time each week, a guideline is to allocate two hours outside of class for every hour in class to complete the associated work.
  • Treat School Like a Job
    • If you're a full-time student, school is your primary job. Just like a full-time career, success may require 35 to 55 hours each week.
  • Spend Time on Each Course Every Week
    • Cramming is stressful and often ineffective at university. The best preparation for tests is what you do day-by-day. Prepare for and attend all your classes and spend some time each week learning new material.
  • Plan Your Week and Quarter
    • Many students use a term calendar, weekly planner, or day planner to track tasks and organize time commitments. Regularly planning and blocking out available time each day enhances productivity.
  • Seek Help in Becoming an Effective Time Manager
    • Good time managers are not born, but evolve with experience.
      • https://library.wwu.edu/use/tutoring-center/study-skills/time-management
Student Success Strategies

• Expectations
  • Faculty know this is a challenging time for all students and an almost impossible time for some
    • Most are ready to go the extra mile to accommodate students
    • The university administration expects flexibility
  • Give yourself a break!