

Evolution by Trial and Error and Assessment

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Purpose of This Session

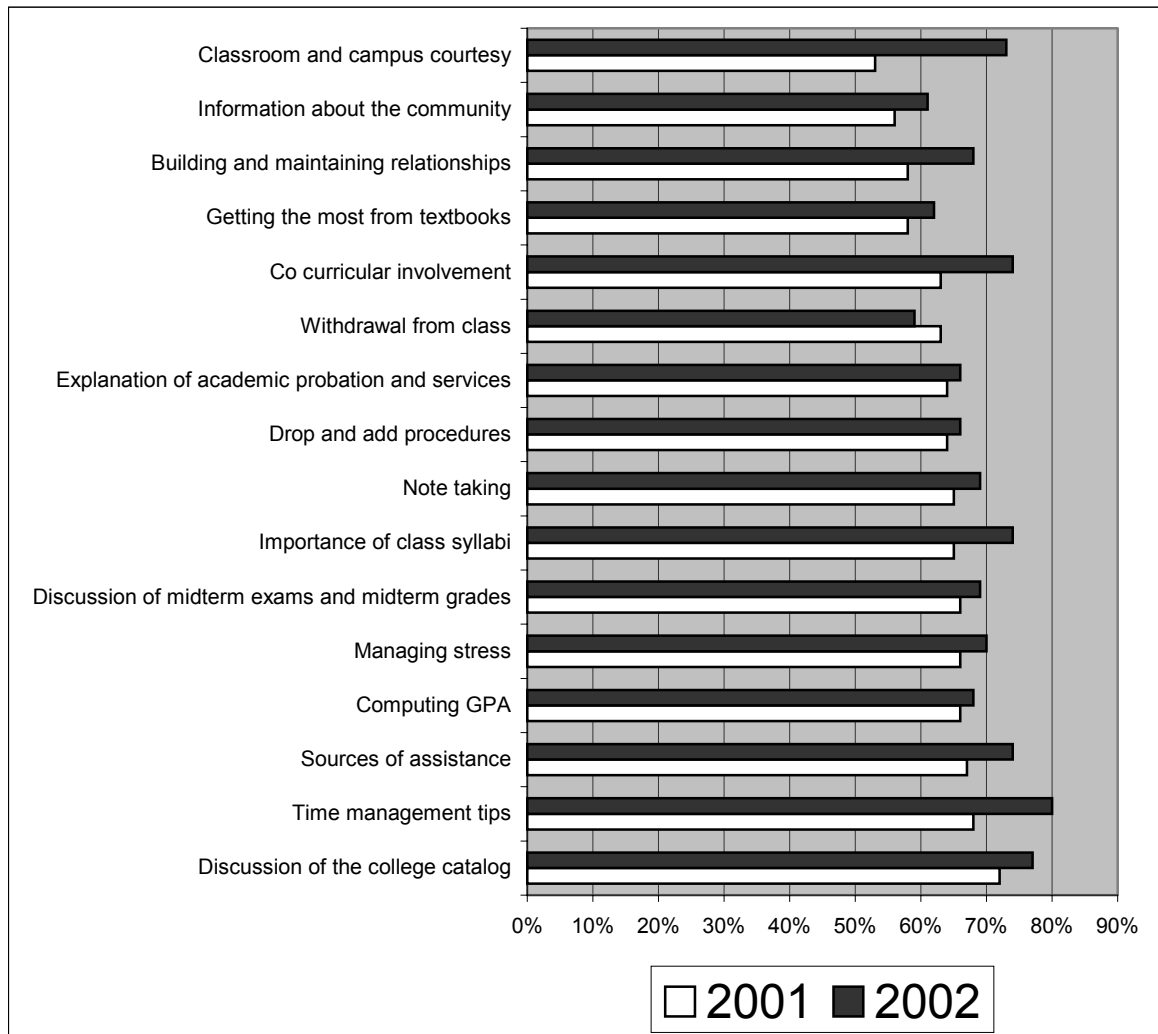
Introduce the establishment of a continuing series of Freshman Success Seminars at Dakota State University.

Present the theory and constant re-evaluation that has led to the implementation of our current structure and format.

Objective of the Freshman Success Seminars At Dakota State University

- Fills a need for first year students as they negotiate transitions in their lives.
- Provides an orientation to student services and university facilities.
- Develops an understanding of self through self-assessment, student interaction, and faculty-student interaction.
- Develops an appreciation for university life and the value of a higher education.
- Promotes learning communities
- Improves study skills
- Improves the advisement program
- Improves chances of student success

Survey of Satisfaction Levels of Freshmen Participating in the Fall of 2001 & 2002 Success Seminars



History of FSS at DSU

1994-95

12-week sessions;
Facilitators paired;
Met twice a week;
Speakers brought in;
80 students per group

1995-96

8-week sessions;
Met once a week;
50-60 students per group
Speakers brought in

1996-97

Speakers brought in;
20- 30 students per group;
Scheduling became difficult

1997-2000

Students divided according to colleges;
Faculty facilitators teach the session;
15-20 students per group;
Students sorted by course

Topics for the Freshmen Success Seminars

<p style="text-align: center;">Week 1-Orientation</p> <p>Introduction of facilitator and of group members Getting acquainted activity Importance of FSS Where students can get assistance Introduction to campus Encourage activities like Homecoming</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 2</p> <p>Purpose of seminar Importance of advisor Importance of course syllabus Drop/add Catalog Changing majors Team work with cohort groups Encourage activities</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 3</p> <p>How to study How to take notes How to read chapters in a textbook Taking tests Time management Classroom/campus courtesy Encourage activities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 4</p> <p>Achieving success-case studies Computing GPA Building & maintaining relationships Stress management Encourage activities</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 5</p> <p>Changing lifestyles-case studies Roommates Conflict management Information about the community Encourage activities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 6</p> <p>Discuss academic probation Student Development services Midterm exams & grades Use of college catalog Pre-registration process</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 7</p> <p>Review process for class withdrawal Complete evaluation forms Additional topics/ student questions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Week 8-Alumni Session</p> <p>Review how things are going Early registration for those students who have met attendance requirements</p>

FSS Today at DSU

- FSS is six weekly one hour meetings including a session during orientation week
- Facilitator is a faculty member
- Group determines the time and place
- Grouped by advisees with their advisor where possible

What's Next

- Encourage campus-wide lead advisors
- Participate in the for Hallmark Project
- Promote giving credit for FSS
- Establish Success Seminars for transfer/non-traditional students
- Refine and continue the survey
- Apply for a technology Bush grant
- Participate in System Retention Task Force