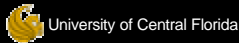


Catch Me if You Can: Targeting At-risk Students to Stop the Academic Slide

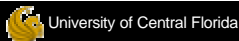
University of Central Florida

- Melissa Falls – Engineering & Computer Science
- Judith Sindlinger – Health & Public Affairs
- Paul Viau – First Year Advising & Exploration



UCF FACTS

- 42,000 students
 - Up 10,000 in 4 years
- 5 academic colleges & 1 school
- Metropolitan university
- 4yr public institution
- 55% FTIC, 45% Transfer



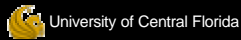
Academic Advising

- Advising not required
- Advising offices in each college/school
- First Year Advising & Exploration
- Faculty advisors in colleges –
not required by all



Program Objective

- To identify students who may be headed toward academic difficulties and assist them before they are placed on academic probation



Criteria of Program

- Select students who meet one or both of the following:
 - Most recent term GPA is less than a 2.0, but cumulative remains above a 2.0 (not on probation)
 - Most recent term GPA drops more than 1.0 below previous UCF cumulative GPA



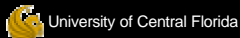
Findings

- GPA Drop
- Even Distribution between colleges
- Trend holds with other cut points



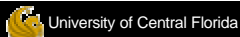
Student profile

- Excellent initial performance then “slide” for 2-3 terms before probation
- Environment change from high school & CC
 - larger classes
 - away from home
 - part time to full time and courses in the major for transfers
- Slide can be due to financial, personal or academic reason



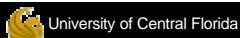
Approach

- General letter from the college with an invitation for an appointment and a list of resources
- Email from CECS with an invitation for an appointment, a list of resources, and an online [advisement request form](#)



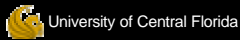
Online Approach

- Web based query
- [Sample report](#)
- Automatic email
- Web form response
- Advisor response
- Database for followup



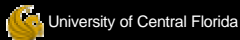
Pilot Results

- Two colleges selected students with a drop of 1.0 and those below a 2.0
- Colleges sent out 150-300 notices
- Pilot based on summer 2003 data
- Poor response to letters/emails



Future

- Compare fall 2003 probation list to at risk student list
- Update online version to
 - Allow for more control of data
 - Different letters to different populations
- Expansion to all colleges
- Performed by the Registrar's Office
- Consider required advisement for at risk students prior to next registration



Audience Participation

- Examples of other at risk student programs
- Questions?

