Clicking our way to learn from our first-year students

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Learning Community Programs
Ohio University

4-year, Public, est. 1804

Research Institution

Residential campus located in Southeastern, rural, Ohio

21,182 students enrolled at main campus

282 undergraduate degree majors in nine undergraduate colleges

Quarter system
Ohio University

@4,000 first-year students each Fall

The mean ACT score of first-year undergraduate students is 23.8

First-year retention rate is 81.5%

70% of undergraduates enrolled at the Athens campus graduate within 6 years (the 3rd highest graduation rate in the state of Ohio)
Learning Community Programs

• Began at Ohio University Fall 1999 with pilot (40 students)
• Fall 2007, 115 communities with 1925 participants
• Clustered course model, with seminar, instructor, peer mentor, programming expectations
• A unit of University College
Orientation at Ohio University

- Intensive one and a half days, overlapping for 15 consecutive days, late July – early August
- Student sessions running concurrent with parent sessions
- Bobcat Student Orientation (BSO) is a unit of University College, with assistance from all colleges, student affairs, business offices
Academic Success and LCs

- Context for session:
  - No longer giving Math placement during orientation
  - First student-only session during orientation
  - Overview of LCs, but not all students in LCs
  - Introduce successful student behaviors that would be reinforced during BSO
  - 30 – 45 minute time frame
“Clickers”

- FYE conference
- Use of technology in the classroom
- Why not during orientation?
- LC=small groups, 250 daily average for BSO
- Interaction of students; see responses immediately
- Context for discussion/facilitation
**Student Success Resources:**

- Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), [http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/cirpoverview.php](http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/cirpoverview.php)
- Institutional Research, Ohio University, [www.ohio.edu/instres/student/index.html](http://www.ohio.edu/instres/student/index.html)
- Kuep & Stolzenberg, *The 2003 Your First College Year Survey*; 2004
- National Survey of Student Engagement, [http://nsse.iub.edu](http://nsse.iub.edu)
- Pascarella & Terenzini, *How College Affects Students*; 2005
- Your First College Year Survey (YFCY), [http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/yfcyoverview.php](http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/yfcyoverview.php)
Successful students:

- Are involved in campus life
- Get to know faculty
- Handle stress appropriately
- Develop healthy relationships
  - *Peers, family/friends, interact with those NOT like them*
- Form effective study habits
- Are curious about learning – enjoy discourse
Instructional Technology at OHIO

- Ohio University has contract with Turning Technologies, LLC
- Common system used by faculty on campus in classroom
- Clickers available through IT
- Assistance and training
- Less expensive (used clickers), bulk batteries, etc.
Flow of session

- Students arrive via four entrances from introductory session
- Seated by college admitted/enrolled
- Participate in session
- Move quickly to next student-only session
- *All within 45 minutes*
Facilitation Points:

- Practice using the clickers
- Expectations of their education – advisors
- Peer networks
- Managing stress – counseling center, rec. center, etc.
- Study habits (2hrs/1hr of class) – academic support units, advisors
- Working while a student – Financial Aid, HR

- Living with others/getting involved – Housing, Campus Life
- Alcohol – Judiciaries
- Communication – check Ohio University e-mails!
- Seek out faculty/go to class – utilize office hours
- It’s okay to be undecided
- Ohio University values diversity – in ideas and people
How to use the clickers
What is your employment category?

A. Teaching faculty/staff  
B. Student affairs administrator  
C. Academic administrator  
D. Graduate student  
E. Undergraduate student  
F. Other
Your institution’s enrollment is...

A. Less than 1000
B. 1,000 – 4,999
C. 5,000 – 9,999
D. 10,000 or more
Expectations of higher education
Why are you at this conference?

A. To have fun
B. To learn more about FYE
C. To collaborate with colleagues
D. All of the above
E. I don’t know
Why did you choose this session?

A. Interesting topic
B. Knew presenters
C. Room proximity
D. Time fit schedule
E. I like data!
F. All of the above
G. other
Managing stress
How do you manage stress?

A. Read books
B. Vent to others/write in journal
C. Exercise
D. eat, drink, or smoke
E. other
Personal space
Before college, did you have your own room in your home?

A. Yes
B. No
C. I’m not sure
Before college, did you have your own bathroom?

A. Yes
B. No
C. I don’t know

12 Seconds Remaining

0%
What method of communication do you use most?

A. e-mail
B. Telephone (for talking)
C. Texting on cell
D. Instant messaging
E. Social network site
F. Writing letters
How often do you use a social networking site to communicate with students?

A. Daily
B. Weekly
C. Monthly
D. Never
How data has been utilized...

- Peer mentor training and practice (i.e. cell phone #s, diverse activities)
- Residential Housing
- Judiciaries
- Admissions and others (communication)
- Campus Involvement
- Allen Student Help Center – attendance tracking
- University College – advising/choosing a major
Session Logistics

- “Popular” music playing as students enter the room
- Orientation leaders “planted” in room
- Session assistants – clicker problems
- Collecting clickers – incentive to return them!
  - Orange lanyard
- Handouts
- LCPHC
• Toll-Free: 866-746-3015 or TurningTechnologies.com

• TurningPoint 2008
  • Program data collection
  • Questions “on-the-fly”

• Various types of “clickers”
A listing of the 25 questions asked during student orientation...

...is available upon request. This powerpoint utilized examples to show the flow of the orientation session, but are not representative of the presentation itself.

If you would like a copy of the actual questions, please contact:

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