



Grab the GPS: Navigating Advisement in Freshman Seminar and Beyond

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About SUNY Cobleskill

- Public, residential college offering bachelors, associates and professional educational programs
- Organized into 2 Schools and 8 Departments
- 2500 students in 52 programs
- Faculty and staff committed to student success
- Small classes, excellent facilities, and experiential learning opportunities through internships, field experiences, and study-abroad programs



What about YOU?

- What did you want to be when you grew up?
- How much effort did you put into high school? College?
- How did you know how to succeed?

Our Issues with Advisement

- Faculty Advisors have large advisee load and not a lot of time
- Students uninformed
 - Academic programs, classes, requirements, GPA
 - General Education and Liberal Arts and Sciences
 - Career planning
 - Continued education
 - Internships
 - Study Abroad
 - What advisement is
- Students falling through the cracks and not graduating
- Frustration all around

Solutions



- Master Faculty Advisors (MFAs)
- DegreeWorks
- Freshman Seminar Course (FFCS101)
- Goals for Personal Success Plan (GPS plan)



GPS Plan

- Every student completes the plan in FFCS101
- Meet with Faculty Advisor to discuss and obtain signature
- Reflection paper
- Common grading rubric
(show GPS plan parts in one PDF)



Outcomes

- Increased numbers of prepared students in Student Success Center
- More and stronger interactions with Faculty Advisors
- Less stress at the Registrar
- Accepted Student Days and Open House- Happy parents!!
- Increased Study Abroad
- Stronger advisement model

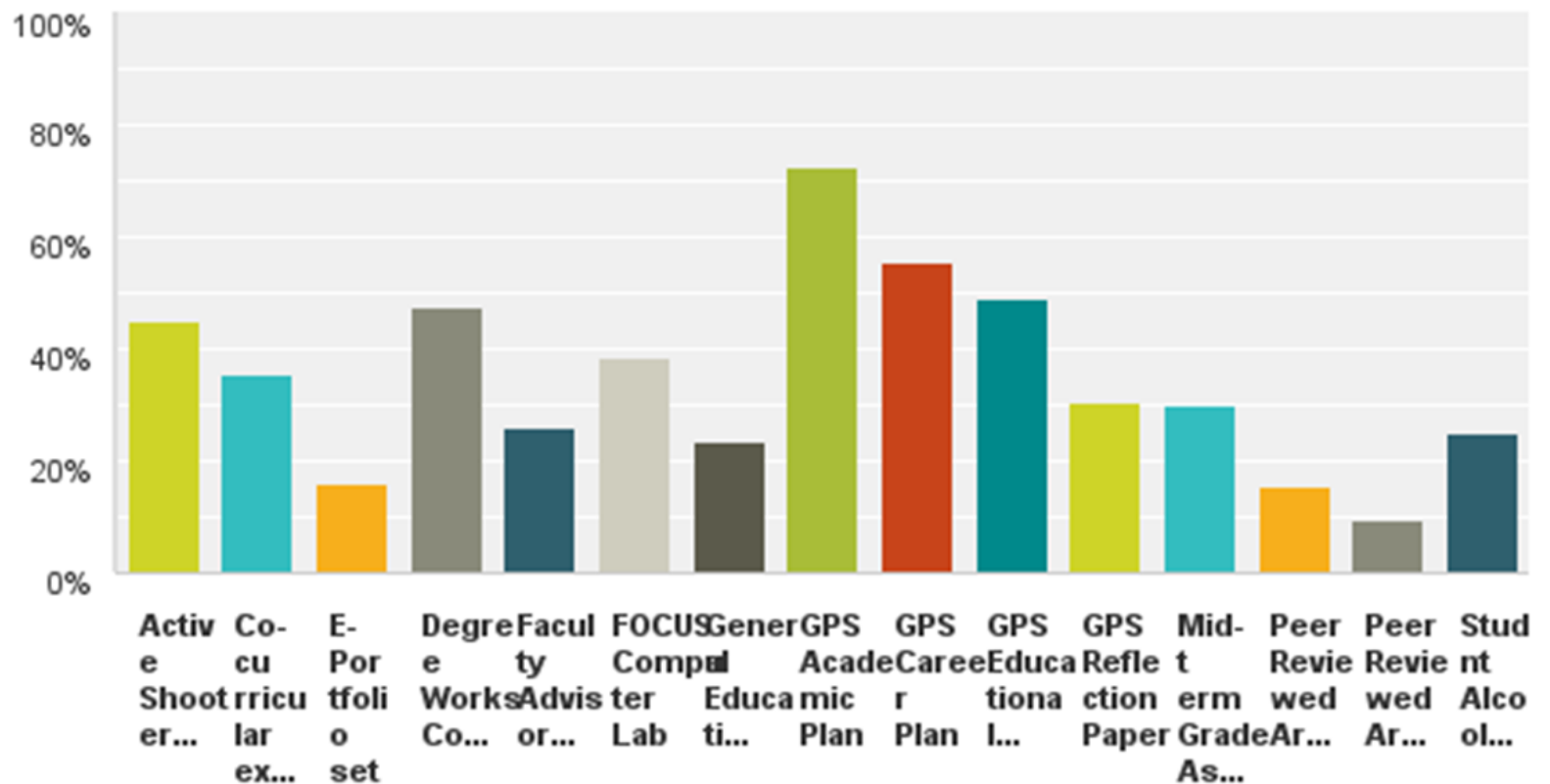


Outcomes Cont.

- Student Awareness!!
- Student reflections:
- “One thing I can say came from this is that in combination with my dislike of my current culinary classes, it cemented my feelings about wanting to switch. During the timeline at the very beginning it really struck me that I didn't see a future in the culinary field.”
- “At first I thought this was just a useless assignment, but as we worked through each part, it exceeded my expectations and was actually useful.”

Q9 What were the MOST valuable assignments/projects in this course and why? Check all that apply

Answered: 564 Skipped: 11



Fall 2014 FFCS Student Grades

*Of these 97 students; 18 on probation, 56 suspended, and 10 not posted by the end of the semester.

Total passing rate: 84.25%

	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F	W	I	TOTAL
Total number students	219	76	58	76	46	31	50	32	26	60	97*	27	2	800
Percent of students	27.2%	9.5%	7.2%	9.5%	6%	4%	6.2%	4%	3.2%	7.5%	12%	3.4%	.02%	99.7%

Fall 2014 FFCS Student GPS Plan Grades

*Differs from previous 800 total due to withdrawal (27), incomplete (2), missing instructor info (25), human error (14).

	91-100	81-90	71-80	61-70	51-60	41-50	31-40	21-30	11-20	1-10	0	TOTAL
Total number of students	343	113	54	29	12	28	11	5	4	0	131	732*
Percent of students	47%	15.4%	7.3%	4%	1.6%	4%	1.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0%	18%	99.9%

You've got to be kidding?!

51-60	41-50	31-40	21-30	11-20	1-10	0	TOTAL
12	28	11	5	4	0	131	732*
1.6%	4%	1.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0%	18%	99.9%

12% Failed FFCS, so how is it that 26.2% failed the GPS plan?!

-18% choose to fail this assignment by not doing it or turning in anything

-Only 8.2%, who put in some effort actually failed

8.2% vs. 12% was expected



So now what?

- Celebrate that 62.4% earn A's and B's
- Address the 18%- Capturing those who choose to fail
- Should this GPS plan be mandatory for passing the course and how do we figure that in?



What we've learned along the way

- Switching up the order
- Working in succession
- Not having each part due
- Not having signatures for each part
- Data- how and what to collect
- Instructor variation in grades

What has helped us...

- Examining, changing, and improving our advisement model
- Educating and empowering students about advisement

Questions?

