Transfer Students
And the Traditional First Year Program
Transfer Students are Often Overlooked...

“At a recent staff meeting we were discussing programs and services for new freshmen, when someone remarked, ‘Don’t forget we have three hundred transfer students coming in.’ As I left I realized that we had not spent any time considering transfer students. Are we alone in overlooking them in our planning and programming?” (Barr & Sandeen, 2009)
Common Transfer Student Issues

- Increasing transfer student enrollment
  - Current economic conditions
    - Attend less costly 2 year community college
    - Transfer to a 4 year institution to complete Bachelor’s degree
    - Veterans returning from deployment

- Course equivalency discrepancies
Not Your Typical First Year

Wide variety of students
- Veterans returning from tour of duty
- Students balancing home life, school, and work
- Underemployed workforce
- Students who have completed one semester or year of coursework
- Students who have completed up to three years of coursework
Transfer Program

Goals

• Successful transition from sending institution to receiving institution
• Successful transition to Muskingum University’s academic expectations and campus life
• Meet Muskingum University’s mission by aiding in the education of the “whole person” as described in mission statement
Transfer Student Program
Creation of Website for Transfer Students

- Admission Information
- Articulation Agreements
- Course Equivalencies
Establish Transfer Orientation Program

“Transfer students are often ignored in retention efforts, including activities as basic as orientation to campus” (Townsend & Wilson, 2006).
Orientation Program Basics

- Campus tour
- Course schedule changes
- ID cards
- Parking permits
- Student life information
  - Housing
  - Getting involved
  - Extra-curricular activities
- Faculty presentation
  - Academic expectations
  - Academic rigor
- Where to go for help
  - Academic
  - Social
Transfer Seminar

▪ Aid in transition from former institution to Muskingum University
▪ Student input into material covered
▪ Transfer student mentor
▪ Topics typically covered
  ◦ Muskingum history
  ◦ Academic Dishonesty
  ◦ Library tour
  ◦ Rules and regulations
  ◦ Academic completion plans
▪ Course registration procedures
▪ Major declaration/Advisor change
Institute Learning Communities

“Learning communities and first year seminars aid in students becoming more integrated with the campus” (Townsend & Wilson, 2006).

Establishing learning communities for transfer students will aid in student bonding as well as facilitate engagement with the University.
Create Focus Group

- Valuable insights from transfer students
- “Find out from transfer students what makes the most sense to them to help in marketing and engagement to the University” (Barr & Sandeen, 2009)
- Feedback from transfer students regarding success of transfer program with regard to integration to campus
  - Monthly meetings
  - Study groups
  - National Honorary – Tau Sigma
  - Housing issues
Benefits of Transfer Student Program

- Increases matriculation rates
- Aids in integration to campus
- Increases retention rates
- Increases graduation rates

Places transfer students on same playing field as first year and native students.
References


The Transfer Program

Questions and Answers

Suggestions