How to Support the Most At-Risk Students: Designing a Summer Bridge Program
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ALLI-Academic Learners and Leaders Initiative

- Introductions
- Get to Know Bay Path University
- ALLI Program Structure
- What Worked/What Didn't Work
- Assessment
- Future of the ALLI Program-Recruitment

Undergraduate Profile

- 60% are first-generation college students
- 28% are women of color
- 91% received financial aid from federal, state and institutional funding sources
- 54% received a federal Pell grant
- Nearly 30% leave after the first year
- Nearly 50% leave after the second year

Why implement ALLI now?

- Title III: Strengthening Institutions Grant-The Learners and Leaders Project
- Multipronged strategy to improve persistence, retention, and engagement
- Key Problem:
- The confluence of an outdate core curriculum, a disconnected undergraduate experience, and fragmented support services compromises student engagement and leads to significant student attrition
- Unified Support Services of the Learning Commons
- Summer College Transition Program
- Expanded and revitalized orientation that begins in the summer
- Introduction of the Learners and Leaders Programs

Recruitment

- HS GPA
- SAT Scores (average Math: 371)
- Personal Recommendations from Admissions Counselors
- First Generation Status
- Accuplacer Scores

Fall 2013 Pilot

- ALLI was developed in consultation with other institutions of higher education
- Very small budget in Title III
- Academic focus was on strengthening mathematics, writing, and critical reading skills
- High focus on transitional programming
- Small cohort of students
- Program ran for 11 days

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Fall 2013 Pilot Results

- Students made gains in developing college-readiness skills, particularly in mathematics
- No appreciable gains in pre- and post- Accuplacer scores for writing and critical reading
- Schedule was too rigorous

2014 ALLI Program Objectives

- Focus on intervention in mathematics comprehension and skill development
- Orientation activities that will help ease the transition into college
- Increase their Accuplacer Elementary Algebra score from 40 or lower, which would place them in the 3-credit MAT112 Applied College Mathematics Course.

2014 Assessment Plan

- Pre- and Post- Accuplacer scores for Elementary Algebra exam
- MyMathLab-Data gathered on the accuracy of completed assignments and quizzes to assess the impact of the ALLI curriculum
- EXT099-Canvas Online Training Course
- iPad-Qualitative assessment in the form of a final presentation

2014 ALLI Funding

- Title III
- Individual Donor
- Additional Grants
- Academic Development Budget

2014 ALLI Results

- Average improvement for the MAT 104 test was 38.11%
- Average improvement for Accuplacer Elementary Algebra test was 24.17 points
- 10/17 students placed out of development math and higher level math courses
- 15/17 students started first semester in the math course required for the major (up from 5)

What happens after?

- ALLI events to be hosted by the learning commons
- Individual meetings held with Academic Coaches
- Continue to work closely with tutors and student learning assistants

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1. What was the impetus for thinking about developing a bridge program?

2. What is the purpose of a summer bridge program for your institution?

2. What stage in the process of developing a summer bridge program are you currently in?

3. What seems to be the biggest challenge in putting together a summer bridge?

4. What assessment methods would you implement?

5. What methods or approaches seem most effective in supporting students in the first year of college?

6. Where do you get the funds for a summer bridge program?

7. How do you involve other offices/departments on your campus?

8. What offices/departments seem important to include?

9. When designing a bridge program, how do you determine what programming to include?

10. What research currently exists that supports the effectiveness of summer bridge programs?

11. What research currently exists that doesn't support the effectiveness of summer bridge programs?