Best Practices in Student Veteran Academic Success:

Measuring Success

11th Annual Texas Veterans Higher Education Symposium

Mike Dvoracek
Overview

• Demographics
• Trends
• Measurement Efforts
• Programs
• Way Ahead
• Questions
Veterans at A&M

1,222 Student Veterans - - 53% Graduate/Pro students

Average length of service just under 6 years

~ 28% Still serving (Active, Guard, Reserve)

~ 49% Have families/married

~ 52% Combat vets

~ 64% Transfer students

~ 41% 1st generation*

~ 17% Female*

Average age UG is ~27, G/P ~34*

Only 55% used VA Benefits, ~12% Hazlewood*
Trends at A&M

3.0 Average GPA

91% 2.0 or better

Slightly below overall student population (3.1, 93%)

Gap closes as class increases
Academic Measurement Efforts

Fall 2016: “Measure something”
   = SGPA, CGPA

Spring 2017: “So what?”
   Compare Populations
   Develop programs

Fall 2017: “Better Data”
   Breakouts, Tracking

Ongoing: “Get better each iteration”
Programs

- Academic Focus List
- ASC Certificate Program/Success Plans
- Veteran Academic Academy
## Academic Focus List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Spring 18 SGPA</th>
<th>Spring 18 CGPA</th>
<th>Summer 18 SGPA</th>
<th>Summer 18 CGPA</th>
<th>Fall 18 Focus List Y/N</th>
<th>Summer 18 Comment (13 Aug 18)</th>
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<tr>
<td>JI</td>
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<td>0.500</td>
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<td>SOCI</td>
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<td>1.931</td>
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<td>MN</td>
<td>MEEN</td>
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<td>2.705</td>
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<td>3.059</td>
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<td>ESET</td>
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<td>2.625</td>
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<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>POLS</td>
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### Proactive Engagement

### Individual Screening

### Personal Contacts
ASC Certificate Program - Success Plan

- ASCC 101 Class
- Workshop Series
- Academic Coaching

Academic Coaching – Collaborative relationship, Focuses on student’s personal/professional goals by: Developing self-awareness; Strength building; Academic planning; Definition of student’s purpose, interests and values in order to aid in completion of the degree.
ASC Programs - Results

- **Individual Coaching**
  - Average SGPA: + 0.95

- **Workshop Series**
  - Average SGPA: + 0.82

- **Did Not Use Services**
  - Average SGPA: +/- 0.1
Veteran Academic Academy

- Proactive engagement
- First term student veterans
- 5 hour workshop
  - Transition from military education/CC
  - Academic skills refresher
  - Metacognitive strategies
  - Social transitions (veteran peer mentors)
- Improved 1st semester GPA
- Increased retention
# Veteran Academic Academy Results

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 17 Cohort</th>
<th>Spring 18 Cohort</th>
<th>Fall 18 Cohort</th>
<th>Spring 19 Cohort</th>
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<td><strong>Veteran Academic Academy</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall 17</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg – Med GPA</td>
<td>3.229 – 3.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persistence</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<td><strong>Spring 18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Persistence</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>88%</td>
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<td><strong>Fall 18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Persistence</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>96%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Persistence</td>
<td>76% 2 Grad</td>
<td>88% 1 Grad</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

**All Cohorts**
- 1st Sem GPA:
  - Avg – 3.223
  - Med – 3.239
- Current CGPA:
  - Avg – 3.238
  - Med – 3.307

91% Persistence
Way Ahead

- Improve measurement and assessment
- Definitive database(s)
- Analysis
- Inform programs and decisions

What works for you?
What are your best practices?
Questions?