Moooving Students Toward Success Through Academic Orientation Collaboration

NACADA Region V
Session C45
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Michigan State University

- Nation’s pioneer Land Grant institution
- Located in East Lansing, MI
- 17 colleges
- 200 programs of undergraduate, graduate, and professional study
- Fall 2013 student population: 49,343
  - 37,278 undergrads
  - 7,779 first time freshman
  - 1,479 new transfer
Academic Orientation Program (AOP)

- Runs from early June to late July
- Regular sessions: 20 Freshman; 3 Transfer
- 400+ students per session
- Large, late international session
  (AOP Schedule – Freshman)
Freshmen AOP Schedule

Day One
8-10:30am  Check in and Placement Testing, ID’s
10:15-10:45am Welcome and Overview
11:00-12:15pm College Session
12:15-1:30pm  Lunch (major change opportunity)
1:00-1:30pm  Special Sessions, Testing
1:30-5:30pm  Advising, Online Resources, Enrollment, Lab and Resource Fair
5:00-6:30pm  Dinner
6:45-9:00pm  Date with State
9:00-11:00pm Evening Activities (Karaoke/Games/Cards in Dining Hall)

Day Two
7:00-7:50am  Breakfast
8:00-8:45am  Understanding Student Learning: Participation in Research
8:45-9:00am  Student Panel
9:00-9:30am  The College Experience: An MSU Professor Speaks
9:30-11:30am  Bus Tour of Campus and Meeting in Engagement Centers
Advising, Online Resources, Enrollment, Lab and Resource Fair

- Time during AOP process when Academic Advisors interact with students one on one.
- Average time of interaction was 7-10 minutes per student.
- Students often left AOP frustrated and confused.
- Advisors felt they were sprinting through each interaction.
Collaboration was the key to our success!

- Registrar’s Office was seeking a way to better monitor course enrollments.
- Advisor’s were actively seeking a way to spend more time talking with students about their career aspirations and academic goals during AOP rather than racing to obtain seats in burgeoning classes.
- Solid working relationships had been built between the Registrar’s Office and College advising offices across campus.
- With the support of the University Registrar and the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education time was allocated to develop the system.
Pre-Enrollment Goal

- Enroll incoming students into major-specific recommended and required courses before AOP, leaving more time for academic advising and other important orientation activities
Pre-Enrollment Timeline

- Late April: preliminary seat demand report
- Early May: academic units finalize the matrix
- Mid-May: re-run seat demand
- Late-May: run pre-enrollment
Plans by Major (aka “The Matrix”)

- Online system
- Records recommended and required courses by major
- Basic or Advanced
  - Basic: One plan for all students in major
  - Advanced: Plan based on math placement score
- Specific Course vs. Group Options
  - Specific Course: student will be enrolled in exact course, one second choice allowed
  - Group Options: students will be enrolled in one course from a group of up to 6 choices
Basic Matrix

- First and Second Choices Section
- Section specific options

Other Core Classes
- Writing and Integrative Studies
- Term and course selection
- Section specific options
# 5151 No Preference

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Advanced Matrix- Based on Math Placement

- One plan per math score
- User selects default plan if no math score
- One math score, rest of form same as basic
- Most frequently used by majors that require specific levels of math for degree progression.
### 3769 Microbiology (Advanced Matrix)

#### 0-9 Plan

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Benefits of Pre-enrollment

- Moved from a manual process to an automated process.
- Provide Course Demand Analysis throughout the process.
- Allows for better planning within high demand academic areas.
- Provides information for resource allocation if warranted.
Advisor Feedback

- We gained time to engage in real and impactful conversations.

- Ensures that students are not significantly disadvantaged by their AOP date.

- This gives a clearer picture for course demand.

- We knew where the [course demand] pressure was based on the pre-enrollment system.

- Easier to advise students at AOP when major-related/university-required classes are already on their schedule.

- Student has already engaged in making his/her own decisions. Ready to start digging deeper.

- Coming to AOP having at least a partial schedule set makes the experience a little less scary.

- Faster, easier enrollment lab experience. Easier for students to make enrollment choices. Less stressful.
Special Thanks to Kristin Schuette, Associate Registrar, Michigan State University for making the Pre-enrollment Process possible!!!