Students on Academic Probation - Statistics and Strategies

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Strategies/approaches that can prevent students from being on academic probation

Current Practices/Ideas for the Future

College of Chemistry

- Freshmen without a strong performance on the AP Chemistry Exam, or who have not had the opportunity to complete AP Chemistry in high school, are given special permission to take Chemistry 1A instead of Chemistry 4A their first semester.
- Freshmen who are able to use AP credit to fulfill both Math 1A and 1B are encouraged to take Math 1B, instead of Math 53, their first semester.
- Transfer student coursework is carefully evaluated before CalSO in June so we can recommend placement in appropriate courses the first semester.
- Transfer students are discouraged from taking certain upper division courses that are particularly challenging their first semester even if the students have met the prerequisites.
- Late schedule changes will be considered by the Undergraduate Dean under special circumstances.

College of Engineering

- PREP. An intense 11 day residential academic program held two weeks before instruction begins in Fall designed to provide incoming freshmen students from groups historically underrepresented in Engineering, those designated as EOP, and those with math SAT scores of less than 700. It's a rigorous preparation in calculus, physics and chemistry as well as instruction in how to master study skills and time management needed to be successful at Cal.
- Host a new student orientation each Fall during Welcome Week where students (amongst other things) participate in a team building exercise (PLAY FAIR) designed to ensure they make new campus friendships, develop community and begin to lose the new student apprehension and nervousness.
- DeCAL class taught by upper class Engineering students called “how to survive Berkeley engineering” designed to provide all new freshmen with information and support to guide them through the transition from high school to college.
- Planned for 2012-2013. At the new student orientation held during welcome week, separate the freshman and transfers during the AM portion. For the transfers we will have a session led by staff and current students who were admitted as transfers, on what to expect, resources, strategies for success.
- Planned for 2013-14. Assign each new transfer at least one upper class student in their major as a big brother/sister to provide support and guidance through the transition (and possibly tutoring). We will recruit and train (and possibly hire) students in their role as mentors to new transfers.
- Idea for future: Encourage students to create a decal class for transfers similar to the one currently being taught for our new freshmen.

College of Environmental Design

- Require completion of Pre-CalSO worksheet. New students complete schedule planning worksheet and send it to their adviser for review prior to CalSO. We then meet with each student during CalSO to help students select reasonable courses.
• Planned for summer 2012: Contact incoming transfer students with tips on how to prepare for fall semester courses (e.g. learn XX software before arriving at Berkeley).
• Planned for summer 2012: Implement "CED Start-Up" program for incoming transfer students (all-college orientation to writing, software, presentation skills, college culture, etc.) during the weeks before classes begin.
• Idea for future: Possible collaboration with SLC to create a series of writing workshops tailored to key upper division humanities courses in the major.
• Idea for future: Offer new transfer student orientation class (like Sociology 192) in summer session to teach skills and knowledge needed to be successful in CED.
• Idea for future: Offer "insider's guide to CED" Decal course (like Engineering 98) to offer advice, strategies, and opportunities to students.

College of L&S
• Freshmen and Transfer Student Academic Inventory (Sent to new students in their first semester at Cal.)
• Save Your Semester workshops
• Continued on Probation Scholarship Agreement Signature Compliance. (Students that are granted another probationary term must meet with a College Adviser to sign the scholarship agreement or risk a cancellation of their registration and a dismissal).
• Normalize probation: Let students know that they are not the only ones. Ask if they know of anyone else who has been on probation, and if they say no, explain that it's something that happens to many students but is not talked about. Give a pep talk that does not diminish the seriousness of the situation but lets them know that this is not the end of their career at Cal or a sign they have ruined their college career.
• Ask specifically about perfectionism and whether they have ever failed at anything before; and refer students to resources that can help them with this issue.
• Specifically discuss the issue of being "behind" and encourage students to look at their situation in terms of what their timeline has to be now in order to succeed, not what they wish it was or what they see around them.

College of Natural Resources
• Academic Programs Leading to Undergraduate Success A PLUS+College of Natural Resources
• In two years program has reduced probation by 40%
• Freshman and Transfer Pre-CalSO survey gathers academic preparation in CNR prerequisite courses, major and career interests, concerns, and study skills assistance. Advisors review prior to orientation and throughout first year of advising meetings.
• CalSO morning presentation addresses key courses that give students the most academic difficulties and best course selection based on their preparation.
• Examples of course materials.
• Advisors monitor all new students phase 2 enrollments in summer and consult as needed.
• Associate Dean allows first semester students extra transition period for petitions on a case by case basis for students who have been in communication with their advisor on difficulties.
• Advisors meet regularly with students with a GPA range of 2.0 - 2.5 who are not on probation.
• CNR faculty online advising referral form alerts College to students of concern and we follow up.

Student Learning Center
• Introduce first year students to SLC services at CalSO via a presentation called "Academic Success at Cal.
• An all-day Open House Event, "SLC Bears All." SLC provides rotating workshops about academic transitions across various academic disciplines and SLC services that assist students’ success.
• SLC Courses provide semester-long academic support through courses such as: Education 98/198 Strategies for Success Courses, Math Adjunct courses for Math 1A, 16A, 32, and 10A, Writing Workshops connected to particular R&C sections, and History 98: Ethnic Perspectives for students interested in the Social Sciences, and Chem P.
• Support in Writing for all students via individual tutoring, by appointment tutoring, drop-in tutoring, and research writing workshops for Transfer Students.
• Study Groups in Math/Stat, Sciences, and Social Sciences led by experienced undergraduate tutors.

**Strategies/approaches to assist students who are on academic probation**

**Current Practices/Ideas for the Future**

**College of Chemistry**
• Students on Academic Probation must meet with their staff and faculty advisers at least once during the semester.
• Advisers ensure that students are aware of the services available to help them with psychological, physical, or academic struggles.
• Students receive individual counseling about course choice, course load, and overall schedule manageability.
• Students are encouraged to form study groups and attend instructor office hours.
• Reduced course load may be approved by the Undergraduate Dean under special circumstances.

**College of Engineering**
• Students must meet at least once a semester with their Engineering Student Services Adviser.
• Hold workshops, led by SLC, on study strategies, time management, etc.
• Email outreach at midterm, before the withdrawal deadline, and after finals to all students on probation.

**College of Environmental Design**
• Contact all students in the college who have any deficient midterm grades reported on bearfacts, inviting them to come in to see an adviser. We piloted this SP 12 and almost all students did respond and come in for support and assistance.
• Email all students who are placed on probation, notifying them that a block has been placed on their registration and that they must come in to meet with an adviser before they can register for classes.
• Consider, with the Associate Dean, requests for late and retroactive drops, withdraws, grading option changes, and readmission after dismissal. These are evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
• Contact all students who are subject to dismissal and invite them to submit an explanation for review. The CED Associate Dean does not want to make dismissal decisions until students are given the opportunity to explain their circumstances.

**College of Letters and Science**
• AP Reach for Success workshops.
• AP On-line Reach for Success workshop and Academic Probation website.
• E-mail communication (Regarding deadlines and other important information. This includes a special e-mail to students with grade point balances of -10 or worse).
• One-on-one meeting with a College Adviser.
• ED 98: Strategies for Success Course. Coordinated by the Student Learning Center. Flyer advertising course and other materials accompany AP letters.
• Probation letter review and delivery (1.5 & 2.0) (Letter includes useful steps and information for students on AP. This is delivered via a link in the AP letter in a PDF.)

**College of Natural Resources**
• Probation High-Touch Triage Advising
• First term probation required to meet with major & college advisor and complete academic success plan.
• Continued probation meet with major advisor and then the associate dean.
• A registration block is placed on student if they don’t make an appointment by first five weeks.
• Monitoring of phase II enrollments and adjustment period of probation students
• Major advisor meets with College Advisor and Associate Dean to discuss status and plans of their probation students and 2.0-2.5 gpa students.

Student Learning Center
• The SLC, for many years, has had a collaborative relationship the L&S in AP workshops.
• Education 98/198: Strategies for Success for Continuing Students course assists students to reflect upon, implement, and monitor study strategies weekly in class with others. Course instructors assist students to identify and monitor academic goals while implementing study strategies to enhance learning.
• SLC Study Strategies Coordinators can also provide individual appointments to students on Probation. Study Strategies Coordinators and peer mentors assist students to set goals, identify key learning issues and the appropriate campus resources, work with students on critical study strategies that must be prioritized, and assist in monitoring students’ progress.
• SLC Program Coordinators try to give priority at sign up for Study Strategies Courses, Math Adjuncts, Study Groups (Math, Stat, Social Science, Science), and
• Individual Writing Tutorials for students who are repeating a course or who are on Academic Probation.