New Name - New Scope

Last summer, Tusculum College administrators decided to begin the process of changing the scope of Freshman Services. It was decided that this department, under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Stein, Vice President of Enrollment Management at Tusculum College, would not only get a new name, but that staff would eventually provide services to all Tusculum College residential students and not just freshman. Currently, the office of Student Success and Engagement is staffed by two employees. Michael Sanders serves as the Director and Dan Gallogly is the Assistant Director. “Our goal is to interface with as many students as possible, beginning with “at-risk” students and then continue with all students in good standing, starting with freshman”, said Mr. Sanders. “In block 1 we gave 20 minute presentations to over 35 developmental, freshman, and sophomore level classes”, Mr. Sanders said. The exchange of information sessions they refer to as Extensions are two-fold. First, staff present timely, important information about Tusculum’s support services, deadline dates, hours of operation, and block dates for the entire academic year. The other component to the visit includes an information sheet that each student completes. The sheet is choked full of personalized information that allows staff to take a prescriptive approach when counseling each student. The individual sessions with students are referred to as Retention Conferences. This allows staff to meet the unique needs of each student.

NEW STUDENTS

Prior to beginning school at Tusculum, prospective, deposited high school seniors or new transfer students are introduced to Student Success and Engagement services. Mr. Sanders likens this experience to a traveler. “If you were going to a foreign country, wouldn’t it be a tremendous asset to be accompanied by someone who could speak the language, understand the culture, and knew how and where to access places and resources which could make your experience go smoothly. As you begin your new journey as a Tusculum College student, you will have many questions. The staff of Student Success and Engagement are here to help you make a smooth transition to Tusculum College. Whether it’s adjusting to being away from home, upgrading your study skills, choosing a major, transitioning to campus life, understanding financial issues, talking to professors, or dealing with the most seemingly smallest of issues like a “bad hair day”, we can help.” He goes on to say, “Our staff of highly trained professionals will either assist you personally or help you to access the right campus resources, staff, or faculty, who are eager to assist you with making wise decisions and taking the right steps that lead to successful college completion. At the office of Student Success and Engagement, it’s our job to help you succeed. Contact our office and let us be your guides to success at Tusculum College.”
TOP REASONS WHY COLLEGE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SOME TYPE OF FAILURE

The following list of why college students experience some type of failure comes from a number of professional resources. The list is not in any particular order.

SERIOUS ILLNESS:
Serious or minor illnesses which linger can sap your energy and make it difficult to keep up in your classes and enjoy college life. Tusculum employs a nurse/health educator who can administer basic first aid to students in need, distribute non-prescription medications, make appointments with local physicians, and address current student health issues.

ACADEMIC SKILLS:
Students generally do not update their study skills and habits until they experience the rigors of college. Assuming one knows how to adequately prepare for classes at Tusculum College is a dangerous assumption. There are several resources at Tusculum that students can tap into to better equip themselves with what it takes to be academically successful. Consult a Student Success and Engagement representative for more information.

INCOMPATIBLE GOALS OR MAJOR:
Being “undeclared” as a new freshman is not only acceptable, it is common. However, statistics show that waiting more than one academic year to declare a major tends to affect students academic motivation and possibly grades as well. By engaging in career exploration during their freshman year, students will inevitably gain confidence in choosing a major that is compatible with their academic and career goals.

PERSONAL / FAMILY PROBLEMS:
Handling the loss of a loved one or a debilitating emotion such as depression or anxiety is not a sign of weakness and can often hinder a student’s success. Timely intervention can help. Tusculum College employs a professional counselor to provide confidential, professional individual, group, or couples counseling.

FINANCIAL WORRIES OR JOB STRESS:
It can be difficult to focus on school if you are worried about money. There are resources at Tusculum designed to help students better understand their financial aid awards and obligations. Likewise, TC staff can not only help students learn how to budget their time, but their resources as well.

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL LIFE:
Balance in life is vital. When social activities become a student’s focus, academic problems are usually not far behind. TC staff can help students learn how to manage their time, so they can manage their behavior as well; discovering that it is possible to juggle school, work, and one’s personal or social agenda.

SYSTEM FAILURE:
Part of college life is becoming familiar with how the college system works. Often times, students fail to take charge and become familiar with their “contract” with the institution, the college catalog. This resource alone can save students a tremendous amount of time and energy that can lead to success in college. Likewise, students are not used to having to communicate with their instructors in order to succeed in class. TC advisors and other staff or faculty can help students learn how to engage in the art of addressing academic issues with their professors.

LACK OF SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT:
Some students, lacking in social engagement skills will often show up at college with one agenda, academics. Academic professionals all agree that engaging in college life is critical to academic success. The Student Affairs staff at Tusculum provide a wide array of options to get involved in campus life. They not only provide the necessary resources, they teach you how to tap into ones that are compatible with your interests. Students must take the first step however, and investigate the possibilities with the friendly Student Affairs staff members.

Success at Tusculum College is not exclusive to certain students. Anyone can be successful here. However, the journey begins with you. Seek out the many resources we have made available to you for your success.