

USD Retention Plan and Initiatives

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Dr. James Gump
Associate Dean for Advising
and Curriculum, CAS

Merrick Marino
Assistant Dean
Center for Student Success

Retention & Student Success

- Why is retention (i.e., student persistence) important to us?
 - Commitment made by incoming students
 - Commitment made by the university
 - Indirect measure of quality of education and experience
 - External evaluations (e.g., rankings)

Retention & Student Success

- What is our current freshman-to-sophomore year retention rate (percent of freshmen who return for sophomore year)? **85%**
- What is our goal (by 2012)? **90% or above**

How do we compare?

Freshman Retention Rates (3-year average) for Comparison Institutions

USC	96%
Villanova	94%
Santa Clara	93%
Fordham	91%
Pepperdine	89%
Seattle U.	88%
Loyola Marymount	87%
U. of Dayton	87%
<u>USD</u>	<u>85%</u>
USF	83%
Seton Hall	83%

Retention & Student Success

- What student populations persist at lower rates (3-year average freshman retention rates)?
 - Out-of-state students (81.2%)
 - Black (80.5%)
 - American Indian (81.3%)
 - First Generation (83.7%)

Retention & Student Success

- What student populations persist at higher rates (3-year average freshman retention rates)?
 - Commuter students (88.4%)
 - Students from California (88.2%)
 - Honors Program (87.2%)

Retention & Student Success

- What are some of the reasons students identify for leaving USD?
 - Financial Reasons (#1, 2, and 3 on withdrawing student survey)
 - Failure to make connections early
 - Lack sense of belonging (from MAP-Works survey)
 - Student body composition and culture
 - Uncomfortable with overall student culture
 - Students too cliquey
 - Not enough economic diversity

Retention & Student Success

- What keeps students here?
 - Connection to peers with common interests/similarities
 - Connection with individual who shows personal interest in student (esp. faculty)
 - Form sense of community with smaller network of people at USD
 - Meeting other students who share similar challenges and help normalize experience

Ongoing Initiatives

- *Preceptorial Program (Preceptorial course, faculty advisor, Preceptorial Assistant)*
- *Residential Life (FYE)*
- Torero Days Orientation
- Center for Student Success
- College of Arts & Sciences Advising
- FRESH@USD Workshops
- TRiO Student Support Services (SSS) Program & New “USD Student Support Services (SSS)” program

New Initiatives

- MAP-Works: Making Achievement Possible
- Out-of-State Student Network
- First Connection program
- SYE Abroad for Class of 2014!
- Residential Living Learning Communities (LLCs)
- Student Services review project
- Reorganization of summer advising

New Initiatives

- *Out-of-State Student Network*
 - Connect incoming out-of-state freshmen with other new students and successful continuing students from same region
 - Six Regions: Northeast, South, Midwest, Southwest, Northwest, Pacific/International
 - Annual Out-of-State Student Dinner: Wednesday, September 8 @ 7PM in UC Forums
 - Ongoing activities organized by student leaders throughout semester

New Initiatives

- *First Connection Program*

- Connect incoming freshman with other new students who share something in common
- Connection before students arrive on campus
- First meeting during Torero Days (Monday, Aug. 30th @3:00 PM)
- Ongoing opportunities throughout semester
- 4 Pre-Set Groups: Honors Program, Student-athletes, SSS, and USD SSS (formerly Lead@USD)
- 7 Elective Themes: Spirituality, Recreation, International Opportunities, Visual & Performing Arts, Justice, Exploration/Adventure/Sustainability, Ties that Unite

New Initiatives

- *SYE Abroad*
 - Special program for Class of 2014 Only!
 - Second freshman class to have this opportunity
 - Program dates: January 2-22, 2012
 - Locations: Barcelona, Florence, Hong Kong, or London
 - Application deadline: December 1, 2010