

Collaborative Efforts Counseling-By-Majors

Project Objective:

The integration of Student Services and Instructional Programs to deliver targeted counseling for specific programs of study.

About the Counseling-by-Major Project:

Early in spring, 2013, the Counseling Department participated in a series of retreats to begin exploring ways to re-envision the delivery of counseling services. The intent was to create a model that could increase the number of students being served while also addressing more focused program planning and career counseling. By the end of the spring semester, a plan was in place for implementation during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Thanks to support provide through Perkins funds, three part-time counselors were hired to provide the infrastructure for the counseling-by-major model, in close coordination with the Counseling Department Co-chairs. All academic programs were divided into three groups, with one counselor assigned to each group. With fifteen hours a week devoted to this pilot project, the counselors are able to divide their time addressing the following outcomes:

- individual counseling appointments
- coordination with faculty within the majors, participation in instructional department meetings or visits to classrooms within the majors
- student orientations, group counseling meetings or workshops for students in the major programs of study

To date, a number of collaborative activities have taken place between the counselors and professors within the various departments, including planning meetings with department chairs, participation in Advisory Board meetings to gather input from business leaders in the community, conference attendance, information meetings with students within major programs to discuss educational goals and career options, and group counseling for students by major.

In addition to working more closely with instructional programs, this counseling model is contributing to broader discussions within the Counseling Department, recognizing the potential of servicing more students through group presentations and small group workshops, based on common majors, educational and career goals. The implementation of this pilot project has been especially timely, given the anticipated changes in direction for addressing the core services of the Student Success Initiative. The required core services include: assessment, orientation, counseling/student education plans.

Special thanks to our counselors involved in the pilot program: Phil Gottlieb, Lydia Macy, and Levora Mathis-Payne and department co-chairs, Marco Godinez and Frances Moy. Additional

thanks to all of the academic program professors that have contributed their time, expertise and collaborative spirit toward the anticipated success of this pilot program.