



VALDOSTA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Defining Student Success: Best Practices and Strategies

Presenter: Shani Wilfred, General Education Coordinator

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this session participants will be able to:

1. Define student success from various perspectives.
2. Identify student success activities that align with best practices.
3. Develop strategies for involvement in student success activities.

Notes:

1. Student success is...

2. Student success activities are...

3. Strategies for my involvement in student success activities are...



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Resources

University System of Georgia Board of Regents. (n.d.). 8.3 Additional Policies for Faculty. Retrieved from <https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section8/C245/>

Board of Regents Policy Manual - 8.3 Additional Policies for Faculty

"Each University System of Georgia (USG) institution shall establish definite and stated criteria...The criteria shall include evaluation of instruction, **student success activities***, research/scholarship, and service as is appropriate to the faculty member's institution, school or college, and department, and responsibilities..."

*The phrase "student success activities" appears 7 times in section 8.3.

Cuseo, J. (2007a). Defining student success: The critical first step in promoting it. 4(5), 2, pp.2-3,5.

Retrieved from https://sc.edu/nrc/system/pub_files/ES_4-5_May07.pdf

"...student success may be defined as a favorable or desirable student outcome" (p.2).

"In my estimation, the following desirable outcomes have been the most frequently cited indicators of student success in higher education" (p.2)

- Student Retention (Persistence), Educational Attainment (get degree), Academic Achievement (satisfactory or higher grades), Student Advancement (degree to higher degree, degree to career, etc.), Holistic Development students develop as "whole persons"

"Students develop as 'whole persons' as a result of their college experience. This holistic definition consists of" (p.2):

- Intellectual Development, Emotional Development, Ethical Development, Physical Development, Spiritual Development

Cuseo, J. (2007b). Seven central principles of student success: Key processes associated with positive student outcomes. 4(6), 3, pp.3-4, 6. Retrieved from https://sc.edu/nrc/system/pub_files/ES_4-6_Jul07.pdf

"In sum, success is more likely to take place when students (a) feel personally validated and that they matter to the college; (b) believe that their effort matters and that they can influence or control their prospects for success; (c) develop a sense of purpose and perceive relevance in the college experience; (d) become actively engaged in the learning process and in the use of campus resources; (e) think reflectively about what they are learning and connect it to what they already know or have previously experienced; (f) become socially integrated or connected with other members of the college community; and (g) maintain self-awareness of their learning styles, thinking patterns, attitudes, and habits" (p.4).

Cuseo, J. (2007c). Implementing the central principles of student success: Key first-year programs and practices. 5(1), 2, pp. 2-3, 5, 7. Retrieved from https://sc.edu/nrc/system/pub_files/ES_5-1_Sep07.pdf

"In summary, practices and programs that most effectively implement the central principles of student success are those that validate students as individuals, generate a sense of relevance or purpose, balance challenge with support, and encourage students to learn in a manner that is active, interactive, reflective, and mindful" (p.7).