



ASIS: International Student Academic Success from Recruitment to Retention

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ASIS— Academic Success for International Students: Rationale

- VCU's international student population had grown rapidly over the last ten years. VCU enrolled approximately 500 international students in the Fall of 1998 and currently has around 1,500
- The ethical responsibility of an institution

ASIS— Academic Success for International Students: Goals

- Design evidence-based research programmatic interventions to assist students with their academic success
- Assess and measure academic success
- Develop university-wide network of coordinated academic support

First Step: Establishing a Baseline

- 2 Surveys designed with VCU's Center for Institutional Effectiveness (CIE)
 - 1 sent to full-time faculty, chairs and advisors
 - 1 sent to all international students
- Distributed through email announcement, posted on Web

First Step: Establishing a Baseline

- Both included qualitative and quantitative components
- Addressed academic preparation, performance, cultural and language issues, financial matters, and psychosocial development

First Step: Establishing a Baseline

- 288 responses (15%) from faculty, chairs, and advisors
- 368 responses (26%) from students.
- Results analyzed using Inquisite, SPSS, and Invivo

Faculty Survey Results

Perceptions of Positive Performance

- More than 2 in 3 believe international students provide positive peer benefits
- More than 3 in 4 believe international students academic performance is equal to or greater than other students in the classroom

Faculty Survey Results

Identification of Needs

- Faculty believe that an Honor Code orientation for international students would be beneficial
- Faculty believe that intensive, continued opportunities for English-language learning at VCU would be beneficial

Student Survey Results

Positive Perceptions

- More than 3 of 4 agreed or strongly agreed faculty are helpful with questions about academic assignments
- Nearly 85% plan to finish their degree at VCU.
- 87% feel they are able to express themselves with spoken English adequately to extremely well in their academic program

Student Survey Results

Identification of needs

- Academic advising
- Enhance knowledge of VCU Honor Code
- Dissemination of information in one place
- Integration of institutional knowledge base of academic advising, funding, and immigration

Results into Action: Programmatic Interventions

- Augment and better coordinate academic advising; especially for students transitioning from VCU's English Language Program (ELP) to degree-seeking programs
- Enhance international student orientation to include more training on VCU's Honor Code policies and procedures

Programmatic Interventions

- Provide opportunities for short-term, intensive English-language seminars by departmental referral
- Continue annual assessment using the ASIS initiative
- Increasing coordination among academic departments and other offices on campus especially with respect to funding and immigration

ASIS Network: A Linkage of Numerous Offices Across the University

- English Language Program
- International Admissions
- University College
- Focused Inquiry
- Campus Learning and Writing Center

ASIS Network: A Linkage of Numerous Constituents Across the University

- VCU Graduate School and Graduate Departments (over 130 graduate programs)
- Center for Teaching Excellence
- University Counseling Services
- Center for Institutional Effectiveness
- VCU faculty and students

ASIS

- Citations or additional survey data may be obtained by emailing Blair W. Brown at bwbrown@vcu.edu
- Coordination and sharing of best-practices among and between CAA professionals is welcome and encouraged