Student Affairs Assessment Topics for 2014

Profiling the Dropped and Withdrawn

Each semester hundreds of Purdue students are dropped by the university or voluntarily withdraw. These actions impact the university’s critical outcomes: the first-year retention and four-year graduation rates. And yet there is no thorough and widely shared exit survey or other means to determine why students leave or where they go. More especially, without such information on leavers, we can’t make recommendations for how better to intervene to prevent so many departures.

We began this project by identifying dropped/withdrawn students from Fall 2009 and profiling them by the details contained in Cognos: demographics, pre-college test scores and class ranks, financial aid status, residency, academic performance while at Purdue, and other variables. In later steps, we will obtain financial records (aggregated) to as to determine how many leavers suffered financial stress. We hope also to use national data to see how many students who left Purdue later enrolled at other colleges.

Student Attrition Assessment

Using the data collected from attrition intervention pilot to students not enrolled for spring 2014 semester, assess why students are leaving, who they are, what academic and co-curricular experiences they’ve had at Purdue, and their plans after fall 2013 semester. Also, we will assess the impact of the pilot on the success of students persisting for the spring 2014 semester.

Student Involvement

At a basic level, assess student involvement in fall 2013 – both at the club and organization level and also at the student level. Assess whether involved students were more apt to persist and/or achieve higher grades than those who were not involved.

Observations from Survey of Student Experience at the Research University

Discovering and highlighting findings from the spring 2013 survey and focusing on factors contributing to enriching educational experiences, supportive campus environments, and student learning outcomes.

Beginning College to Finishing the First Year

Using the cohort beginning class of Fall 2013, assess pre-college student expectations of involvement in comparison with actual end-of-first year involvement and engagement using outcomes of the Survey of Student Experience at the Research University.

Career Planning and Job Finding

Nationwide, labor market participation by young adults is the lowest ever recorded. It is harder for them to find jobs, and the jobs they find provide lower real wages than any past cohort. Yet Purdue graduates are in high demand. CCO’s efforts certainly contribute to this great outcome.

What CCO does is hard to measure. Effectively assessing CCO’s contribution may require that we first confer with employers and students and ask them what the consider CCO’s role and most significant contribution.