University of West Florida

Best Practices in Student Retention

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The Office of Student Retention Initiatives

The Office of Student Retention Initiatives role is to advance UWF’s mission, vision, and priorities by developing, implementing and evaluating the success of retention strategies that improve student persistence and timely progression to degree attainment (UWF Priority 1.3).
Best Practices in Student Retention

- Examine current satisfaction at UWF
- Discuss a range of retention strategies (in and out of the classroom)
- Share your best retention tools
- Discussion and questions
**Instructional Effectiveness**
- Nearly all of the faculty are knowledgeable in their field.
- Faculty are usually available after class and during office hours.
- The quality of instruction I receive in most of my classes is excellent.
- I am able to experience intellectual growth here.

**Campus Climate**
- Faculty are fair and unbiased in their treatment of individual students.

**Campus Support Services**
- Library resources and services are adequate.
- This institution has a good reputation within the community.

**Registration**
- Major requirements are clear and reasonable.

**Academic Advising**
- My academic advisor is knowledgeable about requirements in my major.
- My academic advisor is approachable.

**Safety and Security**
- Security staff respond quickly in emergencies.
- The campus is safe and secure for all students.
Faculty provide timely feedback about student progress in a course.

**Instructional Effectiveness**

- Importance
- Satisfaction

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Best Practices in Student Retention

Non-Returning Student survey

Exit Interviews

Increased Student Communication

Production Data on Attrition Measures

Financial Aid Packaging

Predictive Model

Student Strengths Inventory

Early Alert

Increased Student Communication

Student Satisfaction Inventory
Semester-Based Tools to Help You Make a Difference!

Increased Student Communication

Student Strengths Inventory

Supplemental Instruction

Academic Center for Excellence

21st Century Scholars

EARS: Easy Assistance Referral System

Personal Librarian

Early Alert

Math and Statistics Lab

The Writing Center

Timely
“Principles for Good Practice” Chickering & Gamson’s Principles involving faculty:

• Student-faculty interaction
• Active learning/High-Impact Practices
• Prompt, frequent & meaningful feedback
• High expectations

**Recommended Faculty Tools:**

• Emphasize teaching and learning through a variety of content delivery formats
• Attempt to increase student engagement and involvement levels
• Participate in the Early Alert process provided through the First-Year Advising Center
• Redefine the classroom/ optimize campus resources
• Include cooperative learning strategies to increase student engagement
Research shows that far above any other college experience variable, faculty wield tremendous influence in a student's decision to stay in school.

To support and strengthen you in this role, our office provides you with a variety of tools to help our students “FINISH STRONG!”

www.uwf.edu/finishstrong
Let’s share your best retention tools

• What best practices in student retention would you like to share in the faculty toolkit?

• What questions and concerns do you have related to student retention at UWF?

Survey Monkey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JYJDF3M
Comments or Questions?

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uwf.edu/retention (coming soon!)
Resources to assist you


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