Meeting the Needs of Freshmen and Transfer Students: Using Library Guides and Instruction as Platform

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MEETING THE NEEDS OF FRESHMEN AND TRANSFER STUDENTS: USING LIBRARY GUIDES AND INSTRUCTION AS PLATFORM

Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy 2018
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

✓ Address the information needs of Freshmen and transfer students
✓ Methods for centralizing information
Limestone College enrolls more than 1,000 traditional day students and approximately 2,500 Evening and Online students at eight sites in South Carolina and on the Internet.
PURPOSE

✓ To provide essential support to students in navigating their way through the first year of college
✓ To aid in retention efforts
✓ Improve Freshmen GPA scores
Student Success @ Limestone College is a digital portal

“Online Success & Survival Kit”

Designed using Springshare LibGuides

Modeled after the student orientation already in place

Input gathered from each department on campus

Includes interactive maps, videos, and live news feeds

Easily updated (no bureaucracy)
The guide was built for Academic Inquiry courses over the spring/summer of 2013

- Utilized in:
  - ID 150 Academic Inquiry
  - ID 110 Study Skills
  - ID 201 Transition Success
Support from the President of Limestone College

Limestone College

DR. DARRELL PARKER INTRODUCED AS 22ND PRESIDENT OF LIMESTONE COLLEGE
Student Success @ Limestone College

- Interactive map using Thinglink
Live news feeds
Student Success @ Limestone College

- Mobile ready
- View from any device
- User friendly interface
Consistent placement of important contact information
The Student Success guide assists Freshmen with:

- Academic goals
- Social interactions
- Life skills
- Career preparation
Student Success @ Limestone College

Before development, students struggled in many areas

✓ Technology
✓ Campus orientation
✓ Expectations (academic & social)
Building on Success

- The guide was incorporated into the Transition Success course in Summer 2015
- Transition Success is taught to all transfer students (Day, Evening & Online)
- Slightly modified to meet the needs of off-campus and Internet students
Integrated Library Instruction

✓ As an added bonus, the Student Success Guide contains a built in library orientation section
✓ This creates an opportunity for librarians to deliver a one-shot library orientation to ALL freshmen in their first semester on campus
✓ Transfer students receive a slightly different library instruction session based on the research assignment
✓ Essentially all freshmen and transfer students receive library instruction in their first semester
Student Success @ Limestone College

- Library Orientation Section
Title IX Case Study

- One of the most popular assignments
- A Google search for Todd & Amy Case Study shows the Student Success video as #2 in the result list.
During the 2016-2017 academic year:

- Transition Success was most viewed guide (37,789)
- Student Success LibGuide was viewed 18,069 times.
Let’s Go Live!

http://www.limestone.edu
According to *A Strategy for Improving Freshman College Retention* by CP Veenstra:

“At the end of the freshmen year, students make a retention decision.”

A. Return to the same college.
B. Leave this college and transfer to another college in the same university.
C. Leave this college and transfer to another university.
D. Drop out of college.
Summary

If you want your students to be successful, your institution needs to be asking these questions:

- Do our students know what resources are available on campus and how to locate them?
- What opportunities exist to engage students in educationally purposeful activities both in and out of the classroom?
Contact Information

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