IMPACTING COLLEGE SUCCESS RATES FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS:

AN EXPLORATION INTO STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

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Rationale...Why is First Year Student Success important?

- STUDENT SUCCESS
- To explore a problem in higher education of improving student success rates by examining first-year student engagement.
 - ✓ Retaining full-time freshmen is a problem for higher education institutions as approximately 30% of freshmen students drop out prior to their sophomore year (Pariafsai et al., 2021).
 - ✓ Most college dropouts do not return to higher education which leads to a non-recoverable social and economic loss (Gupta et al., 2020).
 - ✓ A comprehensive understanding of student engagement remains a challenge, due to the variety and complexity of elements influencing it (Kahu et al., 2020).

Research Framework

First-Year Experience Course

Student Engagement

- Spirituality
- Blended Learning

Student Success

- Grade Point Average
- Student Retention

Social and Economic Benefits

Data Collection for Student Engagement

Qualitative data collection

Interview guide with 13 open ended questions supported reviewing six engagement categories.

+ Quantitative data collection

☐ Survey supported reviewing six engagement categories.



□Six engagement categories:

- ✓ Transition Engagement
- ✓ Academic Engagement*
- ✓ Peer Engagement
- √ Student-Faculty Engagement*
- ✓ Blended Engagement
- ✓ Beyond-Class Engagement

Qualitative Data - Interviews

Academic Engagement

Motivation to Work Harder

From Interview Questions

- ✓ S8 stated,

 "The more I am engaged through class projects and discussions the better I learn and want to succeed."
- ✓ Another student's response:



Qualitative Data - Interviews

Student-Faculty Engagement

Caring and Supporting Faculty

From Interview Questions.

- ✓ S5 stated that, "Professors know you as a person. They call on me by name."
- ✓ Other students' responses:





Beyond Class Engagement

Strengthening Relationship with God and How Faith Reduces Stress

From Interview Questions

- ✓ S5 stated, "it has allowed me to come a lot closer to God by being around other people who love God."
- ✓ S9 stated, "My roommates and I all went to Bible study together and this helped each other to manage stress."

Quantitative Data Findings....

Factor Analysis for Student Transition Engagement:

Results reflected that academic and student-faculty engagement are most strongly related to student transition engagement.

Student Transition Engagement Factor Loadings



Conclusion from the research...

- + Research reflects that supportive relationships and engagement with students' academic experiences are vital to their long-term success (Lu, 2022).
- + The findings suggested that college students who completed a first-year seminar course experienced higher engagement and as a result reflected improved GPAs and retention rates for their first year at college.
- + This study reflected the **strongest areas of student engagement** are from the **academic and faculty relationships** which contributed to successfully overcoming the stress and challenges of students transitioning to college life.

FYS at OCU Activities....

- Speakers from various campus representatives
 - ✓ Library
 - ✓ Community Engagement
 - ✓ Campus Minister
 - ✓ Student Success
- ✓ Occasional meetings at the campus coffee shop
- End of semester lunch for class!
- ✓ Scavenger hunt Fliphunt



FYS at OCU Activities....

Fall 2023 UNIV 101.2 - FlipHunt!



Jul 30

#01 - Introductions

Jul 30

#09 - Attend an OCU athletic event.

Jul 30

#06 - God has a plan for you!

Jul 30

#10 - Attend Chapel

Jul 30

#03 - Center for Calling & Career

Jul 30

#08 - Favorite hang out spot on OCU campus?

Jul 30

#07 - Meet a new person....maybe even make a new friend!

Jul 30

#02 - Campus Library

Jul 30

#04 - Holy Grounds

Jul 30

#05 - I'll Be There For You...

#04 - Holy Grounds



Total video views with only 55 students in the class!

Visit Holy Grounds & take a selfie video with describing your favorite drink to order!





#10 - Attend Chapel













Record a video of you & your friends at a chapel service.

Be sure to take your recording before or service please!





#05 - I'll Be There For You...

Dr. Robb D 1 1 36 1 0.3 hours of discussion

Take a video of you and your friends singing the **Friends** theme song....*I'll Be There For You!*







Thank You!



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