Student Support Services

The Program

Student Support Services (SSS) is grant funded through the U.S. Department of Education to provide comprehensive services to help students achieve a successful college experience by increasing academic performance, retention, and graduation rates. SSS also works to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of low income, first generation students and students with disabilities. The strength of the SSS program is providing comprehensive support to under-represented students at Creighton University who have the ability and desire to succeed but would benefit from additional advocacy, academic, personal, financial, and career support. SSS provides personalized and comprehensive support services for eligible participants.

Mission

The SSS program is integral to the fulfillment of Creighton University's mission, especially as it relates to the “intellectual, social, spiritual, physical and recreational aspects of student's lives and to the promotion of justice” and “appreciation of ethnic and cultural diversity as core values of Creighton.” The mission of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of participants and enhance student academic achievement.

Program Benefits

SSS provides a comprehensive system to enhance each participant's overall college experience by providing services to help each participant realize his or her full potential. Some of the services SSS provides to eligible participants are:

- Fostering camaraderie among students, faculty and SSS staff
- Access to Writing/Reading Specialist, Science Specialist, Math Specialist, Supplemental Instruction and peer tutors for academic support
- Assistance with academic advising, personal assistance, graduate/professional school application and career advising
- Financial Aid for eligible SSS students
- Peer mentoring through the Peer to Peer mentoring program for first-year SSS participants

Objectives & Outcomes

The SSS staff is acutely aware that building trust and friendships among students is vital to the comfort of first generation college students at Creighton University. SSS events such as the ropes course, potlucks, and the soirée assist in this mission. Inviting faculty and SSS staff members lets the students know that peers, staff, and faculty are willing to be part of their support system throughout their college experience. Through SSS, students learn first hand the meaning of Commitment, Personalidad, and Magis. These values are put into action through SSS activities thereby internalizing the Ignatian values.

Since 1980, SSS has served approximately 4,650 students. Annually SSS exceeds program objects, and the success with students is evident in the spring 2010 student achievements:

- 12 (7%) students earned a 4.0 GPA
- 47 (27%) students were on dean's list
- 99 (57%) students earned a 3.0 or higher
- 56 students graduated

According to 2009-2010 SSS Evaluation of Services participants (172 respondents), 98% rated their overall satisfaction with program services as very satisfied (123) or satisfied (45) with 0 dissatisfied. When asked about the helpfulness of SSS staff, 100% strongly agreed (138) or agreed (34). When students were asked if the program helps them improve their grades, 100% either strongly agreed (88) or agreed (84). When asked if the SSS program helped them stay in college and complete a degree, 98% either strongly agreed (108) or agreed (61). When students are asked if the SSS program helps them stay in college and complete a degree, 98% either strongly agreed (108) or agreed (61).

Impact on Students

“I joined SSS because I heard many good things, and as a first generation in my immediate family, I had no clue about the college process. Karen and all of the SSS staff are very informative about things that will help me move toward success. I also like how everything is free, there is good advice given here, and the people are down to earth and understanding. They go out of their way to help me.”

- Audri Edmonds, Junior

“Since being in SSS, I have benefitted by getting help with practically everything. The SSS staff saved my day! I have made friends, get help with financial aid, and help with registering for classes from SSS.”

- Willie White, Junior

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