CCAP Module 7 - The Student Body

1 - Welcome

Welcome to *the Community College Student Body*, a professional training module from the U.S. Department of State's Community College Administrator Program.

2 - Objectives

In this module, you'll learn about

- The concept and consequences of open access
- Traditional and non-traditional students
- The diversity and distribution of students
- The priorities, needs and challenges of both types of students
- And how community colleges work to ensure student success

Let's get started.

3 - Open Access to Community Colleges

Across the United States, community colleges are recognized for providing open access to higher education. Any student, regardless of age, experience, or background, can be admitted to a community college, provided they have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent. There's no other admissions test.

In the following video introduction to the Florida College System, note the repeated emphasis on the concept of open access.

[VIDEO CLIP - Florida College System]

28 colleges, 800,000 students, one system, one mission-to provide access to all Floridians to high-quality education and career programs across our great state.

The Florida College System is the gateway of opportunities for students across Florida. No matter which way you travel a Florida College is available to students within a 50-mile radius.

It's part of a perfect design and rightfully so because that way it opens up access to higher education for everyone in the state of Florida.

With flexible programs class schedules and online courses the college's serve anyone who wants to pursue higher education. Whether you have recently graduated from high school, are a veteran returning from active duty, or want to retool your skills for another career path, the college's create an environment that welcomes students on campus.

When I say it's every student-it really is. There's no matter what it is that you want to do with your future or your career, you can find an answer and make the steps you need to take for success at a Florida College.

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Just over half the students entering a Florida College are pursuing an AA, so they may seamlessly transfer into a state university upon graduation to complete a four-year BA or BS. Others are seeking workforce baccalaureate offering the graduate skills to enter the job market with an average salary of 47 thousand nine hundred dollars annually. Degrees and certificates are awarded in diverse programs ranging from paramedics, accounting technology, computer programming, travel and tourism management, and crime-scene technology. And apprenticeship programs are offered in high-demand fields like applied welding, heavy equipment operation, and automotive collisions repairs.

It's the "soup to nuts" range all those things are available. If the folks want to come in and take some classes at their local college and stay local and those folks who want access to transfer to a great university in our system when we've got that pathway also.

The Florida College System leads the nation with graduation rates topping almost every other state. 17 institutions are listed as top 100 associate degree producers nationwide. Time and again, the colleges earn top spots on US News and World Report best colleges, the Aspen Institute for Community College Excellence list as well as Washington Monthly Best Community Colleges.

First, you have to mix this.

At the Florida College System, the goal is to provide all students access to a high quality and affordable education at the same time guaranteeing businesses that workers are trained and ready to work day one on the job

The Florida College System is the economic engine for the state of Florida.

Our Florida colleges are dynamic, affordable, innovative, and creative.

The Florida colleges are transforming.

The Florida College System is amazing.

In short, Florida's colleges - a pathway from degrees to jobs.

VIDEO CREDIT: "The Florida College System: Who We Are" by The Florida College System, Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmppwwJg9gg

4 - Consequences of open access

Community colleges enroll both traditional and non-traditional students. "Traditional" students are typically those who graduate from high school and immediately enroll in college the following fall semester. "Non-traditional" students typically are older, may have a family, may work full time or have extensive work experience, may be a returning veteran, or may not have a high school diploma.

5 - Enrollment Numbers and Demographics

The following table presents demographic information related to age ranges among full-time and part-time Florida College System students.

While age ranges do not define student status, they hint at the overall community college

student body profile. Florida is by no means special in this regard: a blend of younger and older, traditional and non-traditional students, is characteristic of community colleges across the country.

6 - The Diversity of Student Needs

Traditional students need a variety of traditional academic and vocational courses to enable them to transition to university study or to the workplace. They may also want student clubs and extracurricular activities as part of the traditional college experience.

Non-traditional students need similar courses, but may also have special needs the college must take into account to maximize their chances of success. Tutorials, learning labs, counseling services and peer group assistance are some of the support services provided to this student population.

The following video highlights the range of support available to students at Cincinnati State Technical & Community College in Ohio.

[VIDEO Transcript]

BARI EWING: My name is Bari Ewing, and I've been director of student support services for the past 13 years. The benefits of student support to these students are, first of all, academic students have to maintain an academic grade level. They have to be doing well in their subjects in order to stay in school, so we provide tutors. We help students who are having academic issues. We also work with students who are having financial problems; we help them find scholarship money; we also have grants that we can give to students who we might not have enough financial aid to make it through the year.

BRAD LEVY: The benefits of the student support services program, from my point of view, is it helps us with early intervention. So that we can let a student know and give them a barometer as to where they are in their studies; so that we can help with retention we can help to increase graduation rates and we can change the lives of our students.

DR. KESHA WILLIAMS: Student Support Services is a program that allows the students to be connected with individuals like myself that work here in the institution that could assist them with developing stronger or enhancing their social skills, also teaching them how to network.

VIDEO CREDIT: "Student Support Services" by CAP Cincinnati State, Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUktuuGNVmI

7 - Students with Competing Priorities

Non-traditional students often face life circumstances that compete for time and energy that otherwise could be devoted to academic pursuits. These include

- Students who are parents themselves
- First-generation college students
- Working students who often hold down full-time positions and
- Active military students

The effective community college seeks to find ways to mitigate these pressures, through

academic and social support services, as well as innovative course delivery methods.

8 - Low Income Students

The persistent, sometimes multi-generational impact of low socio-economic status on community college students is a challenge for all involved in community college education. At the same time, addressing this challenge is critical to realizing the promise of open access for all. Open access is a promise to provide opportunity for advancement to *everyone* - an essential element of the democratic ideal.

9 - Underprepared Students

Despite recent improvements in K-12 education with respect to college readiness, a significant proportion of entering students, whether traditional or not, lacks the basic academic preparation necessary for success in college. Community colleges offer developmental studies courses and programs designed to compensate for this lack of preparation, and look to bring students to an acceptable level as quickly as possible, to minimize time spent earning a degree.

10 - Meeting Student Needs

The diversity of student needs across the community college population requires colleges to make special efforts to address this range of need, and thus to ensure that access leads to success.

The following two videos provide testimony to the success of these efforts. In the second video, we return to Cincinnati State Technical & Community College for student testimony regarding the success of these services.

[VIDEO CLIP - Dr. Bender]

DR. LOU BENDER: I was a high school dropout in WWII. And my father, and I took a couple correspondence courses, and he sent me to the principal and said that I needed to take these, and so forth, and I would qualify for a diploma. I ended up going to a small, little college, liberal arts college. And I had no confidence in myself, because at that time the learning theory was you cannot teach "old dogs" new tricks. I was able to be admitted on the basis of correspondence courses I had taken. And I told you earlier that I was doing this to appease my parents because I felt I had disappointed them when I joined the service. And I fully anticipated flunking out after a semester.

And I was blessed by an English professor. And I was put in Composition the first year. And he called me into his office after the second paper, and he said, "You really don't have much confidence in yourself, do you?"

And I said, "What do you mean?"

And he said, "Well you know, I can see in your writing, you're trying to write for me."

And I said, "Well I thought that's how all of these high school graduates write."

He said, "You have had more experiences than any of them. Why don't you write about some of your experiences?" He said, "However, I want you to stand in front of me," and he sat behind his

desk, and he said, "I want you to say, 'I can do it.'" And I looked at him, and he said, "I mean this." He said, "I am asking you to say, 'I can do it.'"

So I said, "I can do it."

He said, "Louder. LOUDER!"

And he said, "Alright, now I want you to go home and think about that." So I went back home to think about that. And sure enough, the next day, he called me to his office, and he said, "Alright, what did I tell you to say?" And I sort of, and he said, "Come on tell me."

And I said, "I can do it."

He said, "Louder," and so forth.

That man changed my whole philosophy. I ended up being on the Dean's List and finished in three years.

VIDEO CREDIT: Learning Systems Institute, Florida State University

[VIDEO CLIP - Cincinnati State Tech]

WILLIAM WATSON (Student): When they would see me coming to student support, they know I needed something. I'm just not back there just so you know just to say… I say, "Hi!" A lot of times. But if I ask somebody for something I pretty much need it. And I've always got that encouragement, and that just gave me the strength to go on just another day. You know once they encouraged me and gave me a lot of support I needed I started encouraging others; that was one of the greatest benefits that I had. It took me out of my comfort zone. I met some great people, some wonderful friends and that's been my greatest benefit, I think it's the encouragement.

LORENA JOHNSON (Student): I see a light at the end of the tunnel. I see people who care and that want to see me succeed, and that makes me want to succeed even more. My future plans is to obtain a master's degree in nursing and become a nurse practitioner.

EARL COLEMAN (Student): The ability to trust again, there's some things in my life caused me not to trust people. Part of what has happened in the education process at Cincinnati State is learn how to listen and learn how trust, believe in myself.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS:

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student support services...

student support services…

student support services...

student support services...

our Student Support Services team

support services…

student support services...

student support services...

student support services...

and student support services…

student support services...

student support services. Right on.

VIDEO CREDIT: "Student Support Services" by CAP Cincinnati State, Source:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUktuuGNVmI

11 - Thank You

We hope this module helped you better understand the community college student body. In
the next module, you'll explore issues related to community college academic affairs.

12 - USDOS - CCAP

The Community College Administrator Program (CCAP) is a program of the U.S. Department of
State, administered by Florida State University

For more information, visit eca.state.gov or lsi.fsu.edu/ccap

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