Dual Degree and Transfer Pathways

Governors State University
About GSU

• Founded in 1969 as an upper division/graduate institution
• Located 35 miles south of Chicago
• Offers
  – 25 Bachelor degree completion programs
  – 30 Master’s degree programs
  – 6 Doctoral programs
  – 22 Certificate programs
About DDP

• Launched in 2010

• Originally 6 community college partners
  – Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, Joliet Junior College, South Suburban College, Triton College, Kankakee Community College

• Currently 10 community college partners
  City Colleges of Chicago, College of DuPage, Harper College, Morton College
DDP benefits

• Benefits include:
  – Waived application fee
  – Locked in tuition rate
  – Academic Advising
  – Special events
  – Peer mentoring
  – Special scholarships
Transfer Students

• All current undergraduate students at GSU now are transfer students
• Bring at least 60 credit hours from another institution or an Associate’s degree
Transfer Agreements

- City Colleges of Chicago
- College of DuPage
- College of Lake County
- Elgin Community College
- Fox College
- Harper College
- Illinois Valley Community College
- Joliet Junior College
- Kankakee Community College
- Kishwaukee Community College
- Moraine Valley Community College
- Morton College
- Northwestern College
- Parkland College
- Prairie State College
- South Suburban College
- St. Augustine College
- Triton College
- Waubonsee Community College
High Impact Practices (HIP)

American Association of Colleges and Universities
High Impact Practices

• Activities that promote deep learning, personal and practical gains for students
• Supports effective educational practices
• Results in higher achievement and persistence for students
• GSU is committed to providing these for all students, those that start at GSU and those that transfer
HIP

• First Year Seminar & Experiences
• Common Intellectual Experiences
• Learning Communities
• Writing Intensive Courses
• Collaborative Assignments & Projects
• Undergraduate Research
• Diversity/Global Learning
• Service Learning, Community-based Learning
• Internships
• Capstone Projects
Peer Mentoring is HIP

• “Promotes educational and career enhancement and psycho-social well-being” (Townsend-Green, 2009)
• Student’s peer group is the single most potent influence on growth and development during the undergraduate years (Astin, 1993)
• Aligns with all HIP conditions
  1. Time on task
  2. Faculty and peer interaction
  3. Interaction with diversity
  4. Frequent feedback
  5. Connections between learning context & real-world settings
  6. Occur in context of coherent, academically challenging curriculum
Commonalities of Peer Mentors

• Peer mentoring at GSU
  – Dual Degree Program Peer Mentors
  – FC14 Peer Mentors
  – Resident Assistants

• Required traits/behaviors

• Training and professional development
  – *Principles of Peer Leadership* course (SP14)
  – Topics include: communication, conflict resolution, diversity/inclusion, time management, test anxiety, etc.
  – Supervision with high expectations

• Benefits for mentors and mentees
Matching for Students’ Needs

- Similar major
- Cross-cultural
- Intersegmental
- First generation
- Intergenerational
First Year Students at GSU

FC14
First Class 2014
Fall 2014

• Limited enrollment of 270 first year students
• Focused on one of three themes (not related to the student’s major):
  – Civic Engagement
  – Global Citizenship
  – Sustainability
• New general education courses
• 23 Majors and 28 Minors
Cohort Model

- Each theme has 90 students that will take some courses together each term.
- Courses are planned so that General Education is completed in three semesters.
- Courses meet IAI standards.

**Fall 2014**
- First Year Seminar
- Written Comp 1
- US History

**Spring 2015**
- Written Comp 2
- Intro to Visual & Perform Arts
- US Government

**Fall 2015**
- Oral Communication
- Macroeconomics
- General Psychology
First Year Seminar

• Peer mentors work with each section of 30 students
• Faculty will use collaborative assignments and service learning
• Course meets requirements for IAI Interdisciplinary Humanities
Junior & Senior Year

• Junior Seminar-major course to create a learning community between students that started at GSU and transfer students

• Senior Capstone-all majors require final project, may be related to:
  – Internship
  – Service learning
  – Research
  – Other
Questions?

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