Definition of Unit
Definition of Unit: UNIV 1020 Program
Reporting Year:

Providing Department:
UNIV 1020

Department/Unit Contact:
Linda Null

Mission/Vision/Goal Statement:
University 1020 First-Year Connections is a course specially designed to help students build the academic, social, and professional connections they will need for a successful college career. In this one-hour credit course, students are introduced to an assortment of University services, academic skills, and friendships that will make adjustment to the vibrant life of the Tennessee Tech campus much easier.

Goal/Objective/Outcome
Goal 1: Personal Connections
Define Goal:

To connect students with other students (develop personal and professional networks)

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Support students in building personal, curricular, and co-curricular connections across campus

Promote service learning and civic engagement

Goal 2: University and Department Connections
Define Goal:

To connect students with the faculty and staff in their department/program

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Support students in building personal, curricular, and co-curricular connections across the campus as part of their continued transition to the University

Goal 3: University LIfe
Define Goal:

To connect students with student life of the University

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Utilize and promote support networks for a diverse student body, including at-risk and high-achieving populations

Goal 4: Retention
Define Goal:
To improve student retention, especially between the freshman and sophomore years.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Foster student success as measured through first-semester to second semester retention rates

Goal 5: Campus resources and support
Define Goal:

To connect students with available resources and support systems for both academic and student life

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Provide pathways to address academic challenges of college transition, including the development of foundational skills in critical thinking, information literacy, and ethical reasoning.

Goal 6: To connect to resources that will facilitate identification and evaluation of information sources to support academic inquiry and introduce students to elements of creative inquiry/research
Define Goal:

Provide pathways to address academic challenges of college transition, including the development of foundational skills in critical thinking, information literacy, and ethical reasoning

Cultivate a growth mindset for TTU students, including attention to articulating and achieving both short- and long-term personal, academic, and career goals

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Goal 7: To utilize written and oral communication skills to discover, develop, and articulate ideas and viewpoints
Define Goal:

Provide pathways to address academic challenges of college transition, including the development of foundational skills in critical thinking, information literacy, and ethical reasoning

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Provide pathways to address academic challenges of college transition, including the development of foundational skills in critical thinking, information literacy, and ethical reasoning

Cultivate a growth mindset for TTU students including attention to articulating and achieving both short- and long-term personal, academic, and career goals

Assessment Tools
Assessment IDEA
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective:
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Type of Tool:
Survey

Frequency of Assessment:
each semester

Rationale:

We monitor the progress on student learning objectives.

Assessment: NSSE
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective:
1,2.5

Type of Tool:
Survey

Frequency of Assessment:

2017, every other year

Rationale:

NSSE provides data on how students perceive their interaction with each other (in both academic and social settings) and how often they interact with faculty. NSSE also indicates the students' perception of the role of advisers and the college experience in preparing them for careers.

Assessment: Mentor Evaluation Forms
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective:

1

Type of Tool:

Focus Group

Frequency of Assessment:

Each fall semester

Rationale:

(1)

Assessment: Retention Rates for First-Time Freshmen
Goal/ Outcome/ Objective:

1, 2, 3

Type of Tool:

Retention Rate

Frequency of Assessment:

Fall, Spring

Rationale:

The Office of Institutional Research provides information on fall to spring and fall to fall retention for first-time freshmen. This data is closely watched, and fluctuations (or lack thereof) can result in changes to the first-year experience courses.

Results

Results: IDEA Fall 2017, 2018
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:
1,2,3,4,5,6,7

Results:

Results indicate "Substantial Progress" toward all objectives in both 2017 and 2018. The 2018 results indicate improvement in key areas such as Critical Thinking (3.69 in 2017; 4.2 in 2018) and in research (3.48 in 2017; 3.9 in 2018).

Attachments:
UNIV 1020 IDEA F18 Short.docx; UNIV 1020 IDEA results f17.docx

Results: Mentor Evaluation Forms
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:
1, 2, and 3

Results:

 The two primary strengths the mentors identified in UNIV 1020 were Connecting with Tennessee Tech and Critical Thinking and Problem Solving. This response is especially gratifying because the official name of the course is Connections and a key student learning outcome is that students will feel connected to the University. Second, TTU had identified critical thinking and problem solving as the focus of its previous QEP, so the students of the last few semesters, who are now mentors, show evidence of that focus and are passing on that training to the next group of TTU students.

Attachments:
UNIV 1020 mentor eval f18.pdf

Results: NSSE
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:

1, 2, 3, 5, 6

Results:

Results in 2017 show improvement in the areas of Collaborative Learning, Student-Faculty Interaction, and Quality of Campus Interaction.

85% of the freshmen rate their experience as excellent or good.

89% of the freshmen would definitely or probably attend this university again.

Attachments:

Results: Retention Rate
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:
4

Results:

The retention rate fall to spring 2018 is 91.4%, up from the 90.3% of fall to spring 2017.

Attachments:

Modifications and Continuing Improvement to Goals/Objectives/Outcomes
New Modifications and Continuing Improvement to Goals/Objectives/Outcomes Item
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:
1,2,3,4,5,6,7

Program Changes and Actions due to Results:

We developed new program goals and student learning objectives, based on past data.

Link to Assessment:

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan:
Experiential Learning,General Education Curriculum,Programs, Certificates, and Training

New Modifications and Continuing Improvement to Goals/Objectives/Outcomes Item
Goal/Objective/Outcome Number:

Program Changes and Actions due to Results:

The mentor survey included several suggestions for improving UNIV 1020 that have been discussed and can be fairly easily incorporated into class planning:

One suggestion is to solicit speakers from various departments on campus on topics that can focus on careers or academics, but can also focus on the special interests of faculty and staff and students such as Harry Potter, adventure travel, gaming, etc.

Link to Assessment:

Mentor survey

Link to 'Tech Tomorrow' Strategic Plan: