Student Success Activities
Online Health Information Management Program
Pamela S. Greenstone, MEd, RHIA
Associate Professor/Program Director

OBJECTIVES

- Outline student success activities that compliment subject learning within the BS HIM Program
- Share examples of specific activities
- Delineate importance of these additional skills in the academic learning process
- Reflection on student retention in relation to student success activities

In Fall of 2015, the Health Information Management deployed a First Semester Experience Community that included student success activities. These activities were required for all students to complete in addition to their initial course work. Ten extra credit points were given to the students for completing the required activities. Because the work was not integrated into the regular coursework, it was very difficult to require students to complete the activities. The extra credit points given was not enough motivation for students to want to complete the activities.

After five semesters, the HIM program faculty met to discuss the outcomes of the First Semester Experience. The returning student retention rate after the first semester was 95% but in continuing semesters the retention rate was not increased or decreased based on the First Semester Experience. The number of students completing the First Semester Experience dwindled significantly after three semesters so it was felt that a different mechanism needed to be utilized in order to entice students to complete these student success activities. The First Semester Experience was discontinued after the summer semester of 2017. Student success activities were incorporated into the courses starting fall semester of 2017.

Summary: All student success activities scaffold learning to occur within the module in which they are deployed. For example: Where the assignment requires APA citations; students are required to complete the APA citations student success activities. Student retention has been calculated semester over semester since the implementation of Student Success Activities and the overall student retention rate has remained steady around 78%. For online learning this is a very good retention rate. More research will be done to ensure that Student Success Activities impact student activities positively.