

FRESHMAN ACADEMIC ADVISING SERVICES

VOL 1. NO. 7 FALL 2009 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES BUILDING, ROOM 201

NEWSLETTER

NEW AND IMPROVED IN FRESHMAN ACADEMIC ADVISING SERVICES

We have been busy in the FAAS office since the last time you heard from us. Our website has been redesigned and it is awesome. Anything you want and need to know about the freshman experience at FAU is there. See for yourself:

www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising.

STAR INVENTORY

In fall 2008, Freshman Academic Advising Services introduced the STAR (Strategies & Tips for Academic Recovery) Inventory. STAR is a web-based self-assessment/instructional inventory designed to aid students placed on "freshman warning" with 1) pinpointing their academic shortcomings, and 2) provides suggestions and tips for becoming a better, more successful student.

The inventory focuses on five skill areas; learning styles, time management, note-taking, study skills and test-taking strategies. Students first, respond to a series of questions aimed at helping them identify the attitudes and behaviors that are at the root of their academic plight. Second, the inventory offers concrete strategies and tips, that when put into practice, can lead to significantly improved academic performance.

Students placed on "freshman warning" are flagged with an "FW" hold. The "FW" hold is a registration hold that can only be removed by completing the STAR Inventory. The inventory takes approximately 45 minutes to complete and is followed by a quiz. Students must answer 80% of the quiz questions correctly to have the "freshman warning" hold removed.

For questions or comments relating to the STAR Inventory, please contact Freshman Academic Advising Services at freshmanadvising@fau.edu or (561) 297-3064.

SLS 1503: Still Going Strong

This year there are 51 sections of SLS 1503: Learning Strategies and Human Development on the fall schedule. This number includes 28 sections that are offered as part of the Freshman Learning/Living Learning Community program and 23 sections that are open to all first-year students. SLS 1503 instructors come from most of the colleges and many different departments on campus. FAAS would like to thank the dedicated faculty and staff who put their time and knowledge into making this course a success for first-year students at FAU. We couldn't do it without you!

STUDENTS AT THE "GATEWAY" TO THEIR EDUCATION

This past summer 131 students began their education at FAU by participating in the Gateway Program. This program requires students to take two courses during the summer 3 term. The ENC 1130 class, Introduction to Writing, continues to emphasize the development of writing skills and techniques that students will need in every class that requires writing as well as in their professional lives. SLS1503, Learning Strategies and Human Development, continues to provide an introduction to higher education and the functions and resources of FAU as well as an opportunity to develop and polish the academic skills essential to meet the challenges of college level courses.

FAAS IM CHAT

Instant Message an Advisor! All freshmen can now add **FreshmanAdvising** to their AOL Buddy list and send us an IM when they have general questions about advising.

ADVISORTRAC

All currently enrolled freshmen with fewer than 30 credits or native sophomores with an Undecided major schedule an appointment online through AdvisorTrac. For the past four years our "web-based" advising system has brought all student advising records online, accessible anywhere and anytime.

OARS

The Online Advising and Registration System (OARS) is an online advising system designed by FAAS where entering freshman are given all the academic information they need in order to select a first semester schedule. Using the OARS students read through academic information relevant to choosing courses then login to a secure advising form where they are given a sample schedule for their major. They complete the advising form, select courses and then submit the form online. An advisor approves the courses after the student submits the form and an automatic email is generated to the student notifying them when it is complete. All student information is stored in a secure database.

The OARS is going into its second year. Only incoming freshman use the OARS before their first semester in lieu of face-to-face advising. Take a look: <http://oars.fau.edu>.

FACULTY REFERRAL

The Faculty Online Referral System is an online referral system designed to identify students who are experiencing academic or non academic challenges. Faculty members refer students to the Freshman Advising office. An academic advisor will then contact the student and discuss strategies for improvement. Go to:

www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising.

FAAS RETENTION

Student retention services for students who need extra support and regular follow up meetings with an academic advisor to stay on track with their studies are now even better! We help students identify their strengths, areas for development, put together an academic improvement plan, and set goals for optimum success.

A SUCCESS STORY

Study Now Play Later

Throughout my years at FAU I faced many challenges and have experienced many things. I started my freshmen year of college in the summer of 2007 and I did what every freshman wants to do, party, party, party. I started off getting good grades keeping track of all my work but two weeks into the semester I stopped showing up to classes and would only show up on test dates. I ended up passing two classes in my first two semesters at FAU; this was the worst mistake ever. I was then put on probation and after that suspension because my GPA was too low. It didn't hit me that I could soon be dismissed from the University till I started to receive letters in the mail stating this. My parents had no idea this was all happening and I knew they would be disappointed in me so I knew I had to stop messing around and start working. I met with my advisor and she helped me get back on track. She assured me that I could do it as long as I would show up for class and take a few hours of my day to study.

I knew I could do it but the real question was did I want to. After thinking about my future and how it would be if I were to be dismissed I knew I had to do it. I then began to go to class and take notes and actually pay attention I ended my fall and spring semester of 2008 with a 3.0. This was a big turnaround from only passing two classes the year before, and I still found time to party and study. Going to class on a daily basis didn't affect me as I thought it would. Now I'm starting my third year and working on a Healthcare Administration degree. It's taken a little longer than expected but now I am headed in the right direction and ready to face many challenges ahead. By C.A.

EXPLORATORY/UNDECLARED PROGRAM

The Exploratory/Undeclared Program in the Office of Freshman Academic Advising Services provides academic advising and support services to

incoming freshman students who are undecided on a major. Upon entering FAU, incoming undeclared freshmen are introduced to an array of services designed to assist them in choosing a major.

Undeclared freshmen attend an "Undecided College Session" during orientation to introduce them to the support services available at FAU. In addition to assisting students in developing their educational plan, we designed a website www.fau.edu/exploratorystudents for undeclared students. The website offers step by step guidance on what to do each semester to get closer to finding a major. The Exploratory/Undeclared website also has the "What Can I Do With This Major?" database, which allow students to begin exploring their major options, be informed of the majors offered at FAU and careers they can pursue with these majors. We also work closely with the Career Development Center to further assist students through the process of choosing a major that is right for them.

MEET THE STAFF

Deborah "Mikki" Minney - Assistant Provost and Director
Betty Colson - Associate Director
Elizabeth "Liz" Kennedy - Associate Director
Hyacinth Wideman - Assistant Director
Manjula Neelakanta - Assistant Director
Kirk Hammond - Coordinator, Academic Programs
Dr. Jess E. Tuck - Coordinator, Academic Support Services
Daniela Higgins - Coordinator of Academic Programs and Student Retention
Merideth Dee - Coordinator, Academic Programs
Abdula Newman - Coordinator, Academic Programs
Maryann Blane - Executive Secretary
Nereida Lopez Salvani - Program Assistant
Maureen Leong-Kee - Graduate Assistant
Victoria Urrutia - Graduate Assistant
Kyoko Johnson - Student Assistant
Brandise Dennis - Student Assistant
Nikki Edmond - Student Assistant

www.fau.edu/freshmanadvising



Come see the new Freshman Advising website!!! All the resources you will ever need are located on the Bulletin Board.

Click each post-it and link to find out more!