Engaging Academically At-Risk Students through the Use of ePortfolio
Engaging Academically At-Risk Students through the Use of ePortfolio

- Theories of College Student Retention
- Overview of Probation Outreach Program
- Activities on ePortfolio
- Program Assessment
- Getting Started
COLLEGE STUDENT RETENTION

Attrition

- Under-preparedness
- External Factors

Retention

- Making the Transition to College
- Monitoring and Early Warning
- Counseling and Advising
- Incorporation into College and Long-term Actions for Retention

(Tinto, 1993; 2002)
COLLEGE STUDENT RETENTION

- Provide clear and consistent information
- Provide academic, social, and personal support
- Maintain frequent contact with students
- Foster student learning

(Tinto, 2002)
SUPPORTING THE MILLENNIAL STUDENT

- Advising on-demand
  - Access to information 24/7
  - Virtual advising

- Downloadable activities

- Hyperlinks to important information

(Endres & Tisinger, 2007; Jones, 2002)
Located in Oakland County Michigan
Over 19,000 Students
Two thirds of students commute
134 baccalaureate degree programs
124 graduate degree and certificate programs
The average high school GPA for entering freshmen is 3.3
The average ACT score for entering freshmen is 22.0
More than 84,000 alumni
Division I Athletics
Established by OU Faculty and Senate

Designed to provide academic support to students who have a cumulative GPA below a 2.0 and are placed on Academic Probation.

Program Outline

Students must:

- Sign a contract and meet terms; and
- Meet with retention staff.

Academic holds are placed on accounts to encourage compliance to the program.
ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTER

- Academic Services
  - Free tutoring
  - Supplemental Instruction
- Retention Services
  - Administers Probation Outreach & Dismissal Option Status Programs
## PROBATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

### Registered Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
<th>Registered Students on Academic Probation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>29,448</td>
<td>981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-2009</td>
<td>32,567</td>
<td>1,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>31,992</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-2007</td>
<td>31,186</td>
<td>1,029</td>
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</table>
## Probation Outreach Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>F09</th>
<th>WI10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td>361</td>
<td>610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Range</strong></td>
<td>18-54</td>
<td>18-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female</strong></td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Full time student</strong></td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Undecided</strong></td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freshmen (&lt;27 earned credits)</strong></td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sophomore</strong></td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junior</strong></td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior</strong></td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commuter</strong></td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Under-represented minority</strong></td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OLD PROBATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

Under the old program students were given:

- Carbon copy contracts to complete.
- Paper Educational Development Plans.
- Paper Class Study Plans.

And students had to physically come in to get their hold released.
Cost Savings
Reduction of Paper Use
Improved Storing System
Convenience
  On-Demand access to information.
  Electronic hold requests.
EPORTFOLIO ACTIVITIES

- Making the Transition to College
- Time Management
- Calculating GPA
- Monitoring and Early Warning
- Contract for Educational Progress
- Mid semester Evaluations
- Counseling and Advising
- Referrals to Appropriate Resources
- Incorporation into College
- Access to Staff
- Virtual Hours
- Long term actions for Retention
- Online Skill-building Tools
Academic Probation

Review and complete the activities listed in the following sections.
ACADEMIC PROBATION TUTORIAL

Start of the Semester Priorities

1. Complete the Academic Probation Tutorial

2. Review the Probation Outreach program expectations

3. Complete the Contract for Educational Progress

4. Call the Center to schedule your initial appointment (248-370-4215)

Academic Probation Tutorial: What is Academic Probation?

Complete the academic probation tutorial below.

☑ Complete the Summer 2010/Fall 2010/Winter 2011 Tutorial
PROBATION OUTREACH EXPECTATIONS

INITIAL APPOINTMENT
## Contract for Educational Progress

### AUNsoft

Click the picture below to download the Contract.
Academic Probation

Review and complete the activities listed in the following sections.
### Item Analysis Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q#</th>
<th>Question text</th>
<th>Answer's Value</th>
<th>partial credit</th>
<th>R. Counts</th>
<th>R.%</th>
<th>% Correct Facility</th>
<th>SD</th>
<th>Disc. Index</th>
<th>Disc. Coeff.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4403</td>
<td>Good Academic Standing: To stay in good academic standing, students must not allow their cumulative grade point average (GPA) to drop below</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>(1.00)</td>
<td>369/378</td>
<td>(98%)</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>0.153</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>(0.00)</td>
<td>1/378</td>
<td>(0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>(0.00)</td>
<td>0/378</td>
<td>(0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.00)</td>
<td>0/378</td>
<td>(0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4408</td>
<td>Academic Probation: Students in good academic standing will be placed on probation if their cumulative GPA falls below</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>(0.00)</td>
<td>2/378</td>
<td>(1%)</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>0.161</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>(0.00)</td>
<td>0/378</td>
<td>(0%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>(97%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Retention Rate for students on academic probation exceeds the overall reported first-year FTIAC return rate by about 6%.

Students on academic probation who meet the terms of the program consistently outperform students who do not (higher semester and cumulative gpa’s).

Why?
Mandatory activities for students on academic probation

Student Support Services

Academic Probation & Dismissal Policy

Hawthorne Effect
GETTING STARTED

- Identify resources available at your institution
- Collaborate with academic & student affairs
- Participate in professional development
- Check out some of the free resources available:
  - oovoo.com (web conferencing)
  - dimdim.com (web conferencing)
  - Google.com (sites and applications)
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**More on Moodle:**

Oakland University eLearning and Instructional Support
http://www2.oakland.edu/elis/conference.cfm

Moodle.org
http://moodle.org/

**Implementing ePortfolios:**

Educause-On Implementing Web-based Electronic Portfolios

**Advising Issues:**

NACADA-College Students Today

Advising Students on Academic Probation
http://www.psu.edu/dus/mentor/021028cc.htm
Fall 2010 Probation Outreach Expectations

Initial Appointment
Complete and upload your **Contract for Educational Progress** prior to your initial appointment with a staff member. During your initial appointment with a retention staff member, you can expect to review the Contract for Educational Progress. If you have already registered for classes, your current semester course load will be reviewed and the GPA needed to return to good academic standing can be calculated. If your current GPA will prevent you from returning to good academic standing the following semester, a plan of action for returning to good academic standing will be discussed. **Tutoring, study hours and/or CLAW workshop attendance** may be assigned during the initial appointment.

Second Appointment
Complete and upload your **Comprehensive Study Plan** prior to your second appointment with a staff member. During your second appointment with a retention staff member, you should be prepared to review your **weekly schedule**. This will include an overview of the **Academic Skills Center online tutor schedule**. You should also be prepared to review your course syllabi with your retention staff member.

Third Appointment
During your third appointment, you can expect to evaluate your academic progress to date and to review and make any needed changes to your Comprehensive Study Plan. **Initial meetings with your professors** may be assigned during the third appointment.

Subsequent Appointments
You should be prepared to evaluate and discuss the factors that contributed to your probationary status. Referrals to appropriate resources will be assigned as needed.

**Mid-Semester Evaluations** (posted by week eight of the semester) will be reviewed with your retention staff member. Increased tutoring and/or study hours will be assigned as needed.

**Academic Progress Reports** may be assigned during subsequent appointments as needed.

Changes in the semester course schedule will be discussed as needed. Final changes to the schedule must be made according to the **Registrar’s schedule of Important Dates**.

Future semester planning will occur for students who are progressing academically. Appointments with **academic advisors** and **Financial Aid** will be assigned as needed. Future semester registration holds may be removed for students who have complied with the terms of the contract.

End of Semester Interview
The end of semester interview will include an overview of the **University Academic Probation & Dismissal Policy**. The retention staff will review the GPA you need to remain at OU. The GPA needed to
return to good academic standing may be recalculated if there have been changes to your schedule. During the end of semester interview, you should be prepared to discuss your projected final grades.

**Please Note:**  
Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late for a scheduled appointment must reschedule their appointment for a later date.

Students must provide 24 hours advance notice of any appointment cancellations. Once you have two no shows within a semester, you are not permitted to schedule appointments with the retention staff for the remainder of the semester.

Initial appointments with retention staff members will not be scheduled after week eleven of the semester.

The Academic Probation hold will not be released for students who have failed to meet the terms of the contract until after the grade submission deadline has passed (week sixteen of the semester).
A number of initiatives related to technology were developed and implemented during the 2009-2010 academic year. These initiatives were developed in an effort to improve the efficiency of the Probation Outreach and Dismissal Option Status programs by allowing for increased communication with students. Implementation of these initiatives was instituted at minimal cost to the ASC ($100).

**Probation Outreach Program Expectations.** During the previous academic year, students were encouraged to review a pdf file describing the Probation Outreach Program Expectations. Beginning Summer 2010, text to movie versions of the Expectations have also been available for students to view.

**Contract for Educational Progress.** In previous years, students were required to complete their contract in the ASC lobby upon arriving for their initial appointment. Beginning winter 2009, students were required to access a Word version of the updated Contract via the Probation Outreach ePortfolio site. This year, the form was modified using AdobePro software. This version of the form has been well received by students as being more user friendly than the Word version. During the 2009-2010 year, 1,643 contracts were completed and uploaded to the site.

**Tutorial.** A six item tutorial was developed for inclusion on the ePortfolio site. This tutorial provides an overview of the academic probation and dismissal policy and Probation Outreach program requirements. During the 2009-2010 year, 1,178 tutorials were completed.

Item analysis indicates that students on academic probation are aware of the minimum cumulative gpa required to return to good academic standing. Item analysis also indicates that students are not aware that their participation in the Probation Outreach Program is mandatory (16-25% of responses to this item are incorrect compared to 3-8% incorrect responses on most other). This information is consistent with the prior year’s analysis. Students who completed the tutorial for the Winter 2010 semester were more likely to incorrectly respond to items related to the appeal process (22% incorrect compared to 3-8% incorrect for Fall 2009 or Summer 2010 tutorials).
**Academic Probation Hold Removal.** To meet the needs of the large number of students on academic probation, the ASC developed an online hold removal request option. Students who complete the Tutorial, upload a Contract, and review the Expectations have the opportunity to submit an online request to have academic probation hold temporarily removed for registration. During the 2009-2010 year, 938 online hold removal requests were processed by ASC staff.

**Probation Outreach Program.** Students on academic probation who meet the terms and conditions of the Probation Outreach program consistently out-perform students on academic probation who do not. The 626 students who met with ASC staff members during the Fall and Winter semesters ended the year with an average cumulative GPA of 1.85. When compared to the students’ beginning of term average cumulative GPA (1.45), this represents a .40 increase in GPA. Students who **did not** meet (345 students) with ASC staff members ended the year with an average cumulative GPA of 1.53. These students began the Fall and Winter terms with an average cumulative GPA of 1.44. The average gain in cumulative GPA for the non-compliant students was .09. The graph below illustrates the end of term overall cumulative GPA’s for both groups of students.

### Average Overall End of Term GPA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Students who Met with ASC Staff</th>
<th>Students who Did Not Meet with ASC Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter 2010</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>1.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>