Mission

The Central University Libraries supports and enriches SMU's academic mission and heritage. CUL serves students, faculty, staff and the general public by building collections, organizing information, providing high quality research assistance, and preserving, digitizing and showcasing library materials. CUL staff will provide outstanding professional assistance in the access of diverse resources, and create an environment that respects academic freedom, encourages open enquiry and excites the mind.

Goal

1 Meet objectives

Outcomes/Objectives

1.1 CUL information literacy instruction program has a measurable impact on student learning.

Description

Supported Initiatives (4)

Strategic Initiatives

• To improve teaching and learning.
• To sustain student development and a supportive campus experience.
• Enhance critical student life programs related to student performance, persistence, and retention.
• Elevate SMU™s national profile to raise rankings and garner additional support for the University™s strategic priorities, building on the accomplishments of SMU programs and people.

Measures

1.1.1 Impact on first-year student retention
Source of Evidence

Existing data - Administrative

Description

Library Information Literacy instruction sessions were merged with the first-year first-time student data records that are used to report institutional retention to IPEDS. A statistical analysis was run to determine if there is a statistically significant association between retention and student outcomes, including the likelihood of persistence (retention) depending on whether or not a student was enrolled in a course having information literacy instruction.

Target

1.1.1.1 Likelihood of academic persistence (retention) Exceeded

Target

Students enrolled in courses that have information literacy instruction sessions are statistically more likely to persist than students who were not exposed to information literacy.

Findings

Based on results for the 2015-2016 first-year cohort data from the Institutional Research Office, of the 1374 students, 1243 students were retained and 131 students were not retained the following year in Fall 2016. The SMU Library instruction logs indicating the courses which had library instruction sessions in 2015-2016 were merged with this data, showing that of the 1374 students, there were 810 that were enrolled in courses with library instruction and 564 who were not. The retention rate for those enrolled in courses with library instruction was 92.35% (748 out of 810), and the retention rate for those not enrolled in a course with library instruction was 87.77% (495 out of 564). This finding is statistically significant at a confidence level greater than 99% based on the Fisher’s Exact Test for 2x2 contingency tables. Furthermore, students whose mandatory DISC course contained a library instruction session had a 93.07% retention rate, compared to 88.14% retention rate for students whose mandatory DISC course did not have a library instruction session. This finding regarding the mandatory DISC course is also statistically significant, even more so at
the 99.9% confidence level.

Reflections (What has been learned from the findings?)
Continue the focus on providing library instruction for courses across the SMU curriculum, and continue expanding the reach of the library instruction program supporting the mandatory DISC courses.

1.2 Support the research and teaching needs of SMU faculty.

Description

Supported Initiatives (0)

1.3 Reach a majority of students through curriculum-related information literacy instruction sessions.

Description

Supported Initiatives (4)

Strategic Initiatives

• To improve teaching and learning.
• To improve teaching and learning.
• To sustain student development and a supportive campus experience.
• Enhance critical student life programs related to student performance, persistence, and retention.

Measures

1.3.1 Reach of Library Instruction in SMU curriculum courses

Source of Evidence
Existing data - Administrative

Description
Library Information Literacy instruction sessions were merged with the first-year first-time student data records that are used to report institutional retention to IPEDS, to determine if a majority of those students were enrolled in a course with library instruction. If a majority of first-year students are consistently reached each
Target

1.3.1.1 Percentage of students enrolled in a course with library instruction

Met

Target

Percentage of first-year students enrolled in a course with library instruction

Findings

Based on results for the 2015-2016 first-year cohort data from the Institutional Research Office, of the 1374 students, 1243 students were retained and 131 students were not retained the following year in Fall 2016. The SMU Library instruction logs indicating the courses which had library instruction sessions in 2015-2016 were merged with this data, showing that of the 1374 students, there were 810 (58.95%) that were enrolled in courses with library instruction and 564 (41.05%) who were not.

Reflections (What has been learned from the findings?)

If these percentages are maintained year after year, a majority of all SMU undergraduate students will be reached through course-related library instruction.

Project Attachments

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