Blackboard Tools to Increase Student Success Rates

Facilitated by: Elizabeth Ferris, Instructional Technologist, FIU Online
Agenda

• Research
• FIU Online’s Support
• Retention and Success from the Start
• Early Intervention Tools
  • Retention Center
  • Performance Dashboard
  • Course Reports
The Facts

82%

74%
The Facts

Students in an online course have an 82% chance of completing the course.

In remedial courses, the completion rate is 74%.

(Brown, 2011; Jaggers & Xu, 2011; Jenkins, 2012)
Conditions that Support Retention

• High expectations for success.
• Clear and consistent information regarding requirements.
• Strong support network.
• Frequency and quality of contact
• Useful and productive learning is fostered.

(Tinto, 1975; Kember, 1995; Tresman, 2001, 2002).
Tips on Improving Retention

- Identify at risk learners
- Provide online student services
- Create an online peer-tutoring program
- Implement an orientation program to guide users through new technology, online services, and programs
- Involve faculty

Hill (2006)
Increase Communication to Increase Retention

• Inform students about the administrative resources available
• Encourage students to get to know each other and develop support systems within the class.
• Provide timely and useful feedback about class assignments and discussion contributions.
• Facilitate class discussions and intervene when students need to refocus.
• Monitor discussions and other class activities. If a student is falling behind or appears to be struggling with assignments, contact them personally and offer assistance.

Yoder (2005)
How FIU Online Helps

• Orientation/Introduction sessions
• Consistent navigation and technical directions throughout online courses
• Student Resources
  • FIU Resources
  • Course Resources
  • Technical Support
• Tutorials and information through our website
How You Can Help

• Encourage students to use FIU resources
• Full and accurate information of what is required in the course
• Clear guidelines and expectations for all assignments, assessments, activities- including due dates, rubrics, and examples.
• Vary learning activities- use some that provide instantaneous feedback and allow for practice
• Create a teaching presence
How You Can Help

**Website Portfolio**

**Part 1 (20 Points)**
- Create your Google site – your site does not have to be public to everyone, but I must be able to access it. Include a picture of you.
- Create an “About Your Teacher” page – this should be all about you. Include a picture of:
- A “Welcome to Class” message – this should be something welcoming your students.
- Post your link on the discussion board. (5 points)

**Part 2 (20 points)**
- Create your five linked web pages – these are internally linked to your site. (5 points)
- 2 Announcements for Students (1 point)
- 2 Announcements for Parents (1 point)
- Resources for Parents (3 points) – all links must be correctly linked, with meaningful links:
  - Digital Citizenship
  - Netiquette
  - Internet Safety
  - iPad/Android App
- Start working on your visually entertaining. (5 points)

**Part 3 (20 Points)**
- Resources for Students (8 points) – all links must be correctly linked, with meaningful links:
  - Digital Citizenship
  - Netiquette
  - Internet Safety
  - iPad/Android App
- List of 4 suggested readings (2 points)
- Link/Embed to Digital Citizenship Comic (5 points)
- Link/Embed to your Twitter or Learning Board (5 points)

---

**Example Websites**

Please click the links below to see some examples of websites. Please note that some of the requirements have changed since these sites were created.

- Ms. Martinez website
- A Learning Center
- Mr. Quisada Physical Education
- Ms. R’s site does a great job of explaining how each item will be used: Lesson Plan - Reinforcement activities
- Mr. Montecello’s Classroom Website
- Mrs. Rodriguez’s Art Class
- Mr. Brown’s Art Room Website

---

**Optional Resources**

Here are some resources that students in my other classes have found useful. Please feel free to let me know if you find these interesting or helpful:

- A video on how to build websites using Google sites
- A guide on how to use Google sites

---

**Discussion Board**

Post your link on the discussion forum labeled “Website Portfolio”

Use the “Assignments” discussion to ask general questions about this assignment.
How Blackboard Helps

• Announcements, Emails, Messages
• Discussion Boards
• Performance Dashboard
• Retention Center
• Color Coded Grade Center
• Course Reports
Course Reports

- **All User Activity Inside Content Areas** displays a summary of all user activity inside content areas for a course.
- **Course Activity Overview** displays overall activity within course, sorted by student and date. Data includes the total and average time spent per user and the total amount of activity a user had in your course.
- **Student Overview for Single Course** report determines which days of the week students are active in a course and see how much time overall students spend in your course as well as detailed information about a student’s activity, such as which items and content areas a student accessed and the time spent on each. Use this report to check a particular student’s course activity.
- **Overall Summary of User Activity** displays user activity for all areas of a course, as well as activity dates, times, and days of the week.
- **Single Course User Participation Report** displays the count for user submissions in your course for assignments, tests, discussions, blogs, and journals within the chosen time frame.
- **User Activity in Forums** displays a summary of user activity in discussion board forums in a course.
- **User Activity in Groups** displays a summary of user activity in groups.
- **User statistics** shows user information and the percentage and total number of items completed in a course as of the present time and date.
Questions

For More Information

- Your Instructional Designer
- Our Website - online.fiu.edu/faculty
- Blackboard OnDemand ondemand.blackboard.com

Elizabeth Ferris
eferris@fiu.edu
Twitter: @biz_ferris