



Student Success Factors

Overview and CRC data



Some background Information

- A review of the literature shows that these studies have identified diverse factors as important to student success
 - high school percentile rank
 - personal conscientiousness
 - social integration
 - a sense of connectedness to the college
 - validation by peers, professors, etc.
 - teaching styles



Ditcher and Tetley (1999)

- Students at a university in New Zealand ranked the following factors as most important to their success:
 - self-motivation
 - fair and appropriate assessment
 - well structured presentations by lecturers
 - ability to manage stress
 - time management skills.

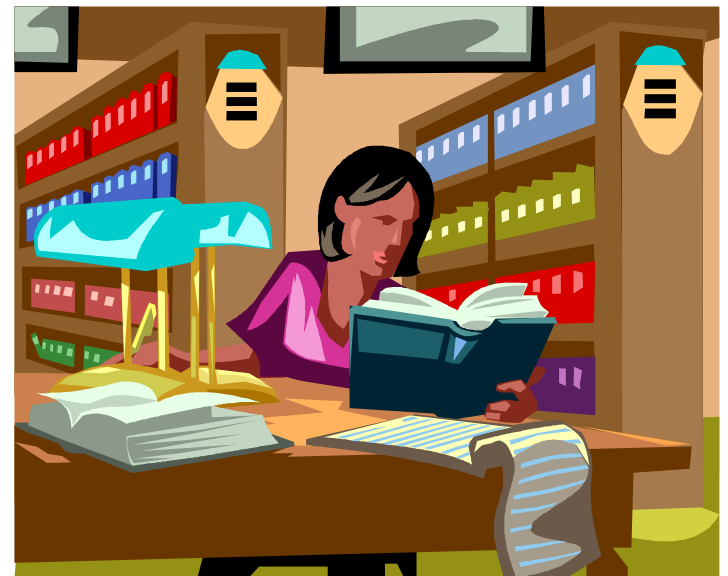
Student perceptions of factors affecting academic success at Cosumnes River College (Buechner 2004)

- Methods included focus groups and a large student survey
- The goal was to discover what factors our students self-identify as strong success drivers.



Focus group results: Most important personal factors

- Self-motivation, attitude, personal focus
- Time management skills, organization, planning skills
- Study habits, work ethic, being meticulous, determination



Focus group results: Most important classroom factors

- Teacher's style – engaging, clear, interesting
- Teacher's attitude - having personable, encouraging teachers
- Interesting presentations/lectures
- Comfortable rooms (desks, temperature, etc.)
- Helpful homework and assignments



Focus group results: “Good teaching”

■ Primary factors:

- Show acceptance, respect and concern for students; be encouraging
- Use a dynamic and engaging speaking style

■ Secondary factors:

- Get student participation in lectures, be interactive, use discussion
- Have a clear organization for lecture material
- Use clear lecture outlines, board work, and handouts.





Doherty, 2000

“The unanticipated outcome of this study was evidence that student perception of student/instructor interactions is a single variable predictor of student success among community college students in an online learning environment”.

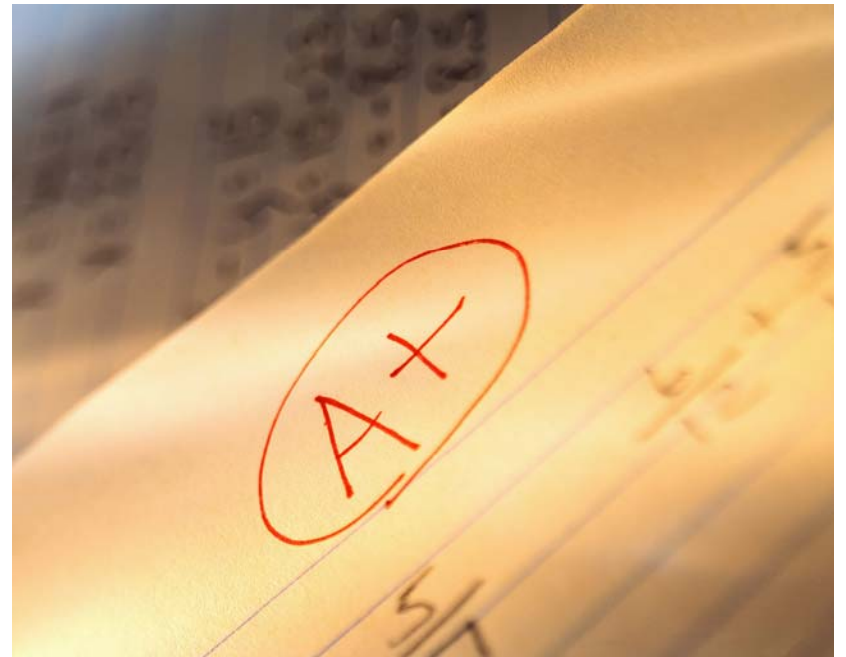
Survey: top 10 factors

1. Self motivation
2. Clear lectures or lab presentations
3. Fair exams and other evaluation
4. Encouragement & respect from professors
5. Clear expectations about requirements
6. Clear course materials (syllabus, etc.)
7. Commitment to doing a good job
8. Effort and time spent on the class
9. Reliable transportation
10. Interesting lectures or lab presentations



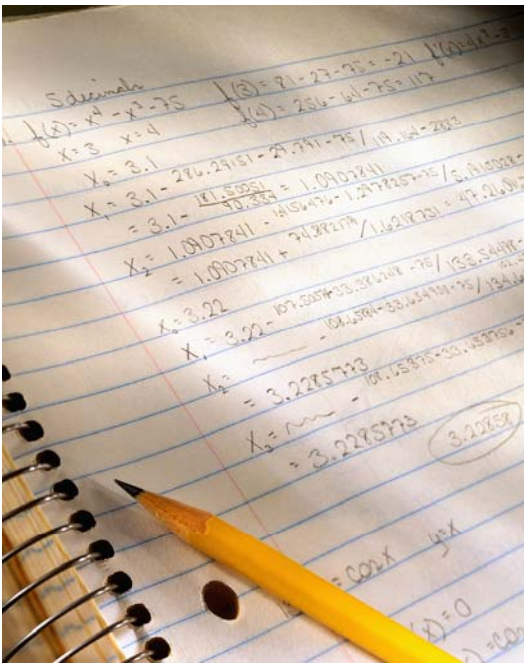
Conclusion: Anything we can provide to increase students' motivation will help a lot

- The individual's self-motivation was the single factor perceived to have the greatest importance to his/her academic success



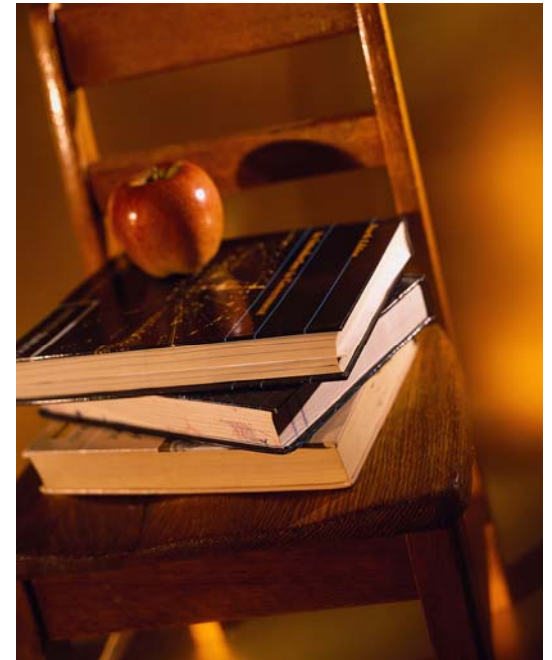
Conclusion: Clear course materials are as important as well written exams or interesting lectures


- While we often emphasize the value of clear lectures and fair examinations, it would also seem to be very “cost effective” to give careful attention to providing a clear syllabus and other class materials.



The affective aspects of teaching are deeply important to our students


- It was clear that the feeling that the professor was interested in both the students and the subject matter was considered an extremely strong success driver.





Tinto (2005):

“One of the most evident features of effective retention programs is their enduring commitment to the students they serve...The presence of a strong commitment to students results in an identifiable ethos of caring which permeates the character of institutional life.”



Tinto 2005

“Equally important, they concern themselves with the nature of the learning settings in which students find themselves and the skills faculty possess to educate the students they encounter in those settings.”

“Take Home Message”

■ Be clear and fair. Care.

- Help students become and stay motivated
- Clear materials, clear presentations, clear expectations, and assessments that are perceived to be fair are critical.
- Provide respect, support and encouragement. We have a major impact on our student’s success simply through our ability to form personal connections with them.

