IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

Sustaining a Successful Institutional Transfer Culture

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Introduction

As part of Irvine Valley College's (IVC) February 2024 accreditation visit the college received a core inquiry regarding it's reputation as a proven leader in transfer amongst California community colleges. The accreditation team stated the following, "the team is impressed with the College's reputation as a leading transfer institution in California and in interested in learning how College processes and services have contributed to this long-standing success." This led to a fruitful site visit that allowed IVC to showcase it's sustained comprehensive transfer institutional culture. During this site visit it was recommended that IVC share it's transfer success to inform and inspire best practices.

Institutional Context

- IVC has achieved a remarkable 6 yr transfer rate of 62% distinguishing itself as the top-performing college in transferring students to four-year institutions among the 116 California community colleges, significantly surpassing the statewide average transfer rate of 40%.
- The collective efforts of faculty, staff, and administrators have been pivotal in driving and sustaining the college's success in preparing students for transfer, exemplifying the commitment to fostering a student-ready college.
- The cornerstone of this endeavor has been strategic institutional enhancements. The college's holistic approach aims to meet students' diverse needs. Central to the college's approach has been the strengthening of processes through the incorporation of disaggregated data that inform planning and student support services.
- IVC serves Irvine and its surrounding communities with an enrollment of about 20,000 students annually, representing a range of ethnicities, including 40% Asian, 20% Hispanic/Latinx, 22% White, 8% South Asian and North African (SWANA) and 2% Black/African American with 31% being the first in their families to attend college.
- The college is a designated AANAPI (Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander) and an emerging Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) that focuses on accessible and high-quality education.
- Despite the affluence of Orange County, many students still encounter obstacles such as steep housing costs and food insecurity, leading 55% to work either part-time or full-time, 53% have experienced some form of food insecurity in the past 30 days and 32% of students described themselves as being food insecure.

Reference

Mery, P. & Schiorring, E. (2008). *A Qualitative Study of Two-To-Four-Year Transfer Practices in California Community Colleges: An Analysis of Seven Case Studies Featuring Colleges with Consistently Higher-than-Expected Transfer Rates.* Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (RP Group). https://rpgroup.org/Portals/0/Reports/TLC_Cross_Case_Analysis.pdf

Transfer Promoting Factors	Abbreviated Factor Descriptions	IVC Transfer Promoting Practices
1. Foster Transfer Culture	• Develop high visibility transfer events and celebrations • Make the transfer message physically and prominently visible on campus • Encourage faculty to talk about transfer as something that is expected and possible and to ensure students that they will be academically ready to transfer • Integrate transfer support into the delivery of academic support services • Make transfer a strong theme in outreach and other promotional materials, including the website	• Ranked #3 out of the top 50 community colleges • Amongst students who completed at least 12 units one-fourth transferred to a UC or CSU • Undergraduate research opportunities such as Project RAISE (Regional Alliance in STEM) and The Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research (SCCUR) • Guided Pathways: Meta majors/interest areas, website restructured, sample academic plans, 11 completion teams • Online academic planning tool, academic plan required by the completion of 15 units
2. Student-Focused Environment	• Integrate academic and support services to create a sense of belonging and community • Meet students where they are, but think of all students as potential transfer students and offer a range of academic and support services to help and encourage students to think about themselves in this way and act accordingly • Create a high-touch environment that engages faculty and staff in efforts to help every student succeed. • Offer administrative support for innovative student success initiatives	• Learning Centers: Writing Center, Math Center, English Language Center, MESA, Student Success Center (tutoring) • Student Equity Programs: Basic Needs Center, Communities of Color, Promise program, Summer Bridge, Black Student Success Scholars, Dream Scholars, Guardian Scholars, HEARTS Scholars, Pride Scholars, Re-Entry Scholars • Student Life: Over 60 student organizations • Athletics: 9 sports whose participants persist at higher rates and transfer more rapidly with higher GPAs
3. Commitment to the Institution	• Nurture a high level of commitment to the institution • Develop a culture where people define their role in terms of what they do for students • Build a reputation that attracts and retains talented and committed individuals	• Strategic Plan: Not static, reviewed annually to ensure effectiveness, "You are the Plan" initiative emphasizes the role all stakeholders in meeting plan goals • Caring Campus: Institute for Evidence Based Change (IEBC) the initiative, ensuring that every facet of the college is designed with the student's journey in mind
4. Strong, Strategic High School Relationships	• Ease the high school-to college transition • Build and nurture relationships with high school counselors • Educate the community and family members • Develop strong institutional relationships with individual high schools and help students develop the expectation that they will continue their education at the community college. • Utilize the student voice in outreach activities • Ease the transition of new students after enrollment	• Preview Night had over 3,000 participants, Laser Day a high-touch orientation, Club Day and Welcome Week Resource Fair • College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) enhance accessibility with about 50% of participants attending community college, 25% attended university • 37% increase in dual enrollment sections from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 • Matriculation services are offered on campus, online and at local high schools
5. Strong Four-Year College Relationships	• Identify additional ways to strengthen relationships with particular institutions and guide students during their transition • Bring representatives from four- year institutions to the local campus for particular activities • Emphasize a range of transfer options, including to private institutions • Facilitate a regular presence of four- year institutions on the local campus • Conduct tours to four-year institutions	• Honors Program (close to 900 participants): 100% of Honors to Honors students are admitted to UCI, UCLA Transfer Alliance Program (TAP) admits at 70-85% • Engineering Academy: Invites students initially denied admission to UCI an alternate 2nd opportunity to be admitted • Pre-Pharmacy Pathway to Western PharmD program • CSUF GAP 4+1: Students complete accounting AS, BS and MS in 5 yrs, 93% confirming internships, 98% receive employment • IVC to CSUF pipeline has the highest rate of Title IV transfer students completing bachelor's degree as recognized by Biden-Harris Administration Raise the Bar Initiative
6. Effective Support Services	• Through the Transfer Center, promote transfer visibility on campus for both students and employees • Take a highly proactive approach to Articulation • Financial Aid and other offices provide scholarships and other financial assistance for students who are preparing to transfer • Invest in additional grant- and otherwise-funded Special Programs in particular, focus on programs which do one or more of the following: build community, use peer mentors or faculty mentors, and integrate Instruction with Student Services	• Transfer Center: consistent transfer messaging and services including proactive outreach to students • Articulation: consistently collaboration with academic depts which has led to extensive articulation agreements • Financial Aid: over $20,000,000 awarded last yr, IVC specific scholarships provided an additional $527,800 • Counseling Center: over 30,000 contacts annually including 10,000 counseling appointments • Near Completer Project: Increased degree and certificate completion by 700% for students that had stopped out • Holistic Support is a focus throughout campus programs