



UH in 4: On the Horizon

Did you know that 1 in 3 first-year students won't return for their sophomore year? While reasons for student dropout can be complicated, research shows one significant reason can be student's lack of connection to their institution. Nancy Schlossberg, [Marginality and Mattering](#), terms this issue as "mattering".

As a faculty or staff member you can help students connect by providing opportunities for first-year students to form relationships. This can be accomplished through assigning group activities, encouraging out of class student interaction, and showing additional attention to students that appear to be struggling socially.

We have partnered with colleges and departments to provide workshops for first-year students that focus on campus resources, major selection and career paths and workshops that provide intentional opportunities for peer engagement. Review the workshops in the next column for additional information.

Cohort Connection

March 25th, 11:30am - 1pm/Rm 57 MD Anderson Library Basement

This event provided students with an opportunity to interact with their peers, as well as a way to form meaningful and healthy relationships with members of their cohort. Based on Schlossberg's Marginality and Mattering theory, students who feel connected and important on their campuses are more likely to persist and graduate than those who do not. One way that we hope to eliminate feelings of marginality and abandonment is through providing intentional programs such as this.

Student Involvement Workshop

March 31st, 12 to 1pm/Rm 57 MD Anderson Library Basement

Since many students face isolation and abandonment issues during their early years in college, this event is an opportunity for UH in 4 students to address their feelings of marginality. The event is a collaborative event hosted by staff members from the Center for Student Involvement, advising staff from many of the academic colleges, as well as the UH in 4 program staff. During this event, UH in 4 students will learn about the benefits of being involved, what student organizations are available at the college and university level, and information on joining these organizations.

Career and Major Workshop

April 8th, 12 to 1pm/Rm 57 MD Anderson Library Basement

For many students, choosing a major is a difficult task. For that reason, we encourage students to thoroughly evaluate a major before making a commitment. However, for those students with ambitions of graduating in four years, declaring a major within their first year is essential to reaching their goal. This workshop, which is an event being hosted with UH Career Services, is an opportunity for students to learn about different majors at UH, get information about jobs in a particular field, and also get assistance with locating and declaring a major.

Relevant Reads!

In each newsletter we will feature a relevant article related to retention and graduation. Click [here](#) to read Academic Advising and Student Retention and Persistence. This article tackles the issues associated with student drop out. Below is a brief synopsis of the article.

Retention can be highly affected by enhancing student interaction with campus personnel.

Throughout this newsletter, you may have noticed an underlying theme of student engagement, and connection to the institution. This article reinforces the importance of interactions between peers, but also between faculty and staff. It further promotes the idea that students who feel as though they are a valuable part of the institution are more likely to persist than those who feel marginalized.

Academic advisors offer students the personal connection to the institution that the research indicates is vital to student retention and student success.

For many first-year students, interactions with an advisor are the only structured activity on the campus in which students have the opportunity for one-to-one interaction with a concerned representative of the institution. Research shows that the more interactions, like these, that the institution can create for students, the more likely students are to feel connected, and remain enrolled at the institution. This article does a fantastic job at establishing the importance of these connections, as well as the significance of the academic advisor.



Any retention effort must clearly recognize the value of academic advising to the success of students and the necessity that advising becomes a central part of a collaborative campus-wide focus on the success of our students.

In the article, there is a large sense of importance placed on the role of the academic advisor. In many instances, advisors are seen as professionals only in place to assist with registration. Conversely, Institutions with successful academic advisors have an advising staff able to offer students advising from a holistic perspective.

Academic advising is the direct link between the academic affairs and student affairs components of a campus that can build a culture of student retention.

For academic advisor's, it is important to have a general knowledge about all services offered at the institution. It is easy to become an expert in one area, but to best assist our students; academic advisors must be able to assist students in more than simply one specific area. If an institution hopes to have effective retention efforts, it is essential to view advising as the central focus.

Dates to Remember:

03.26-28	Frontier Fiesta	04.06	Last day to drop with a "W"
03.31	Get Involved Workshop	04.08	Choosing a Major/Career Workshop
		04.09	Priority Registration



Contact us:
UHin4@uh.edu
T: 713-743-1603