

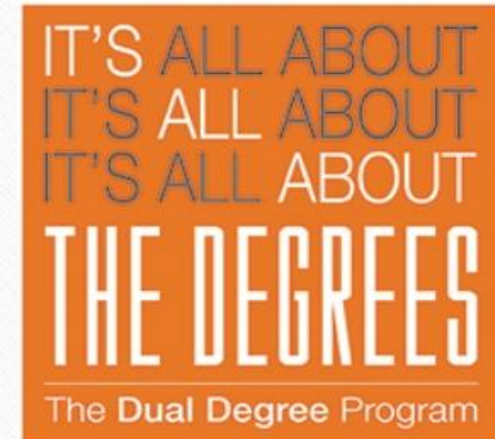
Strategies for a Successful 2 to 4 Year Transition Program



Jessica Specht – Jason Vignone – Sharita Walker
Dual Degree Program

The Dual Degree Program Story

- Spring, 2010 Summit
- Degree completion focus and student needs
- DDP helps students earn two (TWO=DUAL) degrees



Kresge Grant Initiatives

- **Private grant from The Kresge Foundation**
 - Big 5: Joliet Junior College, Kankakee Community College, Moraine Valley Community College, Prairie State College, South Suburban College, plus Triton College
 - Funded (decreasing) for 3 years (2011-2014); received grant extension through 2015
 - Evaluation from external consultants
 - Data collection, measureable outcomes
- **Transfer Specialists (3)**
 - Individualized academic advising
 - Transfer assistance
 - On site support at colleges
- **Peer Mentor Program**

Evolution of DDP

- Partnership between GSU and 17 partner community colleges
- Model program
- Inaugural winner of AASCU's 'Student Success and College Completion Award'
- Winner of the NRC "Institutional Excellence for Students in Transition Award"
- Additional GSU awards which included DDP recognition: American Council on Education/Fidelity Investments Award for "Institutional Transformation' and University Business Magazine 'Model of Excellence'

DDP Partner Community Colleges



Evolution of DDP (continued)

- More than 2,000 hours of dedicated service to the community
- DDP-Male Success Initiative
 - Professional development opportunities for staff
 - Student engagement program
 - New Kresge Grant

DDP Data Highlights

90%*

3.35

3.67

613

423

*after acknowledging students that transferred to another institution directly from community college.

Based on Fall 2017 reporting

Program Model

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THE DEGREES
The Dual Degree Program

Eligibility Requirements

- Students need to have completed 12 – 45 credit hours
 - Students reap the greatest benefit of our program enrolling during this window
- Must be enrolled full-time
 - “15 to finish!”
- Remain in good academic standing with the community college
- Meet with a Transfer Specialist at least once per semester

Benefits for Students

- High touch academic advising
- GSU guaranteed admission
- Financial Awareness and Planning
 - Locked in tuition
 - Cost reduction
- Leadership Development
 - Student Transition Assistants
 - Workshops
 - GSU Student Leadership roles
- Immersive programming
- Access to GSU services



Staffing



- Professional Staffing
 - Director
 - Transfer Specialists
- Student Staff
 - Student Transition Assistants (formerly Peer Mentors)

Strategies for Success

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Process Consistency

“Consistency of the Transfer Specialists is key. I love that students have someone to see and talk to and is both accessible and readily available. In addition, GSU has always been supportive of our community college students, even through the ups and downs.”

- Kankakee Community College DDP Liaison

- **DDP Transfer Specialists’ Processes**
 - Community college curriculum and academic catalog expertise
 - Transfer patterns, cohorts, and recordkeeping
 - Designated campuses

Campus Connectivity

- **Relationships with community college liaisons and student support services**
 - Acknowledge boundaries and build rapport
 - Designated space at community college campus, part of M.O.U.
 - Inclusion at DDP ceremonies and quarterly newsletters
- **Staying linked to the Governors State University community**
 - DDP Team Retreats and weekly meetings
 - Continuous updates to our division and university administration
 - Progressive initiatives within GSU Strategic Plan
 - BFFs with GSU's Transfer & Articulation Coordinator

Student-Centered Values

- **Intentional Programming**

- Cording ceremonies (GSU Convocation & Graduation)
- DDP Induction (offered once per semester) or Online Induction option
- Get Jobs, Get Money, and Get Resources Symposiums
- Community service opportunities

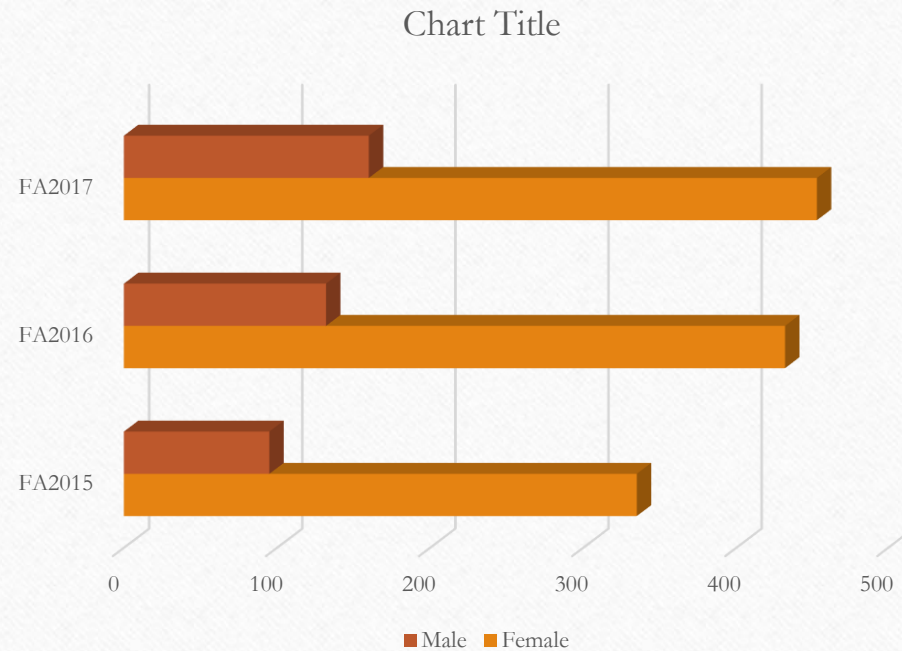
- **Personalized Advising**

- Required once-a-semester check-ins with DDP Transfer Specialist
- Going above and beyond the call of duty
- DDP Study Plan, based on approved GSU Transfer Guides

Data Reporting

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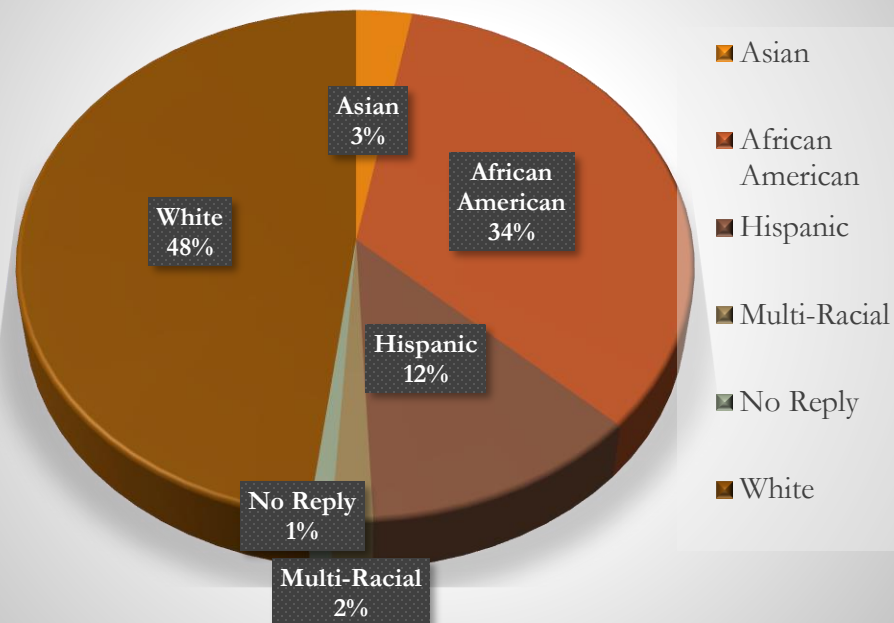
The DDP Student



- 74% of the current DDP population is female
- 16/17 Academic year has seen a rise in the number of male participants
- New initiatives to promote continued successful outcomes for male students

The DDP Student (continued)

September 2017 DDP Demographics



- The DDP program has helped to contribute to the diversity of the GSU campus
- During the course of the last two Academic Years we have had significant growth in our African American and Latino DDP student populations

DDP Scholarships

- DDP Honors
 - Student must have a 3.5 GPA
 - Must be a member of CC Honors Program or PTK
- GSU Promise
 - Student must have 2.75 GPA
 - Must be eligible for the Pell Grant
- 44% of applicants have received one of the DDP scholarships
- In addition to our DDP Honors and GSU promise scholarships we also work with specific Community College partners to offer program specific scholarships

Persistence and GPA

National Average	DDP
*3.11	3.35
*55%	90%

- The average GPA of a Dual Degree Program Student at the time of graduation is 3.61
- The persistence rate of DDP students as of August 2017 is 90%

**National Student Clearinghouse 2016*

DDP Data Initiatives

- Data Reports
 - Tracking Report
 - Demographic Report
 - Monthly Narrative
- Building strong relationships with community college partners
 - Submit monthly reports to CC partners when required
 - Update partner colleges' student databases monthly
- DDP Focus Groups

Q&A



Governors State
UNIVERSITY

Also, feel free to email us at dualdegree@govst.edu