

Student Success Center
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Mission/Shared Purpose

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Student Success Center strives to support student learning toward development and achievement of realistic life, educational and career goals.

Goals

- I. Facilitate the development of current and prospective CASNR students through the creation, implementation, maintenance and assessment of services, resources, and competency-building opportunities that are in accordance with student development theory, institutional goals and professional standards.

Priorities & Action Steps

- a. Work toward engaging all CASNR students in the development and implementation of a personal/career development plan by:
 - i. Developing a personal/career development plan template with minimum expectations for all CASNR students.
 - ii. Notifying all students of a need to complete a Plan of Action meeting within the Student Success Center before reaching the 45 credit hour mark; notify transfer students of the need to complete a Plan of Action meeting prior to the end of their first OSU semester.
 - iii. Providing training for and enlisting faculty volunteers to assist with Plan of Action meetings.
 - iv. Working with IT staff to develop an electronic means of tracking personal/career development plan progress.
- b. Enhance students' readiness for the "real world" with opportunities that support the development of personal identity, self-sufficiency, accountability, responsibility and interdependence by:
 - i. Implementing a strengths-based approach to student development through
 1. Providing all new freshmen the opportunity to complete StrengthsQuest through AG 1011, Freshmen Orientation.
 2. Providing training for faculty and relevant staff on advising using a strengths-based approach and using strengths-based problem-solving in courses.
 - ii. Developing and integrating a personal/career development planning system (the *Access Guide*) into the curriculum of AG 1011, Freshmen Orientation.
 - iii. Providing resources and opportunities for prospective and current students to explore academic and career possibilities, including intentional integration of a broad overview of the agriculture and natural resources areas of study and career options into AG 1011, Freshmen Orientation.
 - iv. Enhancing opportunities for application of academic knowledge to "real world" settings through coordination, further development and marketing of internship opportunities and college-based service-learning projects.
 - v. Actively promoting student engagement in international experiences and scholar development opportunities.

- vi. Increasing programming, resources, in-class presentations and outreach activities that provide critical information about and promote workplace success skills, including topics such as social networking etiquette (on-line and in-person), leadership in the workplace, valuing diversity, and others.
- vii. Increasing programming, resources and outreach activities that provide information in support of positive life management decisions, including topics such as financial literacy and strategies for good nutrition and health.
- viii. Serving as a primary source of information for student involvement in clubs/organizations, academic tutoring assistance, and other critical student needs.

II. Use a collaborative, integrated and unified approach in leveraging resources and producing results to benefit constituents of the Student Success Center.

Priorities & Action Steps

- a. Work toward improving communication and collaboration among internal stakeholders to maximize effectiveness and efficiency by:
 - i. Cross-training all Student Success Center staff, including coordinators, graduate assistants and Student Success Leaders in the three functional areas of the center: recruitment, student development, and career development.
 - ii. Building upon the established joint activities and efforts among the three distinct Student Success Leader groups (Ag Ambassadors, Career Liaisons and FIT SAMs) through continued evaluation and improvement to the selection process and further integration of group training activities, collaborative meetings, cross-functional projects and professional development opportunities.
 - iii. Collaborating with appropriate representatives from the OSU Foundation to identify potential donors and work toward development of an additional funding source for support of programming and resources.
 - iv. Providing faculty, staff, and student leader development opportunities for those in regular contact with current and prospective students for information-sharing and advisement purposes.
 - v. Collaborating with the Ag Student Association and other CASNR student groups to enhance both the quantity and quality of students' connections with the Student Success Center and available services and resources.
- b. Work toward improving communication and collaboration with external stakeholders to maximize effectiveness and efficiency by:
 - i. Continuing to seek ways to improve CASNR's coordination efforts of the Oklahoma FFA Career Development Events through partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technical Education and state-wide agricultural education teachers.
 - ii. Providing opportunities for secondary educators in non-agriculture disciplines to learn about areas of study and career options in the agriculture and natural resources industries.
 - iii. Enhancing employer engagement in the services, resources and skill development opportunities provided to students through the Student Success Center.

III. Increase stakeholder awareness of the functions of CASNR's Student Success Center through innovative and effective means.

Priorities & Action Steps

- a. Increase responsiveness to student needs by assessing student engagement, in addition to reflecting upon student development theory and guidelines for professional practice, when developing services, resources and activities.
- b. Work toward developing a consistent, current and attractive marketing campaign for Student Success Center activities and the college in general, that includes:
 - i. Redesigning the CASNR website with a user-focused navigation and interactive format that integrates student, faculty, alumni and employer profiles.
 - ii. Increasing the effectiveness of the college-wide kiosks through working with IT to redesign the format and increase the prominence of the graphic/video area, through improving placement location of kiosks, by providing a graphical schedule of weekly events on the kiosks, and by making kiosk slides reviewable to stakeholders through the website.
 - iii. Developing and implementing a new marketing theme/campaign that attractively balances traditional and non-traditional agriculture elements and that may be integrated reasonably into all communication modes.
 - iv. Working with employers to brand areas of study and/or degrees with employment options for inclusion in marketing materials and to the benefit of both prospective and current students.
 - v. Increasing awareness and knowledge of Student Success Center resources/services among faculty and departmental representatives to enhance the communication of consistent, accurate information to current and prospective students.
- c. Actively enhance the image of the Student Success Center as a welcoming location for students to utilize valuable resources by:
 - i. Taking a more active approach to marketing the mission, goals and services of the Student Success Center by:
 1. Promoting the services and availability of the Student Success Center through existing student education means, such as within AG 1011 and the Around-up activity.
 2. Developing and implementing kiosk slides that highlight Student Success Center services and resources.
 3. Making efforts toward reducing loitering in the lobby of the Student Success Center and encouraging "use with a purpose".
 4. Highlighting the Student Success Center with a specific page within the new, redesigned website.
 5. Utilizing Student Success Leaders as Student Success Center "greeters" and incorporating "welcome back" signage directly outside the Student Success Center during the first two weeks of fall semester classes.
 - ii. Tracking students who utilize the Student Success Center, thanking them for their usage and providing incentives for engaging with the Student Success Center.
 - iii. Revising and consistently implementing a Student of the Month program to recognize students excelling in their academic, career and leadership/personal development pursuits.

- iv. Supporting and contributing to the revision of the CASNR Outstanding Senior awards application and selection process and enhancing the recognition Outstanding Seniors beyond the college awards banquet.
- v. Planning and implementing special service days for selected student populations within CASNR with unique needs, such as Freshmen Day in the Student Success Center, Transfer Day in the Student Success Center and Senior Day in the Student Success Center.