Student Success

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Philosophy and Mission
Academic Opportunity Programs believes that student success is built on the pillars of self-efficacy and engagement. Students who take ownership of their own learning—building, in the process, the skills they need to encounter new academic challenges—and make meaningful connections across campus and beyond are more likely to continue their education successfully, as well as to positively contribute to the success of others.

The mission of Academic Opportunity Programs, therefore, is to maximize student success by developing students who take ownership of their own learning, are engaged in the university community, and can utilize a range of strategies to meet their chosen goals ethically and effectively.

Program Description
Academic Opportunity Programs seeks to maximize student success by supporting the development of academic strategies, facilitating successful transitions to progressively more complex university environments and expectations, and promoting the development of leadership skills and community connections.

Coursework focused on academic strategies at increasingly complex levels builds students’ abilities to identify, analyze, evaluate, and apply academic information ethically and effectively. Coursework focused on transition generates critical awareness of university culture and helps students successfully navigate the changing expectations they experience in the university environment. Coursework focused on leadership development enhances individual student strengths and interpersonal skills by connecting students to key components of the university and of our local community. Together, these three interconnected foci are designed to enhance academic engagement and self-efficacy, supporting students’ efforts to identify and meet their own goals in the university setting and beyond.

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Bengal Bridge
Bengal Bridge is a summer program for recently graduated high school students who want to start college early and earn a semester’s worth of credits toward their degrees. Bengal Bridge provides a low-cost, supportive environment focused on helping students transition to college. (Bengal Bridge is housed in the Student Success Center, REND 323.)

First Year Transition
The First Year Transition (FYT) program offers one-to-one academic coaching for all first-year students as well as academic success courses designed to maximize student success. FYT encourages all first-year students to enroll in First Year Transition ACAD 1104. This program empowers students to take ownership of their own learning, become engaged in the university community, and utilize a range of strategies to meet their chosen goals. (FYT is housed in the Student Success Center, REND 323.)

Intensive English Institute/English for Speakers of Other Languages
The Intensive English Institute (IEI) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provides academically-oriented English language instruction, tutoring, and cultural support for international students who wish to study in a comprehensive, academically rigorous program. All classes are taught by instructors with advanced degrees, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) credentials, and relevant experience. (IEI/ESOL is on the 3rd floor, REND 338.)

Student Opportunity Development
Student Opportunity Development (SOD) prepares and connects students with experiential learning opportunities that allow them to apply their academic skills outside of the classroom. SOD works directly with undergraduate students to help them find internships around the state, along with opportunities for volunteer work, international experiences in coordination with our Study Abroad program, and service learning to combine community service with academic activity. (SOD is on the 3rd floor, REND 333.)

TRiO Access and Opportunity Programs
TRiO Access and Opportunity Programs prepare first generation and/or limited income students to enroll in and successfully complete post-secondary programs ranging from certificate programs all the way through doctoral degrees. (TRiO is located on the 4th floor of the Museum Building, MUSE 446.)

University Honors Program
As the only Honors Degree granting institution in Idaho, the University Honors Program at Idaho State University is an elite academic program for students who aspire to a more engaging and enriching collegiate experience. The program synthesizes the idea of a structured learning community within an interdisciplinary curriculum. Each class is fashioned into small cohorts and led by extremely dedicated and passionate professors who devote themselves to the development of their students. (Honors is on the 3rd floor, REND 304A.)

University Tutoring
University Tutoring offers individual and small-group tutoring in all academic areas through the Math Center, the Writing Center, and the Content Area Tutoring (CAT) program. (In Pocatello, tutoring is housed in the Student Success Center, REND 323, and in Idaho Falls it is located in CHE 220.)
Courses

ACAD 1101 College Learning Strategies: 1 semester hour.
Covers learning strategies and study techniques (notetaking), textbook study, test preparation, memory, time management, etc. which promote academic success. Especially recommended for new students and re-entry students. F, S, Su

ACAD 1102 First Year Seminar: 1 semester hour.
Provides an extended orientation to the university for new students. Utilizes presenters from various campus support systems, collaborative learning activities, and written assignments which involve students in resources and activities on campus. F, S

ACAD 1103 College Learning Strategies for Mathematics: 1 semester hour.
Covers math anxiety, notetaking, homework, textbook study, learning styles, test preparation and problem solving. Concurrent registration in a mathematics course is required. F, S

ACAD 1104 First Year Transition: 2 semester hours.
Combines content of two courses: Study Skills and First Year Seminar. Introduces students to university culture and to learning strategies and study techniques which promote academic success. Especially recommended for entering students. F, S

ACAD 1105 Special Topics in First Year Seminar: 1 semester hour.
Provides an extended orientation to the university for new students while offering them an opportunity to explore a topic relevant to their majors. F

ACAD 1106 American Culture and the University Experience: 3 semester hours.
Study of American cultural values and expectations and how they manifest in the structure and functioning of a university. Emphasis on effective cross-cultural communication and navigating daily student tasks both on and off campus. Intended primarily for entering international students.

ACAD 1110 Money Management: 1 semester hour.
Covers basic Money Management techniques including: credit, saving, budgeting, debt, food dollars, financial goals, and investing. This is an eight-week course. F, S

ACAD 1111 University Inquiry: 3 semester hours.
Introduces students to inquiry in a university setting. The course will introduce the academic culture of ISU through research and university academic resources. The course will primarily deal with the level of inquiry and evidence expected of university students. Students will learn how to identify an information need, evaluate information discovered, and use information effectively and ethically. Satisfies Objective 8 of the General Education Requirements. F, S

ACAD 1115 Information Research: 1 semester hour.
Develop life-long strategies for recognizing when you need information, locating it, evaluating it, and using it effectively and ethically. Explore a variety of tools and formats in order to find sources worth using/citing in support of academic projects. F, S

ACAD 1199 Experimental Course: 1-6 semester hours.
This is an experimental course. The course title and number of credits are announced in the class schedule by the scheduling department. Experimental courses may be offered no more than three times with the same title and content.

ACAD 2210 Peer Tutor Training: 1 semester hour.
Introduction to individual and small group tutoring with adult students. Emphasis on teaching strategies, communication skills, ethics, learning styles. Graded S/U. F, S

ACAD 2220 Peer Instruction Seminar: 2 semester hours.
Innovative leadership and teaching techniques for peer instructors who will collaborate with a faculty mentor in preparing for and teaching one section of ACAD 1104. Students will explore and co-create teaching, mentoring, and leadership strategies; teach four learning modules; and assist in coaching first-year students in academic and personal success strategies. PREREQ: Completion with a grade of B or higher of ACAD 1101, ACAD 1102, ACAD 1104, or ACAD 1105 (or equivalent college success course). COREQ: Peer Instructor in ACAD 1104. F, S

ACAD 3301 Beyond the Undergraduate Degree: 1 semester hour.
ACAD 3301 is reserved for upper-division TRiO SSS and/or McNair students. This course will engage students in active and intensive research on universities and disciplines in preparation for the graduate school admissions process. This course integrates students’ intensive and individual research with their experience and instructors’ input and guidance to create a compelling graduate admissions portfolio. PREREQ: Permission of Instructor required. F, S

ACAD 3310 Efficient Reading: 1 semester hour.
Emphasis on developing flexibility and acceleration of reading speed and refinement of comprehension skills through intensive practice of rapid reading and comprehension building techniques applied to fiction and textbook reading. PREREQ: Permission of instructor. Graded S/U. D

ACAD 4450 Peer Advising Seminar: 1-2 semester hours.
Supervised experience in assisting another student. Students meet out of class on a weekly contact basis. Course provides ongoing training for the peer advisors. May be repeated for up to 6 credits. PREREQ: Permission of instructor. F, S