**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF**

**Best Practices and Successful Programs and**

**Activities to Improve College Readiness**

**For Arkansas Department of Higher Education**

**Summer Bridge Program**

The Learning Institute and Opportunities for New Students (LIONS) summer program is designed to promote academic success for at-risk first time entering and students who are interested in achieving a jump start to their freshman year. These students are admitted to UAPB for the fall semester and become a part of a cohort of students who reside in the Living Learning Center residence hall designated for the LIONS Program and enroll in courses with minimal costs to students. The LIONS is supported by the Walton Foundation and UAPB matching funds.

Students who participate in the UAPB LIONS program can complete 6 hours of developmental or college-level English and algebra coursework during the second summer semester. Students in the LIONS program are provided support services to include academic, personal and social development. The LIONS students have a pass rate in developmental coursework at 70% greater rate than the UAPB Freshmen. Additionally, LIONS pass freshman-level courses at a 25% greater rate than UAPB Freshmen. The number of students participating in the LIONS programs grew from an average of 28 between 2008 and 2013 to 281 in Summer II 2015.

**Intrusive Advisement**

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff currently requires all first-time freshmen to meet one-on-one with an academic advisor prior to registration. The Office of Basic Academic Services (BAS) is responsible for the initial and follow-up advising of all first-time freshmen and transfer students with less than 30 credit hours. Student will meet with an advisor within the first three to four weeks of the semester to complete initial paper work and discuss academic progress. The second session is designed to discuss academic progress (including any delinquent grade reports), course selection for the next semester, and pre-registration. For students who do not actively seek advisement, advisors are proactive in contacting students, especially when reports of poor academic performance (Academic Early Warning Reports) are received. A post review session is offered to students with 30 or more hours as they transition from BAS to their upper level departmental advisor.

Advisors are assigned to first-year students by major. Initial advisement of first-time freshman includes:

* Review of educational (major) and career goal;
* Review of placement test scores (ACT, SAT) and/or assessment in reading, mathematics, and English (COMPASS Exam);
* Review of general education and degree program requirements (Students are given a copy of general education requirements, degree plan or tracking form.);
* Advisement and course placement; and
* Registration for classes

Follow-up advising sessions allow the advisor to become better acquainted with the student. Students are encouraged to meet with their advisors a minimum of twice per semester. Some goals of follow up advising sessions include the following:

* explore the student’s interests, strengths and weaknesses;
* review progress and make referrals to other campus services and resources, if needed;
* assess whether the student is in the correct major/program;
* help the student clarify his/her goals for the future;
* acquaint the student with available campus resources, educational opportunities, university policies/regulations and procedures;
* plan for future semesters and progress toward graduation requirements;
* emphasize development as “total person,” inside and outside of classroom; and
* serves as a mentor to the student.

Submitted by,

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