

Panel 1: Faculty

Members: Lee Rothfarb, Music
Jeffrey Richman, Physics
Dar Roberts, Geography
Karen Lunsford, Writing
Denise Segura, Sociology

Some common issues faced by all departments with 1st year and transfer students:

1. Weak math background – math is abstract and difficult intrinsically
2. Weak writing skills – organization of papers, language skills, etc
3. Time management - disorganized way of dealing with information leading to the student being overwhelmed
4. The transition to an analytical mode of thinking/critical thinking
5. Karen Lunsford described the “Three C’s”:
 - a. Compartmentalization- all subjects are separate spheres and skills learned in one are not applied to other courses
 - b. Calcification- it is difficult to get rid of bad habits
 - c. Cognitive Overload- leads to the breakdown of basic skills
6. Multi-cultural literacy
7. Difficulty for students and faculty to relate to one another (generational gap)

Some Suggested approaches to dealing with these issues:

- Give diagnostic exams
- Vary teaching styles to accommodate all students
- Teach students how to work, not just what to learn
 - Help students learn how to approach the information
 - Add value to data through organization of problems
- Outline papers
 - Give structure to grading
 - Give example papers from peers
- When working out example problems in lecture
 - Email students 2 days prior to lecture with the problems and areas in the text
 - Discussions in class will increase
- Review a students schedule
 - Set aside hours during the day for them to study outside of class time
 - Help them balance their activities
 - They will need to transition to working during the day instead of just at night (like in High School)
- Emphasize the importance of reviewing class notes
- Make students aware of resources available
 - CLAS
 - Tutoring services
 - Library