

CSULB Best Practices for Students Success

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Practice	Benefits	Current Challenges
1. Student Orientation and Registration in the summer prior to each fall term and winter prior to each spring term	Provides every new freshman and transfer student a welcoming orientation to campus.	Group format due to volume. Not currently mandatory but 95% of freshmen, 85% of transfers participate. Considering mandatory policy.
2. <i>Beach Beginnings</i> linked classes for freshmen	Advising and linked classes for students not involved in another freshman learning community.	Workload. Experience is not as intense as a true learning community due to volume.
3. Mandatory freshman advising in October and November of each fall term	Requires that first semester freshmen see an academic advisor in order to register for spring.	Workload. Advising is in group format due to volume.
4. <i>Learning Alliance</i> learning communities for freshmen	Advising, linked classes, peer mentoring, service learning, faculty collaboration and out-of-class social experiences.	Only 150-200 freshmen per year can participate due to resource limitations.
5. Learning communities for majors in several colleges	Provide advising, academically-linked clubs, out-of-class social experiences.	Serve only majors. Intensity of participation is variable.
6. Mentoring programs	Externally funded programs such as McNair, CORE and RISE provide intense research experiences for undergraduates with close faculty involvement that is highly effective at fostering student academic success.	Limited to selected students. Requires external funding.
6. Degree Progress Summary	Enables students to run their own degree audit on-demand.	Available only since March 2005. Output is complex for students. Transfer credit not always accurate.
7. Graduation Greenlight	Works with students who have been denied graduation and students who are nearing graduation to clear up barriers to degree completion.	Requires expert advisors. Each case is considerable work. Volume is too large to work with all potential students in need with current resources.
8. Proactive transfer articulation	Initiates articulation with community colleges from CSULB campus wherever patterns indicate need. Does not rely upon community colleges to initiate process.	Workload is high. Depends upon departmental interest in participating.