

SWTJC - UP FRONT

Information about the successes and progress occurring at SWTJC presented by the Office of Institutional Planning and Research

February 2013

ATTENDANCE REPORTING – IS IT MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

In the spring of 2010, a daily attendance reporting requirement became policy and student attendance reporting by faculty at 3 weeks and 8 weeks began. Students not attending regularly were notified and attempts were made to get them back to class.

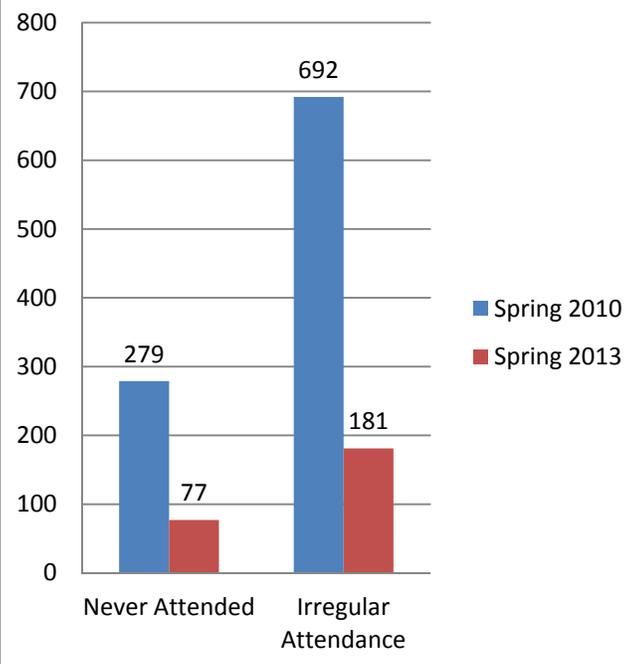
Poor attendance was a common concern for most faculty. It was widely believed that institutional monitoring of attendance would increase awareness among students of its importance in class success. As with many new requirements, what seemed at first like an additional reporting burden came to be less so as administration streamlined the system for collecting attendance information using attendance reporting features in CampusCruiser.

SIGNIFICANT DECREASES IN IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE AND/OR NEVER ATTENDED

Currently, all SWTJC faculty, both full-time and part-time, track student attendance daily with CampusCruiser. From the first week of classes, students with poor attendance are notified and given the opportunity to seek guidance and resources to return regularly to class.

At the third week mark in Spring 2010, approximately 12% of all students were attending irregularly. Today, the number is down dramatically to only 3%! Additionally, the number of "never attending" students is down from 5% to only 1%. The burden of "cleaning up" class roles has moved almost entirely from faculty to the registrar's office.

Third-Week Attendance Report



As seen in the chart above, attendance of our students is improving. The SWTJC Attendance Policy states: "Students are expected to regularly attend all classes in which they are enrolled and are responsible for the subsequent completion of all work missed because of an absence." Our ability to record and track attendance, then offer follow-up assistance to students struggling with attendance issues will certainly result in greater student success!

ARE WE GETTING BETTER - YOU BET!

SWTJC - UP FRONT

Information about the successes and progress occurring at Southwest Texas Junior College

March 2013

DOES IMPROVED CLASS ATTENDANCE RESULT IN BETTER COURSE SUCCESS?

In the February edition of SWTJC Up Front, we explored the improved attendance resulting from faculty reporting of attendance on a daily basis. Is the institution's practice of following up with struggling students and working with them to address attendance issues having a positive effect on course success? Over the past 3 years, there has been 2% increase in the college level course completion and success rates (grades A-C). This modest increase is nevertheless, a step in the right direction. The latest information includes the Fall 2012 data only. When the entire academic year 2012/13 information becomes available we suspect to see an even greater percent increase over the past year.

During the same period time, course success rates for our developmental education students improved by 12%, a significant result. For TSI deficient students, failure to attend class carries the greatest consequence including being completely withdrawn from all classes.

Behind these positive results, we see evidence of faculty adhering to attendance policies and restating to students the importance of attendance and its effect on their success. Our answer to the question posed above is that attendance reporting has resulted in:

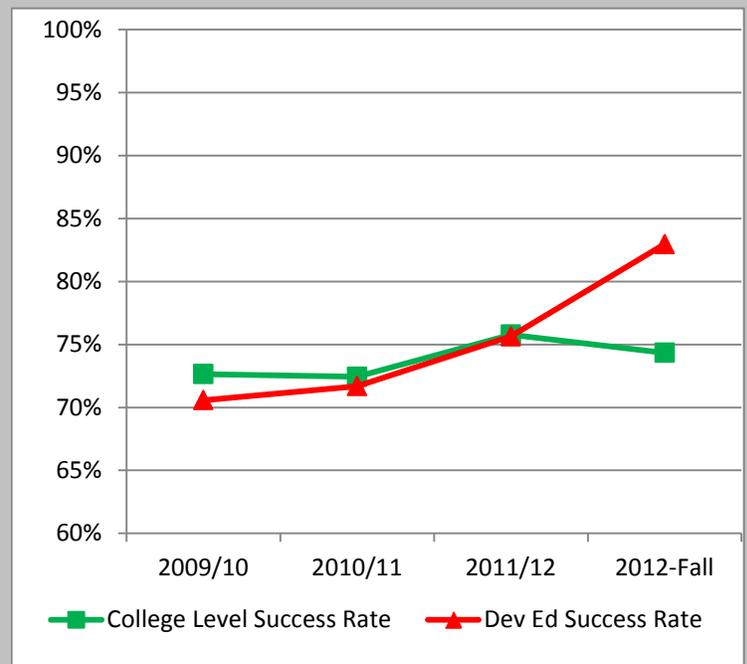
Modest Improvement in college level course success

Significant improvement in developmental course success

ARE WE GETTING BETTER – NO DOUBT!

"The secret of achievement is to hold a picture of a successful outcome in the mind."

Henry David Thoreau



A few questions for faculty:

Have you noticed an increase in class attendance?
What are your observations regarding class participation?
Do you measure class participation?

Please share your responses or comments to the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at the following link:

[Faculty voices on student attendance & participation](#)