The First-Year Student on Academic Probation: Lessons Learned from the WayneREACH Intervention Program

Helen Wilson
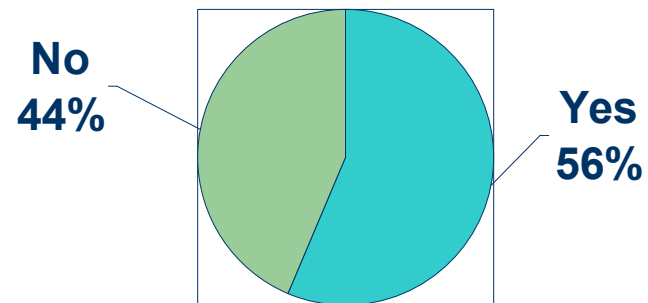
Rosalind Reaves

Wayne State University

Agenda

- Profile of WayneREACH Students
- WayneREACH Program
  - Design
  - Components
  - Pilot Program 2nd Semester Results
- Lessons Learned
- Way Forward
- Discussion

Admission Profile of First-Year Probation Student

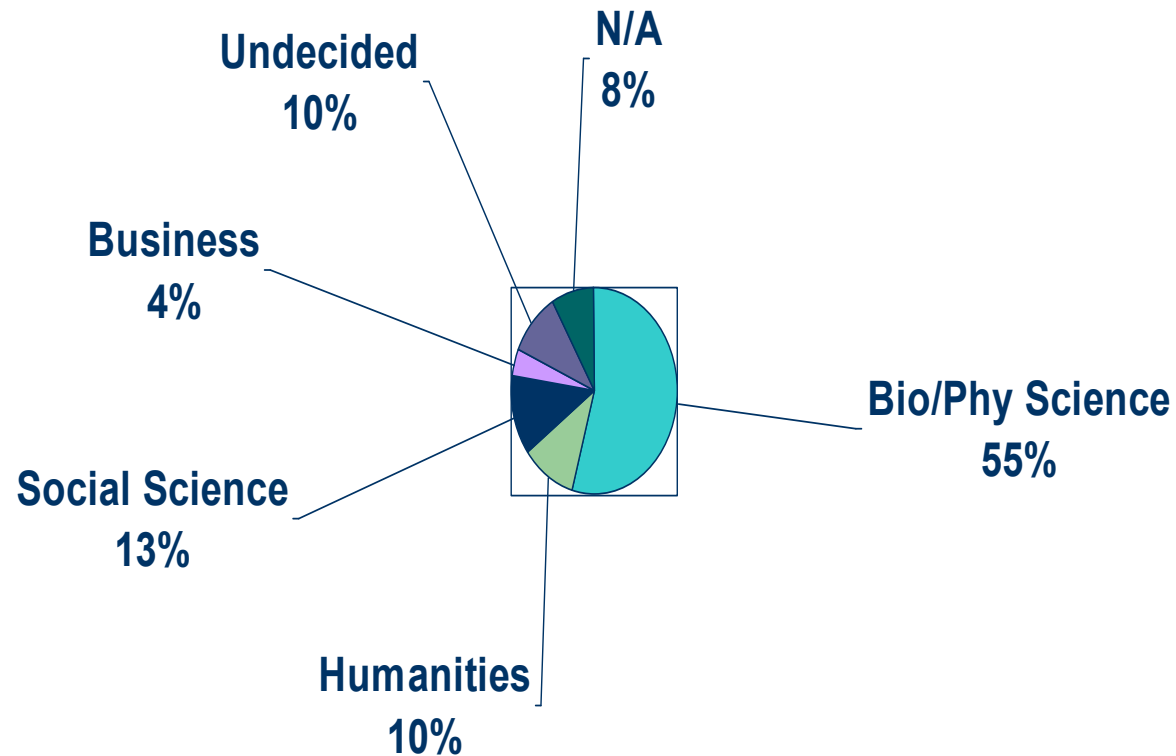|	Cohort (48)	Outliers
HS GPA (Mean)	3.18	≤ 3.5 (8)
ACT (Mean)	18.6	≤ 23 (6)

Academic and Social Profile of First-Year Probation Student

Do you work while attending school?
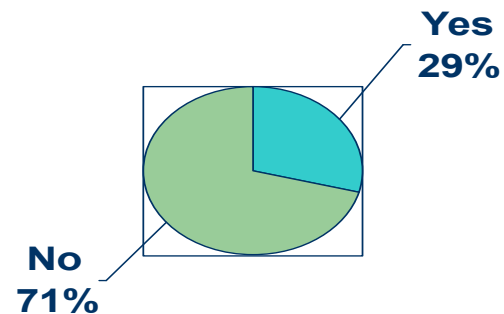
No
44%

Yes
56%

Academic and Social Profile of First-Year Probation Student

In What Field Do You Plan to Major?
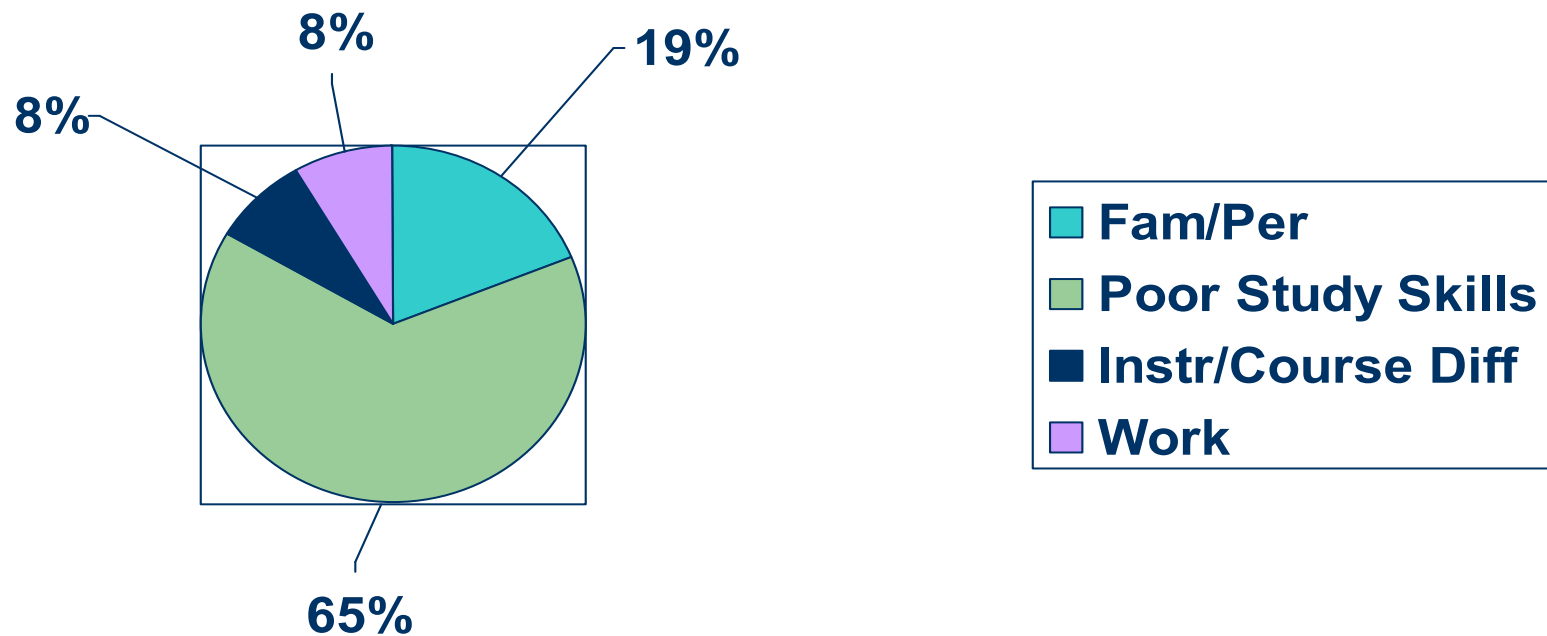
Academic and Social Profile of First-Year Probation Student

Did You Seek Help When You Realized You Were Experiencing Academic Difficulties?

Yes
29%

No
71%

Academic and Social Profile of First-Year Probation Student

Please identify and describe those challenges or circumstances that may have contributed to your academic difficulties.

8%

8%

19%

65%

Legend:
- Fam/Per
- Poor Study Skills
- Instr/Course Diff
- Work

Qualitative Responses
Theme: Poor Study Habits/Skills

"Being nervous and tense while taking an exam and not studying hard enough"

"Not study as much as I should. Like to hang out with my friends"

Qualitative Responses
Theme: Work-related

" I have a daughter and I can't afford daycare, so I get as many hours (with work) I can afford."

"During that semester, I worked 40-50 hours a week and had little to balance school and work. Also, it was my first semester and I was still trying to get used to college."

Qualitative Responses
Theme: Instructor/Course

"Did not understand the course content in History and had troubles comprehending the G.T.A's discussion classes.

"lack of English speaking teacher"

Qualitative Responses
Theme: Personal Challenges

"My parents forced me to become a music major. I know very little about music."

"disinterested in classes"

"Personal issues have constantly been a factor in my academic difficulties."
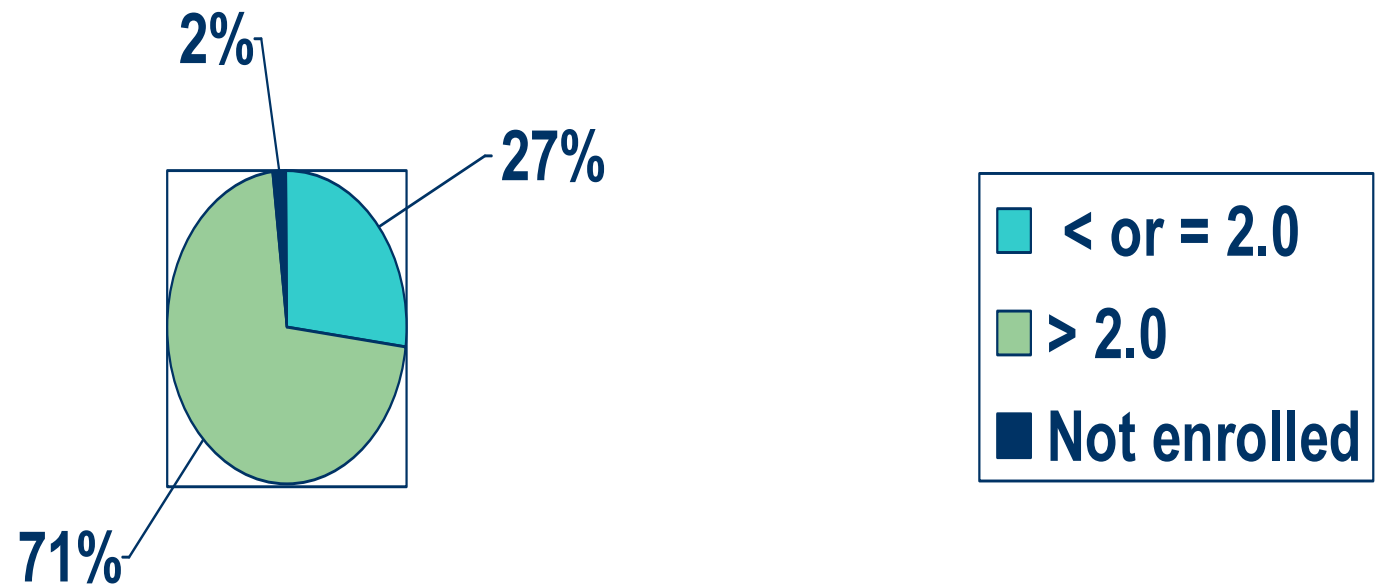
Designing the WayneREACH Program

- Interdepartmental effort with committee
- Establish committee objectives
- Research other programs for best practices
- Conducted literature review
- Winnowing process
- Synthesis of data and program development
- Pilot launch
- Evaluation

Components of WayneREACH

- Holds (probation and REACH) placed
- Targeted email message sent to students
- Student meets with advisor to review Motivated Students Learning Questionnaire (MSLQ) and obtain "WayneREACH InterventionChecklist"
- Student reviews and completes "WayneREACH Intervention Checklist"

Pilot Program 2nd Semester Results

2%

27%

71%

< or = 2.0

> 2.0

Not enrolled

Lessons Learned

- Earlier intervention in the term
- Need follow-up to the checklist
- Rethink mandatory nature of program
- Streamline decision making process
- Evaluate staff resources
- No one "type" of Probation 1 student
- Students are interested in majors that may be incompatible with academic skill set

Way Forward

- Coordinate with Early Assessment Program to identify potential P1

- Collaborate with Advising, Academic Success Center and Career Services to develop online resources specific to P1 students

- Develop follow-up plan with students regarding intervention checklist

- Investigate ways to increase student accountability

Q & A Discussion

Presenter Contact Information

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