

Lion Strong: A Hybrid Freshmen Orientation

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Why

Over 53% of students at Shenango are non-traditional aged and digital immigrants

Campus Goals:
to improve Student Success
to increase Student Retention

Pre-program survey found that the typical Shenango student needs:

- Computer and Internet Skills
 - ANGEL, email, file management
- Reading Comprehension Skills
- Time Management Skills
- Information Literacy Skills

Student Comment Prior to Lion Strong (PSU008):

“During my first days at school, I became literally terror stricken when asked to complete a simple computer survey. That experience was like finding one’s self suddenly in a foreign land with no knowledge of the language, because I was virtually computer illiterate.”

How

7 Self Directed Modules:

- Technology
 - ANGEL, Email, etc
- Financial Literacy
 - Student Loans
- Time Management & Campus Resources
- Study Skills & Note Taking
- Penn State Principles & Plagiarism
- Academic Advising & eLion
- Navigating online, hybrid & distance delivered courses

Common Module Elements:

- Online Videos
- Quizzes
- Hands on Activities

Final Reflective Writing Assignment describing the most valuable module

NOTE: Third Revision to the course design since Fall 2010

Outcomes

Self Reported through Survey:

- 10% improved time management skills
- 25% improved technology skills
- 25% being more comfortable with ANGEL
- 18% less test anxiety
- 10% more effective note taking
- 18% improved understanding of a degree audit

Change in Retention Rates of Adult Learners (University College Data)

- **5% Increase in Retention from 2011 to 2013**

Student Comments after Lion Strong

“Guided me through all the tasks that are required to be successful at Penn State.”

“It was not only the content of the PSU008 program that proved key to my success as a student, but the compassion of the staff that run the program as well.”

“Ultimately proved to be fundamental to my successful completion of all my other courses and monitoring my progress.”

“I believe this course is a necessity for students and should be required because the skills gained are essential for future courses and progress management.”

