



Spring 2015

Using LASSI to Assess Peer Academic Success Coaching

Katie Easley

Western Michigan University, katie.e.easley@wmich.edu

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Using the LASSI to Assess Peer Academic Success Coaching

Katie Easley

Director of Student Success Services
College of Arts and Sciences

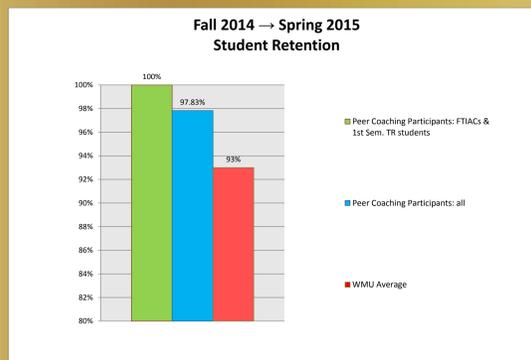


Peer Academic Success Coaching

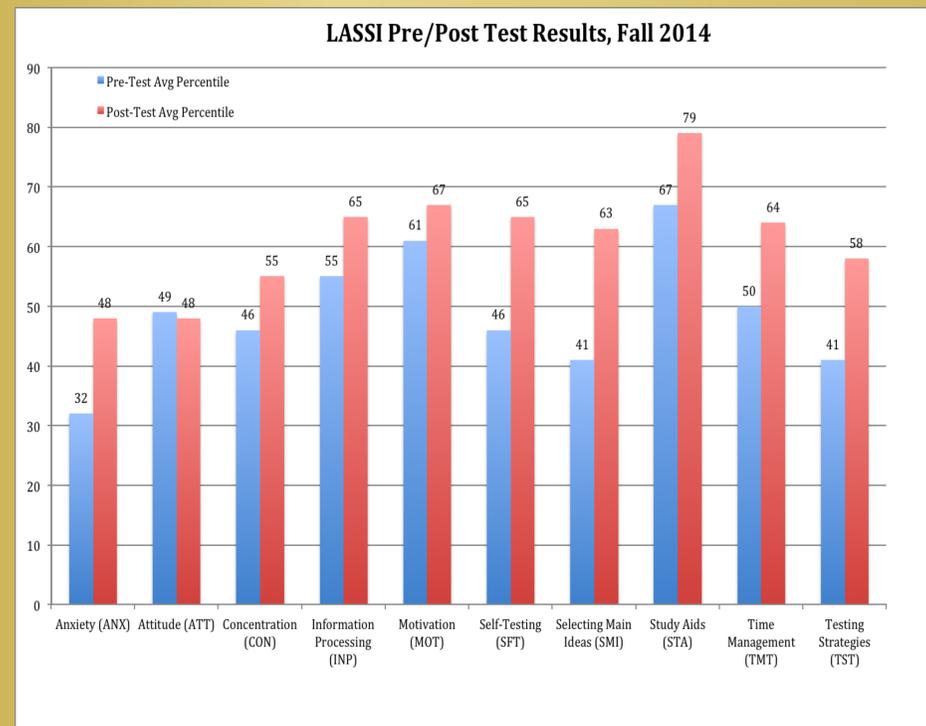
- Students who participate in the program are partnered with a peer coach who provides content tutoring, academic support, and mentoring over the course of a semester.
- Program's goal is to improve persistence and graduation rates of academically underprepared students and students in academic jeopardy.
- Peer coaches utilize various success activities to help students develop their study skills and learning strategies.

The LASSI

- LASSI = Learning and Study Skills Inventory
- Utilized by 2274 institutions
- Used in numerous studies to prove a correlation between study strategies and student performance and persistence
- The LASSI was administered to peer coaching program participants as both a pre- and post test during the fall 2014 semester.
- Provides information on ten scales:
 1. Attitude
 2. Motivation
 3. Time Management
 4. Anxiety
 5. Concentration
 6. Study Aids
 7. Self-Testing
 8. Test Strategies
 9. Information Processing
 10. Selecting Main Ideas



Findings



Challenges

- Of the 90 students who took the LASSI pre-test at the beginning of the semester, only 46 also took the post-test.
- Students with the lowest LASSI pretest scores tended to miss more coaching sessions and/or drop out of the program midsemester.
- Training the peer coaches to use each student's LASSI results to guide the success activities selected to individualize the curriculum



Additional Results

- Fall to spring retention of freshmen/first semester transfer program participants was 100%.
- Fall to spring retention of all participants was 97.83%, compared to WMU average of 93%.
- Average GPA of freshmen/first semester transfer program participants was 3.24, compared to the WMU average of 2.90 .
- Analysis of LASSI test results shows that participation in the peer coaching program resulted in an improvement in 9 different areas of study strategies.
- The most dramatic increases were seen in self-testing, selecting main ideas, and test strategies.

Going Forward

- I am eagerly awaiting Fall 2015 registration, which will provide very telling indicators about the positive effects on long-term retention of peer coaching participants.
- Spring 2015 LASSI pre- and posttests will be evaluated at the end of the spring semester.
- The LASSI test will be integrated as a permanent piece of the peer coaching experience in future semesters.

Acknowledgements

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