

Student Orientation Advising and Registration (SOAR) Session Summary Data: Summer 2012

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND ASSESSMENT

The purpose of the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment is to conduct analytical studies and provide information in support of institutional planning, policy formulation and decision making. In addition, the office provides leadership and support in research related activities to members of the NOVA community engaged in planning and evaluating the institution's success in accomplishing its mission.

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Student Orientation Advising and Registration (SOAR) Session Summary Data: Summer 2012

Introduction

As part of the Achieving the Dream (AtD) initiative, several First-Year Experience strategies were developed to increase retention and student success. One of the strategies being implemented at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) is Student Orientation Advising and Registration (SOAR) sessions. During Summer 2012, NOVA conducted SOAR sessions for incoming students. This report presents evaluation survey results for the students who attended Summer 2012 SOAR sessions.

The results presented in this report include answers from all respondents who took the survey in the 68 day period from Monday, May 21, 2012 to Friday, July 27, 2012. A total of 1,167 responses were received.

NOVA SOAR Student Evaluation Summary Data

SOAR attendees were asked to fill out an evaluation of the session they attended. The students were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the presentation of important resources and procedures at NOVA. They were also asked to rate their level of satisfaction on various aspects of the SOAR session that they attended. This section presents the number of responses and relative percentages for each item in the evaluation. If a response category (e.g., “disagree”) is not included under an item, there were no responses given for that category. The item totals are based on the number of responses for each particular item on the survey. Because some items were left blank by some respondents, the totals vary between items. In addition, the evaluation also included three open-ended questions, the responses to which will be reported at a later date.

As a new college student, the SOAR session helped me to:

Scale = Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, N/A

Item 1: Understand the results of my placement test

Q1	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	520	44.8
Agree	460	39.6
Neutral	132	11.4
Disagree	24	2.1
Strongly Disagree	10	0.9
N/A	16	1.4
Total	1,162	100.0

Item 2: Create a list of courses to take for my first semester at NOVA

Q2	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	608	52.6
Agree	426	36.9
Neutral	93	8.0
Disagree	11	1.0
Strongly Disagree	8	0.7
N/A	10	0.9
Total	1,156	100.0

Item 3: Become familiar with the College Catalog and the required courses for my degree/certificate program and/or transfer

Q3	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	557	48.0
Agree	462	39.8
Neutral	118	10.2
Disagree	10	0.9
Strongly Disagree	7	0.6
N/A	7	0.6
Total	1,161	100.0

Item 4: Understand the Schedule of Classes and the variety of scheduling options at NOVA

Q4	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	585	50.5
Agree	464	40.1
Neutral	88	7.6
Disagree	9	0.8
Strongly Disagree	6	0.5
N/A	6	0.5
Total	1,158	100.0

Item 5: Understand the functions of NOVAConnect

Q5	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	501	43.3
Agree	484	41.8
Neutral	145	12.5
Disagree	16	1.4
Strongly Disagree	5	0.4
N/A	7	0.6
Total	1,158	100.0

Item 6: Become self-sufficient and take responsibility for achieving my college goals

Q6	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	531	46.6
Agree	483	42.4
Neutral	109	9.6
Disagree	6	0.5
Strongly Disagree	5	0.4
N/A	6	0.5
Total	1,140	100.0

Program Evaluation:

Scale = Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, N/A

Item 7: Sign up and availability of sessions was adequate

Q7	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	531	45.8
Agree	500	43.1
Neutral	99	8.5
Disagree	11	0.9
Strongly Disagree	10	0.9
N/A	9	0.8
Total	1,160	100.0

Item 8: Sessions were well organized and informative

Q8	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	612	52.9
Agree	446	38.5
Neutral	80	6.9
Disagree	9	0.8
Strongly Disagree	6	0.5
N/A	5	0.4
Total	1,158	100.0

Item 9: The SOAR presenter(s) were helpful

Q9	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	780	67.8
Agree	314	27.3
Neutral	44	3.8
Disagree	3	0.3
Strongly Disagree	5	0.4
N/A	5	0.4
Total	1,151	100.0

Item 10: The payment and financial aid information was useful

Q10	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	426	36.9
Agree	474	41.0
Neutral	204	17.6
Disagree	17	1.5
Strongly Disagree	9	0.8
N/A	26	2.2
Total	1,156	100.0

Item 11: I learned how to register for classes on NOVAConnect

Q11	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	658	57.0
Agree	396	34.3
Neutral	81	7.0
Disagree	8	0.7
Strongly Disagree	5	0.4
N/A	7	0.6
Total	1,155	100.0

Item 12: The information that I learned was relevant to my needs

Q12	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	625	54.4
Agree	442	38.4
Neutral	68	5.9
Disagree	2	0.2
Strongly Disagree	7	0.6
N/A	6	0.5
Total	1,150	100.0

Item 13: I feel better prepared to attend NOVA as a result of my SOAR Session

Q13	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	641	55.6
Agree	413	35.9
Neutral	81	7.0
Disagree	8	0.7
Strongly Disagree	5	0.4
N/A	4	0.4
Total	1,152	100.0

Item 14: I will enroll for SDV my first semester in college

Q14	Number	Percent
Strongly Agree	618	53.6
Agree	308	26.7
Neutral	135	11.7
Disagree	33	2.9
Strongly Disagree	12	1.0
N/A	47	4.1
Total	1,153	100.0

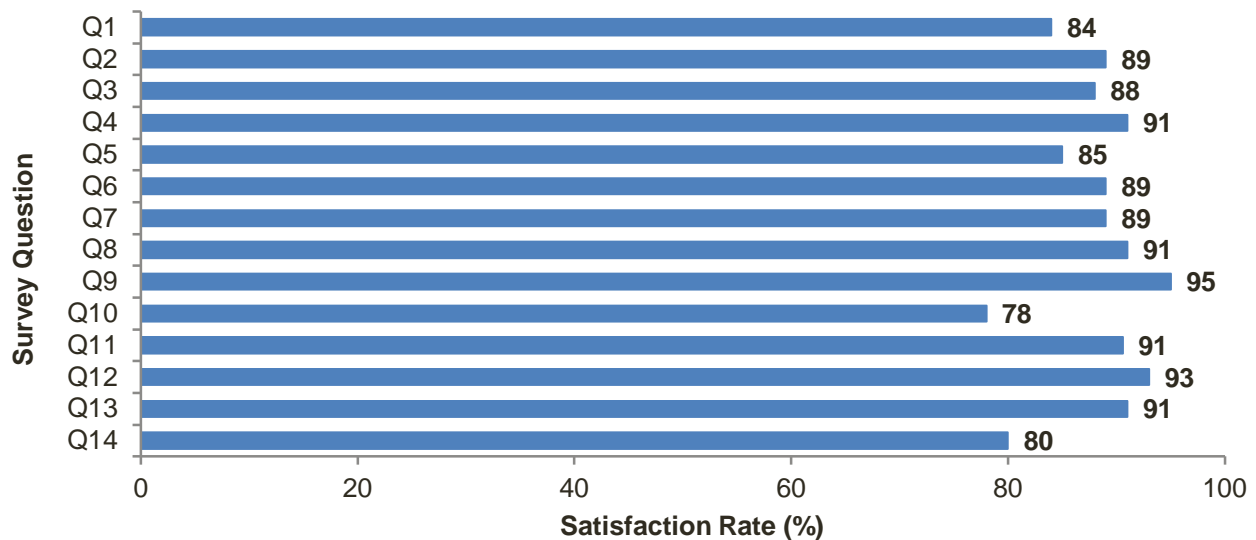
Discussion

For the purpose of this discussion, students who responded either strongly agree or agree are considered to be satisfied in regards to the particular question being asked of them. Figure 1 presents the rate of satisfaction expressed for each question area.

Overall, based on the questions asked in the survey, students were satisfied with the SOAR sessions conducted by NOVA. For every question, except question 10 (pertaining to payment and financial aid information), the satisfaction rate was over 80%.

Concerning the highest rates of satisfaction, approximately 95% of students were satisfied with the SOAR presenter(s), and 93% found the information relevant to their needs. Regarding the lowest rate of satisfaction, only 78% of students found the payment and financial aid information to be useful.

Figure 1. SOAR Session Satisfaction Rates by Survey Question: Summer 2012



As a new college student, the SOAR Session helped me to:

- Q1. Understand the results of my placement test
- Q2. Create a list of courses to take for my first semester at NOVA
- Q3. Become familiar with the College Catalog and the required courses for my degree/certificate program and/or transfer
- Q4. Understand the Schedule of Classes and the variety of scheduling options at NOVA
- Q5. Understand the functions of NOVAConnect
- Q6. Become self-sufficient and take responsibility for achieving my college goals

Program Evaluation:

- Q7. Sign up and availability of sessions was adequate
- Q8. Sessions were well organized and informative
- Q9. The SOAR presenter(s) were helpful
- Q10. The payment and financial aid information was useful
- Q11. I learned how to register for classes on NOVAConnect
- Q12. The information that I learned was relevant to my needs
- Q13. I feel better prepared to attend NOVA as a result of my SOAR Session
- Q14. I will enroll for SDV my first semester in college

NOVA Mission and Strategic Goals: 2005 – 2015

Mission

With commitment to the values of access, opportunity, student success, and excellence, the mission of Northern Virginia Community College is to deliver world-class in-person and online post-secondary teaching, learning, and workforce development to ensure our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia have an educated population and globally competitive workforce.

Strategic Goals

- I. **STUDENT SUCCESS** – Northern Virginia Community College will move into the top tier of community colleges with respect to the college readiness, developmental course completion, retention, graduation, transfer, and career placement of its students.
- II. **ACCESS** – Northern Virginia Community College will increase the number and diversity of students being served to mirror the population growth of the region.
- III. **TEACHING AND LEARNING** – Northern Virginia Community College will focus on student success by creating an environment of world-class teaching and learning.
- IV. **EXCELLENCE** – Northern Virginia Community College will develop ten focal points of excellence in its educational programs and services that will be benchmarked to the best in the nation and strategic to building the College's overall reputation for quality.
- V. **LEADERSHIP** – Northern Virginia Community College will serve as a catalyst and a leader in developing educational and economic opportunities for all Northern Virginians and in maintaining the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the region.
- VI. **PARTNERSHIPS** – Northern Virginia Community College will develop strategic partnerships to create gateways of opportunity and an integrated educational system for Northern Virginians who are pursuing the American Dream.
- VII. **RESOURCES** – Northern Virginia Community College will increase its annual funding by \$100 million and expand its physical facilities by more than one million square feet in new and renovated space. This includes the establishment of two additional campuses at epicenters of the region's population growth, as well as additional education and training facilities in or near established population centers.
- VIII. **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS** – Northern Virginia Community College will be recognized as a leader among institutions of higher education in Virginia for its development and testing of emergency response and continuity of operation plans.

NOVA

**Northern Virginia
Community College**

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