

PTC Composition Fundamentals Focus Group Says...

(From Composition Fundamentals class on February 28, 2008 at Pulaski Technical College.)



Pulaski Tech can improve student persistence and success by offering (equal importance):

1. More diversity in teaching styles – more professional development, have outside monitoring of instructors, do instructor evaluations earlier.
2. Nurse on campus, more counselors.
3. Less homework.
4. More diversity in teaching styles – more professional development, have outside monitoring of instructors, do instructor evaluations earlier.
5. Bigger parking lots.
6. Get grades earlier (alert system).
7. Emergency drill and crisis plan, use TV's for emergencies.
8. No response.
9. No response.

The focus group's opinions of the knowledge students need to have and the action strategies students can implement to improve success are listed in the "Composition Fundamentals Focus Group Results" document available on the PTC Achieving the Dream web site.

The barriers to student persistence and success are:

Affecting 100% of students:

1. Instructor not enthusiastic, does not explain well, is impatient with questions, says it's irritating to repeat herself. Students help each other more than instructor helps. Need better understanding of work schedules so students don't have to withdraw (has to have 8 to 5 work training).
2. Lack of counselors and nurse.
3. Too much homework.

Affecting 75% of students:

4. Instructors humiliate students for asking questions and do not address different learning styles.

Affecting 50% of students:

5. Parking for some students at certain times.
6. Students drop because of instructor.

No percentage listed:

7. School shootings.
8. Inclement weather policy not clearly announced.
9. Inflexible absence policy.

Pulaski Tech provides effective support to students by providing:

1. Small classes, good text, tutoring, computer labs, some instructors provide useful one-on-one sessions.
2. Getting defibrillators.
3. Tutoring, computer labs, teacher will meet at convenient time for student.
4. Small classes, good text, tutoring, computer labs, some instructors provide useful one-on-one.
5. Parking is available.
6. Tutors and advising center available, focus groups allow idea-sharing.
7. Email, crisis plan, intercom.
8. No response.
9. No response.