



STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

STUDENT NAME

STUDENT BUILDING AND ROOM NUMBER

STAFF MEMBER NAME



HOUSING AND
RESIDENT LIFE

The Student Success Initiative

The Student Success Initiative is a program that is comprised of several initiatives designed to enhance student success and retention. Components include (1) **Core Objectives** designed to integrate a living and learning experience; (2) developing **positive communities** among students; (3) a **Survival Guide** outlining accessible academic support and information to on-campus students; (4) devoting staff resources to developing **strong relationships between students and staff**; and (5) implementing an **academic intervention** initiative as early as mid-term fall semester.

Goals of the Student Success Initiative sessions:

- To facilitate meaningful interactions between RAs and students
- To serve as an early intervention with students experiencing difficulties and
- To assist each student in becoming involved in campus life

Structure of this Discussion Guide

The *SSI Discussion Guide* has been adapted from time-tested programs at colleges and universities from across the country. The sessions, questions, and Core Objectives have been developed with the Dixie State student in mind. Each of the four sessions is applicable to a broad range of situations that many students face at different stages in their academic careers. The questions are designed to be a catalyst for a deeper conversation about each student's individual academic experience. With the goal setting and action planning section, the student and RA can work together toward making this a personalized experience for each student. In each subsequent section, previous goals are revisited and refined after a self-inventory is taken.

If at any point during the conversation with the student you notice any behavior that is of a concern, communicate with your supervisor. Use your peer counseling skills to refer this student to the appropriate campus resource that can help with his or her needs.

You, the RA, are an important part of student success here at Dixie. Go forward with confidence that you can have a positive impact on people's lives.

This Student Success Initiative Discussion Guide was based on work done by the University of South Carolina. Adapted and revised for use at Dixie State College of Utah by Brandie Hawkes, Jason Hawkes, Janille Olson, and Michael Olson.

Student Profile

Name: _____

Hometown: _____

Family life: _____

Hobbies: _____

Previous Involvement: _____

Major: _____

Expectations for the school year: _____

Expectations for community: _____

Other Comments:

Dates for SSI Meetings

Session #1 – Start of Fall Semester

August 21-September 4, 2007

Session #2 – Mid-Term for Fall

October 15-October 29, 2007

Session #3 – Start of Spring Semester

January 7 - January 21, 2008

Session #4 Mid-Term for Spring

March 3-March 17, 2008

Developing Meaningful Plans with Your Residents

After each SSI interview, you, the Resident Assistant, will work with the student to set goals and develop an action plan. This action plan will be based largely on the discussion that took place during each SSI session. Work with the student to set goals and plan based on the Core Objectives and goals for the student's own personal success.

Instructions for Development and Use of Plans:

Step 1: Once each SSI session is complete and you have made notes in the provided spaces, turn the page. There you will find the "Goal and Plan of Action" sheets that correspond to the four SSI sessions.

Step 2: Based on the conversation you have had with the student, identify some goals that he or she would like to work toward. Utilize the Core Objectives (found on page 12) for guidance in identifying potential goals.

Step 3: Once goals have been set, discuss the steps required to achieve those goals. *For example –If my goal is to run a half-marathon, it is not good enough to say the steps I will take are to show up on the race day and run. Ask questions of what it will really take to run a half-marathon: I need to eat well, train for several months, possibly buy new shoes, register for the half-marathon, get a good night's sleep before the race, and then pace myself during the actual race with the hope that I finish.*

Step 4: Work with the student to determine which of the resources will be helpful in carrying out and completing this plan. Use the *Survival Guide* and your knowledge of campus to provide the student any additional information or to identify possible resources that can help.

Step 5: Follow-up on the progress that the student has made with his or her plan during the time in between SSI meetings. It is important that this process is more than just filling in boxes.

Session #1 – Start of Fall Semester
August 21-September 4, 2007

Name: _____

Date: _____

Room #: _____

RA: _____

Questions	Response
Where are you from?	
Tell me a little about your family.	
Why did you choose Dixie State College?	
What major have you decided on?	
What classes are you in?	
How familiar are you with St. George?	
Any questions about the Survival Guide?	
Do you have any concerns?	

Set personal goals.

Session #1 – Goals and Plan of Action:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

Student Strengths	Goals for Improvement

Other Comments _____

Student: _____ Date: _____

RA: _____ Date: _____

Session #2 – Mid-Term for Fall

October 15-October 29, 2007

Name: _____

Date: _____

Room #: _____

RA: _____

Questions	Response
How are you doing in your classes?	
What study groups would help you?	
What activities have you participated in?	
How do you feel about the housing standards?	
How do you feel about your role on campus?	
Would you like a more active role?	
What are you struggling with most?	
How are your mid-term grades?	
How is your relationship with your roommate?	
Are there any areas I can help you with?	

Review goals from last session.

Set new goals.

Session #2 – Goals and Plan of Action:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

Student Strengths	Goals for Improvement

Reached goals

Could improve

Did not reach goals

Other Comments

Student: _____ Date: _____

RA: _____ Date: _____

Session #3 – Start of Spring Semester
January 7 - January 21, 2008

Name: _____

Date: _____

Room #: _____

RA: _____

Questions	Response
How was Christmas Break?	
How did your finals go?	
Tell me about your new schedule.	
Did you attend any study groups last semester?	
What new study groups would you like to see?	
Has the Resident Life staff meet your needs?	
What areas could we improve on?	
What activities would you like to be involved in?	
How is your relationship with your roommate?	
Are there any areas I can help you with?	

Review goals from last session.

Set new goals.

Session #3 – Goals and Plan of Action:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

Student Strengths	Goals for Improvement

Reached goals

Could improve

Did not reach goals

Other Comments

Student: _____ Date: _____

RA: _____ Date: _____

Session #4 – Mid-Term for Spring

March 3-March 17, 2008

Name: _____

Date: _____

Room #: _____

RA: _____

Questions	Response
Are you comfortable with all of your classes?	
How are you preparing for finals?	
What has been your biggest success this year?	
What areas can you improve on?	
Are you preparing for Fall Semester?	
Are you aware of the leadership opportunities?	
How have you benefited by living on campus?	
Are you returning to Dixie State?	
Are you staying for the summer?	
What are your summer plans?	

Review goals from last session.

Set Summer goals.

Session #4 – Goals and Plan of Action:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

- **Responsibility/Involvement/Leadership/Academic Success/Personal** (circle one)

Goal:

Steps required to achieve goal:

Student Strengths	Goals for Improvement

Reached goals

Could improve

Did not reach goals

Other Comments

Student: _____ Date: _____

RA: _____ Date: _____

Core Objectives

STUDENT

- Responsibility
- Involvement
- Leadership
- Academic Success

Objective: Responsibility

Definition: *Authority to make decisions independently.*

Expectation: Respect others, yourself, and the property of others.

Skills: Multi-Task Effectively, Time Management, Mentoring, Problem Solving

Objective: Involvement

Definition: *To make somebody part of, or make somebody take part in, an event or ongoing process.*

Expectation: Be an active member of DSC and Resident Life. Welcome Diversity.

Skills: Collaboration, Detail Oriented, Group Work, and Communication Skills

Objective: Leadership

Definition: *The ability to guide, direct, or influence people.*

Expectation: Create opportunities for you to lead.

Skills: Decision Making, Delegation, Motivating Others, Critical Thinking, Empathy, Community Service

Objective: Academic Success

Definition: *The achievement of something planned or attempted - education.*

Expectation: Understand resources, give helpful and accurate advice, Promote academic success among other students, maintain conducive atmosphere for learning.

Skills: Self-Management, Goal Setting, Evaluating Resources,

