

FastTrack™

Software System

FastTrack is a student tracking data system designed to help students connect with institutions and institutions serve their students. The information gathered and analyzed through **FastTrack** provides faculty and administrators with critical early warning data to determine what interventions students need to succeed at the postsecondary level.

The FastTrack System

Researchers agree, student retention, and academic success are best achieved by creating a match between student characteristics and the learning environments created by institutions. In addition, effective retention programs are those that engage students in their studies by creating personalized learning opportunities and experiences.

FastTrack provides a unique approach to:

- ◆ Increase Student Academic Success
- ◆ Increase Student Retention
- ◆ Match Student Services to Student Needs
- ◆ Identify Barriers to Student Learning

The **FastTrack** system was designed, developed and validated over the past 15 years to help postsecondary institutions:

- **connect with learners:** promote learner involvement, engagement and commitment to graduation;
- **connect with learning:** identify and eliminate institution- and student-specific barriers to learning;
- **increase effectiveness:** maximize student achievement and student retention.

FastTrack captures the following information:

- 1 High School Grades: Selected high school course grades** (e.g. English, math, biology, chemistry etc.)
- 2 Basic Skills/Aptitude Test Scores:** Students' scores on tests of aptitude/basic skills (e.g. ACT, SAT, literacy, numeracy, study skills).
- 3 Information on Students at Entry: The Partners in Education Inventory,** a 100+ item questionnaire administered at the start of the first term.
- 4 Information on Student Experiences: The Student Experience Inventory,** a 100+ item questionnaire administered at mid term.
- 5 Student Achievement: Information on academic performance** (e.g., program average, course grades, percent of courses failed, enrolment status, and course load).

(757) 271-6380

FastTrack Impact & Deliverables

- ◆ Create explicit "success/learning" partnerships with new students
- ◆ Provide a diagnosis of individual learner needs
- ◆ Create customized learning opportunities for every learner and promote success by distributing a "Personalized Learning Plan"
- ◆ Match learner needs to college learning and support resources
- ◆ Define characteristics of learner success for individual programs/majors
- ◆ Identify determinants of learner persistence/departure by program/major
- ◆ Define characteristics of learners by program/major and over time
- ◆ Target institutional policy, operations and resources to maximize learning
- ◆ Document learner success and college impact on learners
- ◆ Track institutional performance over time and demonstrate improvements
- ◆ Inform constituencies regarding optimum learning environments
- ◆ Identify inadequate inputs (e.g. funding) which impede learner progress
- ◆ Identify areas for modification to improve student success rates
- ◆ Measure the impact/effectiveness of new retention/learning initiatives
- ◆ Provide a basis for institutional strategic marketing/positioning

www.studentretention.org/fasttrack.html



in partnership with

