Resources

– Retention and Students at Risk

One important goal of SSU is retention of students. As Adjunct instructors our only connection with a student may be one course, yet we can be an important part of keeping that student in school, helping them to locate resources to support them and helping to keep them on track for graduation. When students struggle with our course, it may be a specific disconnect between us, the content we teach and the student or it could be a sign of a broader problem the student is struggling with – affording the university, the difficult dual life of a student/parent, a bad K-12 school that ill-prepared them. Many factors can affect how students function. It is our job to support them and help them to succeed without sacrificing our rigorous standards. As instructors we want to connect with students and to help them succeed. Knowing that there are resources to support students is an important part of this.

**TRIO** –The Trio program is funded by the federal government. “Services include academic support in reading, writing, math and science, in addition to course tutorials and testing. A comprehensive student development component is also provided to meet individual student needs. This includes, personal counseling, academic planning, financial aid assistance, financial literacy programming, and guidance in course selection and registration” <https://www.salemstate.edu/TRIOSSS>

**STEP** --The STEP program is a First-Year Retention Program – does your student need to be connected? <https://www.salemstate.edu/academics/centers/center-academic-excellence/student-transition-and-engagement-program-step>

Do you know there’s a whole office devoted to student retention? <https://www.salemstate.edu/academics/centers/center-academic-excellence/retention-services>

SSU sends out regular notices asking for instructors to note Students-at-Risk. This is not a simple data gathering function but rather an opportunity to marshal resources to try to offer the student support – whether it’s getting food for the hungry ones or citation help for the academically challenged . Submitting your students’ names as Students-at-Risk opens a process of services and outreach which attempts to identify problems and support student success. Reporting a Student-at-Rish then becomes, not the first step in failing a student, but the first step in getting resources to help retain the student. Do not be afraid to utilize these opportunities.