The Academic Advising Needs Associated With Day One: A Leadership Learning Community

Dr. Robert H. Foglesong

- Arrived at Mississippi State in the spring of 2006
- Retired four-star U.S. Air Force General
- Experience in dealing with congressional members, cabinet members, and heads of state.
- Native of West Virginia
Structure of Leadership Continuum

Leadership Studies Minor
Undergraduate Students

Young Guns Summer Camp
1 wk x 4 camps
200 High School Seniors

Day One Leadership Learning Community
230 MSU Fr.

Appalachian Leadership Honors Program
2-Yr Intensive Leadership Experience
(After 4 Years)
100 2nd- and 3rd-Yr Students

MSU Senior Leadership Ambassadors
4th-Yr Students
ALHP
40 MSU Sr.

Graduate Leadership
Adapted from ALHP Model

Executive Leadership Development
Continuing Education

Student Council Workshops
Continuing Education
Leadership Focused 2006
300 Students
Grades 6 - 12

Summer Leadership Conference
Mississippi and West Virginia
ALHP affiliates

Day One Timeline

October 2006
November 2006
December 2006
January 2007
February 2007
March 2007
August 2007

Day One students arrive to campus
Day One Leadership Forum class submitted to University Course Curriculum Committee
Began working on Model
Formed Day One Team
Model revision and creation of informal advisory board
Application, webpage, and brochure made available to the public
Concept pitched to Dr. Foglesong

Adapted from Day One Model
Adapted from Day One Model
Adapted from ALHP Model
Adapted from ALHP Model
Adapted from ALHP Model
Adapted from Day One Model
Adapted from Day One Model
**Day One Basics**

- Integrated university project:
  - Academic Affairs
  - Student Affairs
- Goal:
  - develop character and leadership skills in entering freshmen at MSU
- This development will:
  - assist students in successfully transitioning from high school to university life (academic and social)
  - teach the importance of contributing to a shared vision
  - expand the understanding of self and others
  - increase appreciation of leadership options at MSU
  - allow to practice leadership skills they will use for a lifetime
  - increase the probability of personal and professional success

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**Interest Areas of Day One Instructors**

[Image of a Venn diagram showing the interest areas of Day One Instructors with the following categories: Leadership Content, Fun, Marketing, Sizzle, Service-Learning, Relationships, Affirmation, Support, with numbers indicating the area covered by each instructor.]
Student Selection

- On-line application
  - Contact information
  - Academic major (possible)
  - AP course credit (possible)
  - College credit (possible)
  - Student interests
    - Personal
    - Academic
    - Professional
    - “What is leadership to me?”

Application Rate

[Graph showing the rate of change of day one applications with a line equation y = 4.4x and R² = 0.9974]
Day One Motto

Live...
Learn...
Lead...
Together!

Live…in Cresswell Residence Hall

- Cresswell Residence Hall
  - Renovated within the last five years
  - Study Rooms
  - Wireless Internet
  - Co-residential for first year
  - Located in the heart of campus
  - Strong sense of community
Learn...in Leadership Forum and Core Classes

Day One Pod
~26 students + 4 mentors
College Algebra

Day One Pod
~26 students + 4 mentors
English Comp. 1

Day One Pod
~26 students + 4 mentors
English Comp. 1

Day One Pod
~26 students + 4 mentors
Public Speaking

Day One Pod
~26 students + 4 mentors
Public Speaking

Day One Pod
~26 students + 4 mentors
Public Speaking

Leadership Forum 2 hr

All 230 students + 36 mentors + Leadership Directors

(Options)
Gen. Psych
Tom Carskadon
Day One Students
Given Preferred Registration

Psychology

Day One Pod
~26 students + 4 mentors

Learn...in Leadership Forum and Core Classes
Leadership Forum 2-hr Class

- Meets Monday and Wednesday at noon
  - Monday = Leadership Content
  - Wednesday = Service – Learning Action Teams

- Monday –
  - Deliver leadership content
  - Integrate personally

- Wednesday –
  - ATLs facilitate Action Teams’ development of project
  - Leadership skills are applied, reinforced, and refined

Day One Syllazine
Learn…in Leadership Forum and Core Classes

Purpose of Day One Pods
Learning, Living, Leading -- Together

Pod: the intermediate formal grouping of students within the Day One Leadership Community. Consist of ~26 students co-enrolled in any course who are mentored by 4 student-oriented Action Team Leader (ATL), one of whom teaches the course.

Students within a Pod will:
1. Live in close proximity with specially trained RAs.
2. Learn in a common freshman level class,
3. Build mentoring relationships with Action Team Leader.
4. Build rapport with peers through service-learning projects and social activities,
5. Develop group cohesion, identity, and community significance.
Lead...in Community Service-Learning

- 36 student Action Teams  
  (6 students per)
- 36 Community Partners  
  (ex. Red Cross, Humane Society)
- 20 volunteer service hours per student
- Action Team also designs and delivers a legacy project

Student Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSU Freshman</th>
<th>Day One</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enrollment</strong></td>
<td>2281 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geography</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 75% in-state</td>
<td>• 71% in-state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 24% out-of-state</td>
<td>• 29% out-of-state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1% international</td>
<td>• 0% international</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 49% Female</td>
<td>• 63% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 51% Male</td>
<td>• 37% Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3% other</td>
<td>• 5% other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 21% African American</td>
<td>• 29% African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 76% white</td>
<td>• 66% white</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>61 Academic majors</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Applicants
Creating Student Schedules

• Provided to Provost
  – List of academic majors included in Day One
  – List of Day One core course subject areas
    • Psychology
    • Public Speaking
    • English Composition
    • College Algebra
• Provost indicated all acceptable core classes for each major
• Cross-compared list of possible college transfer and AP credits that each student may transfer
• Registrar pre-registered Day One students
  – Leadership Forum class
  – One Day One core class + Day One Psychology (potentially)
• Informed academic department heads about Day One
  – asked heads to inform their academic advisors

Challenges in Advising Students

• Students’ information changing after applying
• Credit-hour shock – adding a 2-hr class
• Linking desired Service-Learning theme to Academic Core Class
• Communicating with academic advisors
• Balancing structure with responsiveness
• Students eliminating or changing pre-registered classes
• Withdrawing students
Given The Day One Model – what can we do to improve?

• How to:
  – Manage application?
  – Link Core Courses to Service – Learning?
  – Manage chaos of registration?
  – Build friendships with academic advisors?