A STUDENT-CENTERED APPROACH TO HIGHER EDUCATION

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Professor of Chemistry
UT AUSTIN
FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATES

52% 2013
55% 2014
58% 2015
61% 2016
70% 2017
A Student-Centered Classroom:
Every Student Earns an A

A Student-Centered Campus:
Every Student Graduates
An Incompatibility

• UT Austin agrees to increase 4-year graduation rates from 51% in 2013 to 70% by 2017.

• Introductory courses historically have non-passing rates exceeding 30% as recently as 10 years ago, and in excess of 20% in 2010.

The Solution

• Student-centered instruction.
Laude’s General Chemistry Course

From traditional instruction to…..
DATA INFORMS EVERY DECISION

I know each student’s most likely grade before class begins.
STUDENTS ARE SCHOLARS FIRST

I tell students on the first day that each of them should earn an A in my class.
COMMUNITY BUILDING

500 students = 500 teachers
ENGAGEMENT WITH TECHNOLOGY

Hybrid Learning Means 24/7 Learning
CRACKING THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Rigid grading structures disincentivize learning
Killing the Grading Curve

CH301 Grades 2005 to 2014

- A
- B
- C
- DFW

Community Learning
Flipped Classroom
UT Austin Course Transformation Projects (CTP):

- Three-year awards
- Grounded in technological and pedagogical innovations
- Department-level rather than individual faculty commitment
- First CTP awards given in 2011 to Biology, Chemistry and Statistics
- Cross-discipline best practices disseminated through Center for Teaching and Learning
- Mandated accountability and sustainability components
General Chemistry DFW Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>DFW Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>18.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>12.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>11.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>12.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>9.62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Introductory Biology DFW Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>DFW Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>20.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>16.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>10.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>13.64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6.79%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The graph shows the DFW rates from 2009 to 2016, with a notable decrease in DFW rates across the years.
### Introductory Statistics DFW Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>DFW Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>20.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>15.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>12.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>8.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Introductory Statistics DFW Rate Graph](chart.png)
FALL 2016 RESULTS FOR CLASS OF 2017

HIGHEST IN UT HISTORY
13.0 Avg Hours Passed
3.35 Avg GPA

LOWEST IN UT HISTORY
1.4% Hours Failed
4.1% Students on Probation
RECONSIDERING THE INSTITUTIONAL MESSAGE:
EVERY STUDENT EARN AN A
A STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING GRADUATION RATES:
FOCUS ON BELONGING
BUILDING COMMUNITY

All 8,000 freshmen are placed in a 360 Connections small community
ENGAGEMENT WITH TECHNOLOGY
Hybrid & Online Course Experience
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Freshman Research Initiative
PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS INFORMS EVERY DECISION

2,000 Freshman with Lowest Four-Year Graduation Rate are in Success Programs
STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Freshman Year Experience:
- Inspired Teaching
- Supplemental Instruction and Advising
- Peer Mentoring
- Community Building
Student Success Programs: Closing the Persistence Gap

Top Quartile: 1500 SAT
Bottom Quartile: 1050 SAT
CHANGING THE EQUATION
Incentive-based Scholarships for Economically Disadvantaged Students
UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP NETWORK

500 Students Started With Predicted 33% Four-Year Graduation Rate
UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Leadership Training & Internships
UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP NETWORK
Campus & Community Partners
UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP NETWORK

92% Persisted to Sophomore Year
82% Persisted to Junior Year
65% Expected to Graduate in 4 years
UT AUSTIN
FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

51%  61%  70%

2010  2015  2017
RECONSIDERING THE INSTITUTIONAL MESSAGE:
EVERY STUDENT GRADUATES
QUESTIONS?