

Second Year Preliminary Report
For
STEM Success Academy Pilot Program
(GSU SCI FYE Program)
April 7, 2017

The goal of the Pilot Program is to examine whether teaching students Time Management, study methods, providing yearlong faculty mentoring as well as upper level student mentoring as an integrated program. During the first semester students are held accountable in our weekly Perspectives 2001 class. The outcomes should result in better, more consistent academic growth over the first two years of college while avoiding the dreaded sophomore slump. Additionally, we wanted to keep the students together as a cohort for the entire two-year period for their STEM classes.

In the Fall of 2016 a group of 23 students were selected to participate in the Second STEM Success Academy Pilot Program. This group adopted the name “GSU SCI FYE” which I have accepted as the program name with the broader title “**GSU Science First Year Experience**”.

Dr. Suazette Mooring administered the LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory) survey to the 2016 class. The survey compares attitudes at the beginning of the semester to the attitudes at the semester end. The goal is to see if we can change the habits and attitude of the freshman students knowing most freshman student attitudes and habits are inadequate for college success. The results for the 2016 group were similar to last year.

The key take away from the survey is there was a statistically significant increase in TMT (Time Management), SMI (Selecting Main Ideas), STA (Study Aids), SFT (Self-Testing), MOT (Motivation) and for (ANX) Anxiety Scale. Students scored significantly higher on the anxiety scale which means that their anxiety decreased over the semester. There were no significant differences for other scales of the LASSI.

The next group in the Fall 2017 will stay together in their STEM classes as a cohort for the entire first year. Our plan for the first semester schedule follows on the second page of this report. With the help and support of Nikolas Huot, Associate Director for First-Year and Transition Programs, we have developed schedules for 2 groups of students with a maximum of 24 per group. I am targeting STEM students that express an interest in doing research and potentially graduate school in a STEM discipline. After completing the first two years I will assist the students in finding research opportunities with various STEM research projects at the university. I currently Co-Direct the LSAMP Research Program, which is an ideal program to funnel these students into for research. We will continue to assess the effectiveness of this program utilizing LASSI for Non-Cognitive Skill Development and Mr. Huot had committed to doing a Critical Thinking Assessment for the program over the course of the first year. This program is aligned with the goals of Georgia State University’s Strategic Plan to create a pipeline to Graduate School.

The Department of Chemistry has acknowledged the effort I put in with our undergraduate and graduate students by naming me the Director for Student Success in the department. I have also implemented the time management component of the this program in all of the department's freshman level classes and made a video explaining the importance of time management which is embedded in our webpage for students.

EXAMPLE
FIRST SEMESTER SCHEDULE

GSU 1010	New Student Orientation	84847	T	9:30-10:45	*SCI-FYE
Engl 1101	English Composition I	80199	MWF	11:00-11:50	
Math 1113	Precalculus	89391	F	10:00-10:50	
Math 1113		89391	MF	8:00-9:15	
Chem 1211K	Principles of Chemistry	83502	MWF	12:00-12:50	Limit 23
Chem 1211K	Lab	83502	R	10:00-1:00	
Pers 2001	Careers in Med & Health	83647	MW	10:00-10:50	
Phil 1010	Critical Thinking	90539	TR	2:30-3:20	
GSU 1010	New Student Orientation	83475	TR	11:00-12:15	*SCI-FYE
Engl 1101	English Composition I	84271	MW	3:00-4:15	
Math 1113	Precalculus	80366		1:00-1:50	
Math 1113		80366	TR	9:30-10:45	
Chem 1211K	Principles of Chemistry	89612	MWF	12:00-12:50	Limit 22
Chem 1211KLab		89612		8:00-11:00	
Pers 2001	Careers in Med & Health	83647	MW	10:00-10:50	
Phil 1010	Critical Thinking	90621	MW	8:00-8:50	

Dr. G. Davon Kennedy
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Director for Student Success