

Coventry University College

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Second chance

Or

New Choice?

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CUC FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

- Health and Social Care
- Full-time course is 4 modules per year
- Part-time course is 3 modules per year

The CUC Unique Model

- 4 x 6 week blocks
- Block 1 Sept/Oct – Academic Skills for H&SC
- Block 2 Nov/Dec – Working in H&SC
- Block 3 Jan/Feb – Social Care Perspectives
- Block 4 Mar/Apr – Health Care Perspectives

- Students attend 5 days a week
- For 4 hours a day

CUC Students

- Different reason for studying at CUC
 - Not Year 0 for a specific degree
 - Not necessarily for Coventry University
- 44% from 'Widening Access'
- Are they previous failures in education?
 - 'A' level dropout, taken wrong 'A' levels, failed FE L3 course or not achieved a grade high enough
- Do they have low expectations of their own performance?
 - Worked because they didn't think they were 'clever enough' for HE, first in the family to consider HE

How do we

- Retain ?
- Motivate ?
- Stimulate ?
- Achieve ?

Instant Success

- Within 5 weeks they experience their first achievement
- Achieve high self-efficacy (Bandura)
- Strong motivator (Maslow)
- Empowers the student

Assessment

- Use of a range of assessment methods
 - Blog, report, essay, presentation, test (multiple choice and short answer question), portfolio building
- New for 2014/15 - trial of creating their own health promotion using technology – podcast, twitter, facebook, blog, wiki, video, game
- Gives students a wide understanding of methods of assessment they may experience at university or use in future work

Teaching methods

- Range of methods used
- Group work, class discussion, independent research, debates, case studies, poster presentations, field trips (local and distant), practical work (physiology, sensory impairment), role play, reflective practice
- Allows students to shine in an area they are comfortable with while still developing skills in other areas

Tutorials

- Small group (1:5) support mandatory
- Built into course
- 2 hours per week
- Focused – re-teach or summarise a lesson, UCAS application, seminar
- Non-threatening environment
- Builds up a trusting relationship with a personal tutor throughout their life at CUC

Engagement

- Attendance 5 days a week results in continuous engagement with the course
- Leads to commitment and opportunities to clarify gaps in knowledge
- Daily reinforcement of learning
- Forge academic relationships with staff quickly
- Aggressive monitoring of student absence

Student Feedback

- Each cohort has a different experience
- Every module includes anonymous written student feedback which can be acted upon before the next module
- Every module includes a student forum
- Example – end of block 3 high dissatisfaction which led to review of block 4 and resulted in very high satisfaction

Environment

- University environment
- Assessment process identical to CU
- Use of CU library for research allowing access to texts at a higher academic level
- University campus using shared facilities for relaxing and studying

Preparation

- Key skills for university
- Harvard referencing
- Accessing Ebooks and journals
- Resourcing appropriate academic information from the web
- Learning how to be an undergraduate

Results

- We turn failure or low achievement into an advantage
- Success rate of 89-100%
- Retention rate of 96% full-time 98% part-time
- High proportion of students choosing to stay and progress onto Public Health and Community degree course
- We are turning 'second chance' into 'new choice'

What have we done?
Second Chance
Or
New Choice.....

We have changed the outlook of our students
We have empowered them to achieve success
We are becoming the 'New Choice'
rather than a second chance