

THRIVE Program Outcomes
University of Central Missouri
Warrensburg

Student Persistence

- Cohort 1 – Twelve students admitted Fall 2010, seven completed the program and participated in commencement Spring 2012 (58%, compared to UCM two-year average retention rate of 61%)
- Cohort 2 – Twelve students admitted Fall 2011, eleven participated in commencement Spring 2013 (92%); two completers remained enrolled as degree-seeking students with GPAs of 3.0 and 2.82, one will graduate in May 2015 with a B.S. in General Studies and the other is continuing.
- Cohort 3 – Eleven students admitted Fall 2012, nine completed the program and participated in commencement Spring 2014 (82%)
- Cohort 4 – Thirteen admitted Fall 2013, of which eleven returned for second semester (85%); 10 continued in THRIVE (77%) while one was admitted to UCM and became a full-time UCM student (GPA 2.27); the eleven THRIVE students will participate in commencement May 2015, and the full-time student intends to continue.
- Cohort 5 - Fifteen admitted Fall 2014, fourteen returned for the 2nd semester (93%); the remaining student was hospitalized in January and has not returned to date, however we are saving her space.
- Cohort 6 – After 25 interviews, anticipate that offers will be extended to the first 15 candidates on the list in April.
- Principal reasons for attrition: financial hardship, lack of student progress, parent dissatisfaction, personal reasons (health or mental health), admitted to UCM

Scholarships

- Proceeds from fundraising, grants from MOHELA and the Missouri Scholarship & Loan Foundation, and individual donations from THRIVE alumni and their families
- Cohort 4 – 2013-14: Awarded \$25,000 total to 7 Pell-eligible students; 4 received \$1250/semester; 3 received \$2500/semester. 2014-15: Fall 2014: Awarded \$13750 to 8 students, amounts ranged from \$1250-2500.
- Cohort 5 – 2014-15: Fall 2014 - Awarded 11,250 total to 9 Pell-eligible students; each received \$1250. The same amount is reserved for Spring 2015
- Increased diversity in terms of economic status, rural and urban schools, type of disability.

Progress: Grades/Ratings

- Overall, students have maintained the equivalent of a 3.00 GPA (Progressing or better on the THRIVE scale) on all courses attempted. Three students have been advised out of the program due to lack of progress (Cohort 1); one was not allowed to return because of behavioral concerns (Cohort 2).

Participation in College Life

- All THRIVE students are integrated with typical UCM students for approximately 50% of their coursework, and have regular contact with UCM student volunteers (e.g., tutors, athletic trainers)
- 100% of continuing students participated at least weekly in more than one campus or community activity (as verified by planners and sign-out sheets)
- 100% of continuing students participated at least once per semester in three different extracurricular activities

Pre/Post Measures

- Students who completed the THRIVE Program demonstrated measurable improvement in academic, communication, social, self-advocacy and independent living skills between admission and completion of program.
- Anecdotal reports from THRIVE completers and their parents are generally positive, and reflect a high level of satisfaction with program structure and outcomes.
- It appears that a significant proportion of those who responded are employed at least part-time in supportive or competitive settings, in the career areas addressed by their person-centered plans and internships (e.g., child care, landscaping). Several continue to take classes at their local community colleges, and three have become full-time UCM students.
- Data have been gathered from a number of sources, including two external evaluations. The most recent, Fall 2014, contacted students from Cohorts 1-3 and their parents by phone and email in an effort to assess satisfaction, as well as information about living situations and employment status. Their response rate was low (less than 50%), so we are making follow-up phone calls this Spring to try to fill in the gaps.
- Housing continues to be a challenge for many of our completers who are not in a community with many resources, and parents continue to play a large role in assisting with finances. Several students are living in apartments or homes with roommates. In the Kansas City area, four of our alums are living in The Mission Project 2: <http://www.themissionproject.org/>
- Perhaps the most surprising outcome was when Alex and Gabe (from Cohort 1) announced right before their Spring 2012 graduation that they were going to get married and move to Washington D.C. Their wedding was in June 2014, and I recently ate dinner with them at their favorite Georgetown Italian restaurant. Alex is taking a semester off from the sign-language interpreter program at Gallaudet, and Gabe is working as a peer mentor for younger students with disabilities

with a DC area nonprofit. In lieu of wedding gifts, they asked that donations be made to the THRIVE Program via the Greater Kansas City Foundation & Affiliated Trusts to help fund scholarships.

- We have lots of candid photos that illustrate the range of program activities on our facebook page:
UCM - THRIVE