



Harris-Stowe State University Strategic Enrollment Plan

Harris-Stowe State University's primary mission has been to serve the higher education needs of the metropolitan St. Louis region. Specifically Harris-Stowe is strongly committed to providing a quality higher education that is affordable and accessible to the diverse populations within and beyond the metropolitan St. Louis region. Given its mission and current Open Enrollment Admissions standards, the University took a proactive approach in support of both President Obama's initiative in strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and Governor Nixon's four-point agenda to increase the enrollment, retention and graduation rates of Missourians.

The University received a record number of applications for the fall 2010 semester (1923) - an increase of more than 15 percent from the previous year. Acknowledging that many of the first-time freshmen applicants were academically underprepared, it was decided that the University would best accomplish its mission and that of President Obama and Governor Nixon (increased student retention and graduation rates) through an extensive re-organization of its academic support programs. A mandatory summer enrichment/pre-college academy for academically underprepared students was implemented along with a student information system that would assist in the supervision of student progress. In addition, 'the University significantly increased efforts to establish and enhance collaborative agreements with both 2- year and 4-year institutions.

To accomplish these goals the University only fully admitted first-time freshmen that graduated from high school with an overall GPA of 2.0 or above and conditionally admitted those that were academically underprepared if they successfully completed the mandatory Summer Enrichment/Pre-College Academy. Those first-time freshmen applicants who were unwilling to participate or did not successfully complete the mandatory Summer Enrichment/Pre-College Academy were encouraged to enroll at one of the local community colleges to begin a course of study to strengthen their academic skills. These students were also encouraged to transfer to HSSU upon completion of their 2-year degree; further supporting Governor Nixon's agenda while strengthening the University's articulation agreements with the community colleges.

Unfortunately, even with record applications, limited financial resources reduce the number of new academically underprepared students the University can effectively assist at one time. In an effort to ensure that its' new and current students' academic service levels were not compromised after a recent state revenue reduction, the University established a Center for Retention and Student Success (CRSS). Although the University's total enrollment has temporarily decreased, there is an eagerly anticipated increase in the total number of students that will persist and graduate as a result of the intense efforts to close the academic achievement gap.

Again, Harris-Stowe State University continues to strive for academic excellence and is dedicated to the advancement of its students through learning. Every social institution is in some way special; educational institutions are particularly so because they alone have been established to promote learning in formal and appropriately designed settings. Harris-Stowe State University recognizes and accepts as an integral aspect of its mission, the task of providing urban-orientated experiences, academic resources, and accessibility – both geographically and financially, which will enable its students to function as constructive agents of change for the improvement of urban living.