Assessment of Student Retention and Success; Course, Curriculum and Program Development

A Case Study

► Unit(s):
Schools and Colleges; Academic Departments; Student Academic Services; Learning and Tutorial programs; Student Athletics programs; Residential Learning Communities

► Customers of the Process and Their Needs:
Schools and Colleges; Academic Departments; Student Academic Services; Learning and Tutorial programs; Student Athletics programs; Residential Learning Communities – all these groups wish to examine student records to assess the impact of their programs on student success and/or retention at UW-Madison

► Problem/Opportunity Statement:
Develop user interfaces to online student records that are easily adaptable to a variety of client needs, including access to a wide variety of data sources, with a dynamic reporting interface

► Changes Made:
All the above groups are just learning how to use the technology, so no programmatic impact has been seen yet.

► Results to Date and Expected:
Seven OLAP (OnLine Analytical Processing) cubes have been built so far with another six in the planning stages; a wide range of clients with a wide range of computer skills are experimenting with the concept

► Lessons Learned:
The logic for the OLAP interfaces appears to be easily adaptable to a wide variety of client needs, i.e., the OLAP cubes are easily customizable – most student records cube will likely fall into one of 3 or 4 prototypical categories whose overall logic has been tested, thus, making it easy to copy/adapt the logic to specific client needs.

► Next Steps:
Keep developing/adapting cubes and finding individuals interested in learning how to use and maintain the technology – appears to be no shortage of clients so far

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