Developing and Assessing the Come Back to Mānoa Program: Why Seniors Leave and How to Help Them Graduate

Come Back to Mānoa, Outreach College
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Overview of CBM
- Established Summer 2014
- Supports undergraduate Seniors who departed UHM to return and graduate
- Outreach efforts to former students:
  - Senior standing (90+ credits)
  - 2.0+ GPA
  - Enrolled at some point since Fall 2006 but not in last 2 semesters
- Expanded to assist referrals who did not meet enrollment window or credit criteria

Introduction
- Nov 2013 ~900 Seniors left/year → Proposal for CBM
- June 2014 CBM program established, 1 coordinator hired
- Fall 2014 Data analysis → 1092 students outreached
- Fall 2015 Data analysis → 493 new students outreached

Mission and Objectives
Mission Statement:
The Come Back to Mānoa program aims to identify and reach out to undergraduate seniors in good academic standing who left UH Mānoa without graduating and support them in completing their degree.
Objectives:
- Ensure non-enrolled Seniors are aware of student services
- Support the identified students in completing their degree
- Increase institutional graduation numbers

Why Seniors Left

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Leaver’s Survey</th>
<th>CBM Anecdotal Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Senior Respondents</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONAL reasons</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC reasons</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL reasons</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insufficient SUPPORT SERVICES</td>
<td>13%</td>
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</tbody>
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Why Seniors Return

- Intrinsic Motivation
- Career Advancement
- Financially Able Now

Barriers to Graduation
- Affordability
  - Not eligible for financial aid – too many credits, taking one course
  - Scholarships based on merit and often require full-time enrollment
- Administrative
  - Invalid contact information in Banner (for outreach efforts)
  - Paper-laden, duplicative, inconsistent, and face-to-face processes
  - Later registration for readmitted students (needed courses full)
  - Graduation date for Eligibles
  - Study Abroad withholds grades if outstanding balance
- Academic
  - HSL requirement
  - Need online, evening, or weekend courses
  - No online OC Focus courses prior to Spring 2015

Major Impact of CBM
- 54 Returned & Enrolled
- 13 Anticipated to Graduate
- 43 Graduated

Next Steps/Future Thoughts
- Survey – in process
- Funding for students
- Mentoring program
- Faculty: consider non-traditional students in classes, teaching online courses, and working long distance with students

“Your email tonight has given me hope of returning to Mānoa to refind the student I was.”

Coordinator with a CBM Graduate at Commencement

“Thank you for all your hard work and motivation in helping me complete my degree. My wife and I are very grateful to you and the CBM program.”

Flowers from a CBM Graduate

“Thank you SO MUCH! I am in deep gratitude for ALL of the assistance you have provided. I would have given up on completing my degree. But when you emailed me, I was more than delighted to comply. You have renewed my interests in furthering my goals! I cannot THANK YOU ENOUGH!!!”