

Points of Distinction Student Development 2007-2014

Since 2007, Student Development has organizationally restructured several programmatic areas with the intention of rigorously aligning human and budgetary resources with student need. Some of these organizational interventions include: transition of numerous 12 month to 10 month positions, development of Offices of Strengths and Vocation, expansion of resident director duties to include other significant responsibilities (housing, outdoor leadership, student conduct, summer residential supervision), and integrating the academic support and wellness units to form Student Success and Wellness.

Student Development coordinates a comprehensive two-day New Student Orientation (NSO) each August for all incoming freshmen, transfer students, and their families. This event is distinguished by its full campus collaboration and broad sense of ownership by all participants.

Student Development created the student care group in 2004 as a means of identifying and intervening with students at high risk of attrition. This group meets weekly and has become increasingly sophisticated in its collaborative intervention efforts on behalf of students. While behavioral intervention teams have become commonplace in universities, PLNU's model was developed earlier than most and effectively intervenes personally with dozens of high risk students each year.

In response to student, parent, and employer feedback, Student Development developed the Offices of Strengths and Vocation in 2010. This vibrant organization offers undergraduate students: developmentally targeted vocational assessment, networking opportunities with local business, employment, internships, and real world skill building for success after graduation.

The student experience is characterized by numerous opportunities for students to be mentored and exercise meaningful leadership. Some of the opportunities within sd include: resident assistant, outdoor leadership guide development program, associated student body officer, club officer, Team Barnabas, and peer educator.

MOSAIC (multi-cultural opportunities for students in community) provides programming, advising, and support to cultural clubs and organizations.

In 2011, PLNU athletics was accepted into candidacy for NCAA division II. This has resulted in an increasing level of professionalization in the areas of compliance, coaching, recruiting, and competition.

In 2011, the Student Success and Wellness unit was formed as a means of providing a seamless set of services to students in the areas of: academic advising for undeclared students, disability resources, peer tutoring and mentoring, brief personal growth and mental health counseling, and basic health services.