

The initial scope of this research paper is to analyze the different rates of student success, measured in graduation rates and academic success across areas with a large amount of support for students, and analyzing the correlation between access to these resources and their success as students. Applying this back to Capilano University, this information can then be utilized to gauge the amount of support offered to students at Capilano University and then offer an educated opinion on the level of success that is potentially supported.

The first resource that will be utilized for this research topic is Marilee J. Ludvik's book "Demonstrating Student Success: A Practical Guide to Outcomes-Based Assessment of Learning and Development in Student Affairs". This resource is particularly useful for this research topic as it offers an in-depth guide to the potential avenues of resources and support to student life and its implications for the student's benefits. Additionally, it offers an insightful assessment to these methods, and provide "access to research about how well the programs that typically wall within divisions of student affairs contribute to overall student success" (Bresciani,135). It goes on to discuss the "appropriate balance of program improvement and student learning" (Bresciani, 138) when it comes to improve the opportunities for students to succeed. Relating this back to Capilano University, course are often reworked and there are plenty of avenues for students to offer feedback on both their professors and the courses that they are involved in, which in turn can provide this level of balance.

The second source I utilized for this research topic is Joseph A. Salem Jr.'s paper titled "Open Pathways to Student Success: Academic Library Partnerships for Open Educational Resource and Affordable Course Content Creation and Adoption". This article is useful for this research paper because it covers in great detail the uses for having a greater scope of library resources available to students and the academic benefits for these expanded resources for all

those involved. This proves to be particularly useful to my paper because it is a resource that I personally find to be extremely useful. On a personal level, I feel strongly that greater library resources for students lead to a much greater capability to produce better student work and academic research. This article also goes on to claim that “textbook prices rose by 1041% from 1977 to 2015, over three times the rate of inflation” (Salem, 1), which in and of itself is a staggeringly high barrier to student success for the majority of students who attend universities, including Capilano. It also goes on to mention that “the cost of and access to course materials has emerged as a student success issue” (Salem, 5), as students who cannot afford to purchase their textbooks are more likely to fail their courses, and thus not achieve academic success. Within the scope of Capilano University, I personally have found that a large portion of professors have opted to either provide copies of the required texts themselves, in the form of free access journal articles and readings, or encourage and assist students in finding the cheapest alternative to a newest version of the required texts. This reflects on their commitment to student success, and offers an immense amount of support for students at Capilano University.

Another resource that I utilize is Danie de Klerk et. Al.’s journal article, “Paving the Road to Success: Reflecting critically on year one of an undergraduate student support programme at a large South African university”. This source is fairly in-depth in regard to the information it contains that pertains to student success and the resources and levels of support that they received throughout their academic career. The one downside of this article, despite its wealth of knowledge in regard to my research topic, is the fact that it is based in South Africa. I initially wanted to keep my sources to a North-American centric scope, but this source’s information and the depth that it goes into on my research topic is too great to ignore. This article in particular stresses the need for “equity of access and fair chances of success to all who are

seeking to realise their potential through higher education” (de Klerk, 2), as it reflects that support and access to it is a major factor to a student’s academic success. Within the realm of Capilano University, all current students have access to all of the possible avenues for support. There is no discrimination between who receives support and who is denied access; every student has an inherent ability to access as much support as they require, and are often encouraged by their professors to utilize as many of these optional avenues, such as the writing center or student counselling, whenever they feel the need to use them.

The next source that I am consulting in regard to my research topic is Mary Larson et. Al.’s “Using student health data to understand and promote academic success in higher education settings” article. This source takes my topic’s scope to a health perspective, by utilizing the correlations between avenues for student health and mental support and relating it to the success of students who have access to these resources. While this source does focus heavily on the mental health support aspects of student resources, it does a very good job of illustrating the impact that these resources have on academic success for higher education students. It illuminates the fact that “Education and health are inextricably connected” (Larson, 590), highlighting the fact that support for mental and physical health is directly linked to the levels of success that a student can achieve. It expands on this theme further by stating that “it is well known that academic success is influenced by cognitive factors” (Larson, 591), expressing the need for these support functions and increased access to them for students.

The final resource that I reference for this research paper is Perry C. Francis’ and Aaron S. Horn’s research brief, “Counseling Services and Student Success”. While this is a research brief, it is directly related to my research topic and therefore quite useful. It provides a numerical and in-depth look at the correlation between student success and student counselling services that

are available to students. This is unique because it is an in-depth research brief, whereas the other articles or reviews of briefs, whereas this is the actual research material. This gives it a unique quality over the other four sources that I have previously mentioned. This makes it especially noteworthy, as it highlights the notion that “receiving counseling services is associated with academic performance and the likelihood of graduation” (Horn, 1) in a much more numerical and quantitative manner. By this point, the concept that student health support and academic success are intrinsically linked is well established, but the numerical value of this research brief adds an especially valuable quantitative scope to this topic. It also truly highlights how well supported we are at Capilano University, as it points out that “The effectiveness of outsourcing counseling services [...] remains questionable” (Horn, 8). This highlights the need for on-campus support for students to have access to these resources and have a higher chance for academic success.

To conclude, this research topic in regard to the connection between student success and the support and resources available to students appears to have a wealth of information available to it. The methods to access this information is fairly straightforward research methods, utilizing both primary and secondary sources that address the multitude of issues surrounding this topic. The sources I have chosen to elaborate on this topic quite a wide scope and range of depth in regard to my research topic, which in turn provides an interdisciplinary look into the issues surrounding student success and access to resources and support. All of the sources that I have discussed support the concept that the more resources and support that is made available to students, the greater levels of academic success and academic works that the student can accomplish. This highlights the benefits of attending Capilano University, as we as students have a wide range of different avenues for support and have a vast amount of access to resources for

both mental and physical health, as well as academic resources. As such, students at Capilano University have a wide avenue for academic success, due in part to our access to students resources and support.

Works Cited:

Bresciani, Ludvik, Marilee J., et al. "Demonstrating Student Success: A Practical Guide to Outcomes-Based Assessment of Learning and Development in Student Affairs", Stylus Publishing, 2010

de Klerk, Danie, et al. "Paving the Road to Success: Reflecting Critically on Year One of an Undergraduate Student Support Programme at a Large South African University." *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa*, vol. 5, no. 1, 01 Jan. 2017, pp. 1-13.

Francis, Perry C., et al. *Counseling Services and Student Success*. Research Brief. *Midwestern Higher Education Compact*, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, 01 Feb. 2016.

Larson, Mary, et al. "Using Student Health Data to Understand and Promote Academic Success in Higher Education Settings." *College Student Journal*, no. 4, 2016, p. 590-593.

Salem, Jr., Joseph A. "Open Pathways to Student Success: Academic Library Partnerships for Open Educational Resource and Affordable Course Content Creation and Adoption." *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, vol. 43, 01 Jan. 2017, pp. 34-38.