

SDES RETENTION BRIEFINGS

LEAD Scholars Program



Program Overview

LEAD Scholars, established in 1995, is a selective, two-year leadership development program for students committed to academic excellence and making a difference in the world around them. Learning about leadership in the classroom is only meaningful when the knowledge is put to use. LEAD Scholars guide and inspire their peers in a variety of ways on campus. Our scholars make a difference in the UCF and Central Florida community with thousands of hours of community service each year.

LEAD Scholars Best Retention Practices

- ❖ Provide a physical space that allows LEAD Scholars to congregate and build community, promoting a supportive campus environment.
- ❖ Provide a living-learning community component which emphasizes leadership, service, and academic achievement.
- ❖ Facilitate small classes, with up to 25 students, in order to increase mentoring relationships between LEAD Scholars Program instructors, peer mentors, and students.
- ❖ Require service learning experiences in all LEAD Scholars classes to allow students to practice the theoretical study of leadership in an out of classroom environment, enriching their educational experience.

LEAD Scholars Student Demographics (Fall 2012)

- ❖ 283 first year students were selected to become part of LEAD Scholars
- ❖ LEAD Scholars by Ethnicity:

UGRD Ethnicity	LEAD Scholars		UCF Undergrad Total	
	Count	%	Count	%
Asian	28	9.89%	2,775	5.44%
Black	37	13.07%	5,162	10.13%
Hispanic	48	16.96%	10,304	20.22%
White	159	56.18%	30,171	59.20%
Other	11	3.89%	2,556	5.01%
Total (ALL)	283	100.00%	50,968	100.00%

Student Quotes

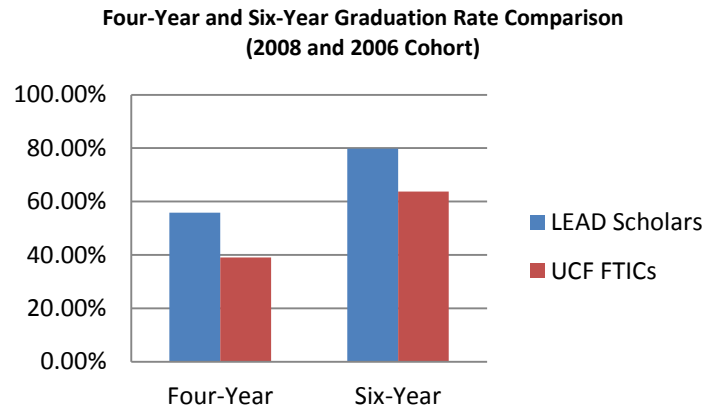
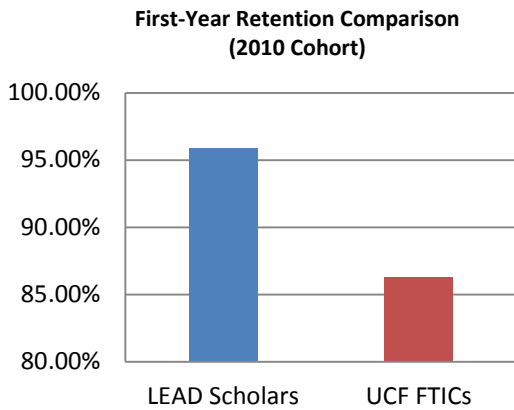
"The LEAD Scholars program has affected my college experience greatly from the first day that school started to now. This program has given me the chance to both excel in my academics and meet new people every day. The class itself has taught me not only how to be a better leader but also a better person overall. Also the people I have met have changed my life, I have met some of my best friends in this program as well as my current roommates."
 -Taylor Kennedy, '15

"Through LEAD Scholars, I have accomplished so much than I ever thought possible. The greatest part has been all the amazing opportunities LEAD has presented to me to take leadership positions. There is a strong sense of community within the program"
 -Melissa Garza, '15

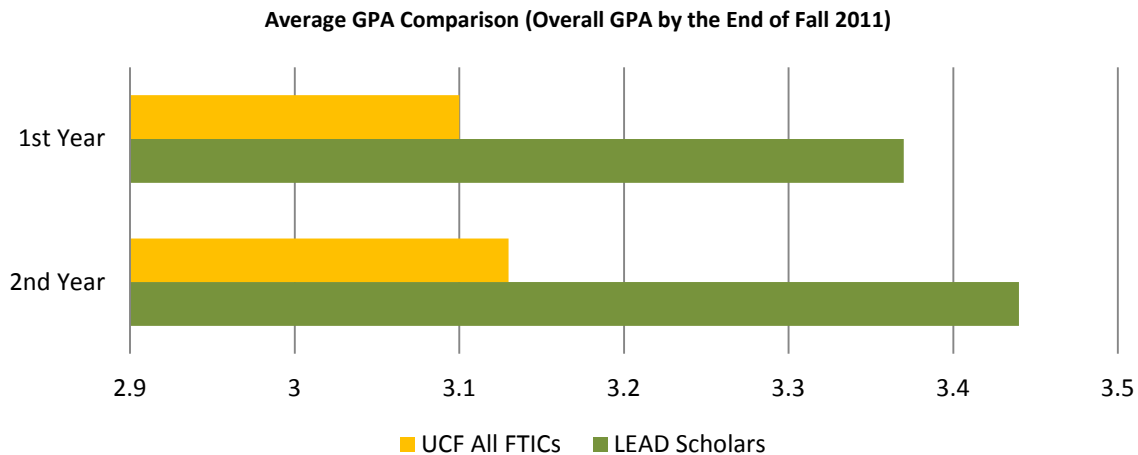
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Evidence of Impact on Student Retention and Success

- ❖ Fall 2010 to Fall 2011 retention of first-year LEAD scholars was 95.9 % compared to 86.3% for all UCF FTIC's.
- ❖ 55.9% of the LEAD Scholars 2008 cohort graduated within four years, compared to the UCF overall of 39.1%. 79.9% of the LEAD Scholars 2006 cohort graduated within six years, compared to the UCF overall of 63.8%.



- ❖ The average GPA for first-year LEAD Scholars is a 3.37 compared to a 3.01 for all first-year FTIC students.
- ❖ The average GPA for second-year LEAD Scholars is a 3.44 compared to a 3.13 for all second-year FTIC students.



LEAD Scholars Program Highlights

20 out of 35 Presidential Leadership Council Members (2012) are LEAD Scholars
 6 out of 19 Order of Pegasus Undergraduate Students (2012) are LEAD Scholars
 2011 Service Hour total for LEAD Scholars is 22,077

For more information on this program please visit: www.lead.sdes.ucf.edu.