

**iStartSmart Student Success Project**  
**Report Card**  
Fall 2007 Students

The iStartSmart program at Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix, AZ is designed to increase student success. The specific outcome of iStartSmart is to significantly increase rates of retention and persistence towards the successful completion of each student's academic goals. Based on the concept of "informed intrusiveness" and the infusion of a systems thinking approach, iStartSmart uses organizational practices including required placement testing, required orientation, required academic advising, and required successful completion of a one-credit student success course.

**Fall 2007 Students**

- 959 students completed orientation and the related group advising session
- 875 of these students (91%) enrolled in Fall 2007 credit courses
- iStartSmart students represented 10% of all PVCC credit students in Fall 2007
- The majority of iStartSmart students were under age 20, graduated from high school in past year, and had no prior college experience
- The majority of iStartSmart students were full-time, attending PVCC in the day

**Orientation**

*Goal: 80% of the participants will meet or exceed competencies identified on the orientation assessment tool*

- 45% of the participants can identify academic support services available at PVCC
- 71% of the participants can identify faculty expectations in PVCC courses
- 86% found the orientation information useful as they begin classes at PVCC
- 84% felt prepared to meet with an academic advisor to choose classes
- 83% understand how goal setting can enhance achievement

**College Success Course**

*Goal: 80% of the participants will strongly agree or agree with the assessment measures of the college success course*

- 86% felt the course better prepared them for success in college and in life
- 88% felt the course helped them to improve their self-management skills
- 86% felt the course helped them to learn how to take charge of their lives
- 84% felt the course increased their self-motivation
- 83% felt the course increased their self-awareness
- 79% felt the course helped them develop interdependence

**iGoal**

*Goal: 80% of the participants will be proficient on the elements identified on the iGoal rubric*

- 67% of the goals defined by students were dated
- 61% of the goals defined by students were achievable
- 97% of the goals defined by students were personal
- 88% of the goals defined by students were positively stated
- 58% of the goals defined by students were specific

**Student Success**

- 809 (92%) of the iStartSmart students completed Fall 2007 semester
- 73% of their course attempts were successfully passed (A, B, C grades) – *Goal: 81%*
- 74% of the Fall 2007 iStartSmart students enrolled in Spring 2008 credit courses – *Goal: 78%* (Compared to 55% of non-iStartSmart PVCC students from Fall 2007 to Spring 2008)