



Ratio Studiorum Program

Creighton University

Program Description:

Ratio Studiorum Program (RSP) is a two-year program for entering students and is a collaboration between Creighton University's undergraduate colleges, Academic Affairs and Student Services. RSP has an intentional academic advising portion in it. The course begins freshman year for students with RSP 100, which is centered around the question; "Who am I?" In the second year students take a class titled, "What is my passion?"

Program History:

The program was inaugurated with the matriculating class of freshman in the fall of 2006. The program was created to replace the Freshman Seminar Program. The name "Ratio Studiorum" emanates from a Jesuit "plan of studies" bearing the name "Ratio atque Institutio Studiorum Societatis Jesu," adopted in 1599 as a formal program for study at the university level.

Program Goals:

"Students will engage in self-exploration and self-discovery, including awareness of and appreciation for their differences in ethnicity, gender and socio-economic class".

-Course Syllabus 2006

The goal of the program is to help students understand how curriculum functions form them as young women and men, and how they can expect to grow and develop in the university setting. RSP seeks to help students make informed choices; faculty and professional staff guide students on a path of discernment as they support students in academic, career, and personal advising.

Program Layout:

The 1st part of the program is RSP 100: "An Introduction to the Culture of Collegiate Life." Students are introduced to Creighton University's Ratio Studiorum or Plan of Study in this one-credit letter-graded course. The program has a "Faculty Preceptor"-a faculty member leading RSP 100. This faculty member serves as academic advisor for the first year. The program also has a "Decurion," a junior/senior student chosen by the faculty member serving as a peer academic leader & teaching assistant for the student.

Led by a Faculty Preceptor and Decurion, the course covers such topics as the Ratio Studiorum at Creighton, the value of a liberal arts education, academic and student integrity, obstacles to learning, and learning strategies. The students also read a book selected by the Faculty Preceptor that addresses self-exploration and self-discovery.

The training for both the Faculty Preceptors and Decurion includes diversity dinners. These dinners prepare Preceptors & Decurion's to lead intercultural discussions with their new students especially in association with their first-year texts.

In the second year, the question, “what is my passion?” is explored. The second year program also has an intentional advising session and a co-curricular programming aspect. Students also get to choose from 23 Pre-Major Advisors (PMAs). This choice allows students to choose an advisor with whom they are comfortable and whose interests are similar to their’s. Pre-Major Advisors include professionals from Student Support Services, International Programs and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Effectiveness/Evaluation/Assessment

At Creighton, 20 % of freshmen are 1st generation. The Median income for the family is \$59,000. 19% of the students are of color. Students under \$60,000 in family income, students of color, and 1st generation students are most at risk of not coming back to school.

Attrition Levels: 5% after 1st semester. 12% after second semester. Women have a higher attrition rate.

The Financial Aid department is working to redistribute aid money from higher income students to lower income students.