A. Program Information

Student Life Department: Powercat Financial Counseling (“PFC”)
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Department assessment website http://www.k-state.edu/pfc/about/

The mission of Powercat Financial Counseling is to aid all K-State students in developing financial knowledge by connecting them with upper-division and graduate students who serve as a positive role model, mentor and resource to their peers in the area of personal finance and to optimize the professional skills, leadership and development of peer financial counselors.

PFC provides three areas of service:

1. Individual one-on-one peer-to-peer counseling sessions on financial-related topics such as budgeting, understanding credit, student loans, transitioning to work and college financial planning;
2. Group educational programs and presentations on college financial issues; and
3. Online financial education resources, tools and worksheets available on the program website at www.k-state.edu/pfc.

B. Outcome Reporting

1. Student Learning Outcomes & Assessment of Outcomes

1. Outcome: As a result of participating in a one-on-one financial education session with Powercat Financial Counseling, students will experience a reduction in their overall level of stress.
   
   Results: Assessment: Clients seen between June 1, 2014, and May 31, 2015, who completed the research evaluation form (n=173), reported a mean pre-counseling stress score of 4.79 out of 10. They reported a statistically significant decrease (t = 12.13; p < .001) in stress post-counseling with an average stress score of 2.99 out of 10.

2. Outcome: As a result of participating in a one-on-one financial education session with Powercat Financial Counseling, students will demonstrate the extent to which they are able to more effectively deal with their financial problem(s).
   
   Results: Assessment: When asked whether students believed that Powercat Financial Counseling will help them deal more effectively with their financial problems, students reported that PFC “helped a great deal” (mean score of 1.34 on a scale of 1-4 where 1=help a great deal, 2=helped, 3=likely won’t help, and 4=seem to have made things worse).

3. Outcome: As a result of serving as a PFC peer financial counselor, students will be able to identify transferrable skills appropriate for their professional development.
Results: Assessment: Students identified the following transferrable skills that resulted from serving as a PFC peer financial counselor (ranked in order from most to least relevant):
   i. Public speaking skills  
   ii. Interpersonal communication skills  
   iii. Increased personal finance knowledge  
   iv. Problem solving skills  
   v. Professional writing skills  
   vi. Increased self-confidence  
   vii. Analytical and reasoning skills  
   viii. Leadership skills  

C. Program Self Review

Staff Review of Annual Assessment Data and Process
Describe how program staff reviewed the assessment results and the process to decide on actions/revisions.

Results were reviewed by the program director and discussed with the PFC peer financial counselors and graduate students at a staff meeting. Reviewing our outcomes assists staff in ensuring that their work is focused on the desired outcomes.

Program Improvements
Briefly describe any program improvements resulting from the assessment process. These can be direct actions as a result of data, new insights or ways of thinking about assessment, and/or changes in the program’s assessment processes.

No revisions were necessary to the training materials nor process of gathering outcome data from clients at this time. Staff noted that sometimes after a financial session a student’s stress may increase as a result of learning their true financial position which is not necessarily a negative outcome.

Future Plans
Briefly describe plans to improve the assessment process and/or student learning. Plans can be immediate or longer-term.

Leadership and relationship management skills have been added to the peer counselor training process to enhance their development of transferrable professional skills.

Summary of this report is posted “as is” on our website at http://www.k-state.edu/pfc/about/