



Successfully transitioning to annual scheduling using improved data-informed practices



CASE STUDY | TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CORPUS CHRISTI



Reduce bottlenecks, course wait lists, and toxic course combos to create a schedule that retains students and boosts graduation rates

Challenge: Revamp outdated scheduling practices to retain students for their entire academic career

Island-based Texas A&M University Corpus Christi in Corpus Christi, Texas, had a goal to improve retention and graduation rates. But toxic course combinations and wait lists for core courses were forcing students to transfer in and out of the school throughout their academic career.

The resulting low retention and graduation rates prompted the institution to take a closer look at its scheduling practices, which hadn't changed for years. Additionally, faculty wanted to keep their schedules tight, teaching primarily on Tuesdays and Thursdays, which created bottlenecks and not enough rooms on campus.

If the University hoped to achieve the successful implementation of an annual schedule, they would need to address these issues using data and open communication.

Solution: Leverage comprehensive data to implement an annual schedule and improve graduation rates

As a partner of Ad Astra since 2007, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi knew that data-driven decisions based on demand would be necessary to achieve buy-in for annual scheduling. But the goal would also require open communication around the who, why, and how to move to an annual scheduling practice.

Changes in administration, including new Deans and a new Provost, prompted Missy Chapa, Associate Vice President and University Registrar, to reintroduce Ad Astra capabilities, so those involved would understand the data available to the institution. Chapa also worked closely with Christine Stewart, Ad Astra Senior Client Success Lead, on how to train faculty and coordinators to look at the data and implement it in a way that would help students progress faster.

“In my role as a Client Success Lead, I strive to become a part of your team,” said Christine Stewart, Senior Client Success Lead. “I want to be a trusted advisor to help you solve problems and meet your institutional goals.”



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- ✔ 48 canceled registrations avoided



Ad Astra helped us get the comprehensive data we needed to move forward with our goal of an annual scheduling program. Our partnership helped us reintroduce the Ad Astra data that we had on hand to improve the schedule based on data-driven demand.”

MISSY CHAPA

Associate Vice President and University Registrar

To not overwhelm people with data, Chapa shared dashboards and best practices of interpreting the data in a way that would not be overwhelming to the layperson looking at the information. By making data more understandable and easier to digest, advisors at the institution are becoming better equipped to help students strive toward graduation success.

“Students don’t always know how to ask questions about how they could progress toward their goal of graduation faster,” Chapa said. “Ad Astra is a valued partner in helping us uncover what our students need and how to help our advisors support our students in understanding their goals.”

School background

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi is located on Ward Island in Corpus Christi, Texas. The University of Corpus Christi was chartered in 1947. Today, the Hispanic and Minority Serving Doctoral Research institution offers undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees. It is also a R2-High Research Activity campus, designated by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. Texas A&M University Corpus Christi is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

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