Integrative Community Studies
Academic Welcome Agenda

• Why does the program of study do what it does?
  • Families Perceptions
• How does the program of study do what it does?
• Setting up for growth
• The journey starts....
• Takeaways & next steps
Why Does the Program of Study Do what It Does?

• Transition & Development
• Self-Determination
• Interdependence
• Emerging Adults
Families’ perceptions of outcomes

Themes Related to Perceived Outcomes:
- Independent living (use of public transportation, personal care, handling personal affairs, financial management, use of technology)
- Perceptions of self (self-esteem & self-confidence, pride, self-advocacy, increased expectations of self)
- Conversational skills
- Social life and friendships
- Campus and community involvement
- Happiness
- Employment
- “Letting go”
Families’ perceptions of outcomes

“Letting Go”

- Parents gained a new perspective on their students’ capabilities
  - “It has allowed me to see what she can do.”
- Realized that while “letting go” was not easy, it was essential for the student to truly gain and maintain their independence
  - “Letting go is not easy… However, it is important that parents and the community give our children the opportunity to grow and become productive citizens.”
- Their own quality of life
  - “I guess I can truly say that ICS saved me from myself…I found myself when I let [student’s name] go.”
How does the program of study do what it does?

• Accommodation for Opportunity
• Intrinsic Motivation
• Pilot/Co-pilot
• Student-Driven Decision Making
Setting Up For Growth

- Reciprocal open honest communication and interaction
  - families = students
  - students = staff
  - staff = families & students
- Effort
- Becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable
- Resources
- Commitments that move you forward
  - If you want to be the same person you are today, after graduating from UNCG, this program is probably not a right fit.
The Journey Starts.....
TakeAways & Next Steps

- This program of study is here to promote change and growth
- It may be uncomfortable at times, but that’s okay!
- Communication, effort, resources and commitments move you forward

REMEMBER: WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

- Complete SOAR canvas modules
  - Ask any questions that come up for you along the way
- July:
  - Stay in touch for the most up to date info and plans for fall
  - Look out for communication and other sessions from our office
  - Touch base with our department administration about your Fall courses (advising/registration)