

Richard A. Blake

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Education

Education Specialist and Master of Education

May 2013

Specialization: Marriage and Family Counseling

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

December 2009

Minor in Education

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Experience

Director of Student Life

November 2024 – Present

Levin College of Law, University of Florida

- Developed and executed comprehensive student life programs focused on leadership development, professional growth, mental health, and community engagement to foster a sense of community amongst students
- Served as a key liaison between students and administration, ensuring open communication, conflict resolution, and a student-centered approach to institutional decision-making
- Organized events, workshops, and resources to support student wellness, career readiness, and leadership development
- Collaborated with faculty, staff, and student organizations to create a supportive law school environment

Associate Director

August 2021 – November 2024

Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program (MFOS), University of Florida

- Directed the day-to-day operations of the program, ensuring that all programs and interactions reflected the team's overall mission and vision
- Supervised a team of three program coordinators tasked with the creation and implementation of strategic programs and events aimed at supporting MFOS scholars from pre-matriculation through post-graduation
- Oversaw the MFOS annual budget with specific attention towards multiple streams of allocated funding
- Served as liaison with UF Advancement for stewardship of gifts and compilation of data and information for outreach goals
- Managed the intake of programmatic data from key campus partners such as the office of Institutional Planning and Research and the UFIT data warehouse

Assistant Director

June 2017 – August 2021

Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program (MFOS), University of Florida

- Implemented technological enhancements to strengthen scholar communication for both required information and outreach
- Led the implementation of streamlined academic data to create intentional interventions for MFOS scholars experiencing academic difficulties
- Coordinated academic workshops from a diverse array of subject matter experts both on- and off-campus to support and enhance the MFOS scholar experience throughout their UF career

- Served as Chair of the MFOS Advisory Committee - a diverse group of campus partners whose charge is to provide scholar support and assist with the overall vision of the program
- Led team strategic retreats to revamp current mission and vision statements, as well as facilitated team discussion towards the creation of strategic plan
- Strengthened campus partnerships with academic units to facilitate optional programming for scholar engagement and career discovery

Academic Advisor

January 2013 – June 2017

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida

- Advised students in the college regarding general policies, coursework, and timeline to graduation
- Facilitated workshops related to academic success focusing on sub-populations of the college such as academically at-risk students, students on academic probation, and students in the Innovation Academy
- Served as Chair of the Probation and Progress Committee whose tasks included academic interventions to ensure student retention, success, and graduation

Counseling Intern

August 2012 – April 2013

Healthy Families Alachua

- Conducted in home counseling sessions for individuals and families related to life stressors
- Created detailed treatment plans for each individual or family seen and worked collaboratively with them to achieve goals
- Functioned as a counseling resource for Family Support Workers who were dealing with participants facing difficult situations

Graduate Assistant

January 2011 – December 2012

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida

- Provided advising services for students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences related to registration, choosing and changing majors, and campus resources to enhance academic success
- Reviewed collegewide survey and led design of new college presentation based on recommendations and feedback from incoming students to the University of Florida
- Served as a member of the AIM Program which worked with academically at-risk college freshmen to ensure a smooth transition from high school to college

Counseling Intern

January 2012 – June 2012

Disability Resource Center, University of Florida

- Reviewed intake documentation and determined appropriate accommodations for college students with disabilities
- Arranged follow-up appointments with registered students to evaluate the effectiveness of current accommodation services
- Conducted individual counseling sessions with college students to discuss issues affecting their academic performance and mental health including personal relationships
- Co-facilitated group counseling sessions focusing on mental health and learning disorders

Student Success Coordinator

August 2011 – December 2011

School of Music, College of Fine Arts, University of Florida

- Supervised seven freshmen as part of a college appeal process for musically gifted students with lower admission test scores
- Developed individualized strategy plans for each student's academic and personal needs to assist in their transition from high school to college
- Monitored students' progress throughout the semester to ensure their grades were maintained
- Connected students with specific college resources to increase their chances for academic success

R. Blake

Resident Director

September 2009 – August 2010

The District on 62nd Apartments

- Ensured the well-being of over 750 residents through group and individual mediation sessions
- Created and implemented various residence life programs which allowed residents participation in academic, social, team building, and community service events
- Supervised a student staff of 12 Community Assistants who created programs to build an inclusive community

Leadership and Trainings

Chair – MFOS Advisory Committee

2019 – 2024

*Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program, University of Florida***Member – Undergraduate Advising Council**

2017 – 2024

*Presidential Committee, University of Florida***Managing at UF Certification**

2019

*University of Florida***Academy of Strategic Creativity**

2019

*University of Florida***Teaching Experience**

Course Instructor

Academic Terms: Summer B 2011, Fall 2015-2020, Spring 2019 & 2021

First Year Florida: SLS102 University of Florida

- Co-created lesson plans for course related to incoming Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program freshmen
- Served as a mentor and resource guide for students new to the University of Florida
- Supervised Peer Leaders in dissemination of course information

Affiliations and Awards

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators

2017 – 2024

Florida Opportunity Scholarship Recipient

2006 – 2009