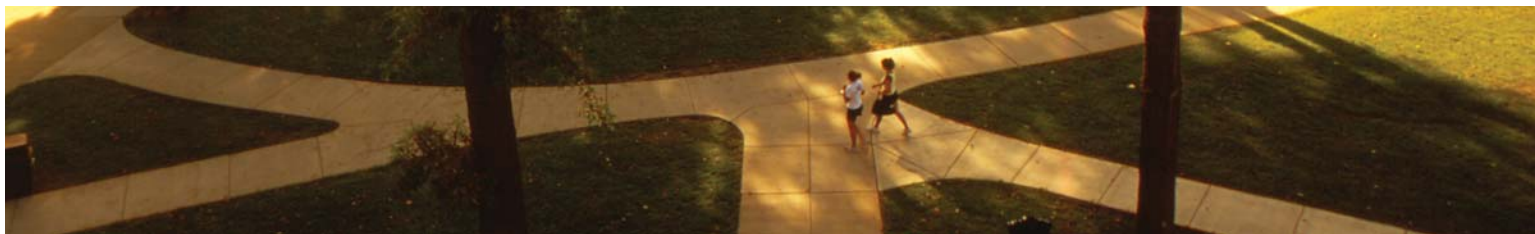


Title III Grant **FACTS**



The News about Title III

Thiel College has been awarded a grant of \$1.8 million from the U.S. Department of Education. More than 350 applications to the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program were evaluated in the competitive process.

Of the 34 institutions funded, Thiel was one of only five colleges in the nation to receive a perfect score on the submitted application.

Thiel will receive \$1,789,208 over the next five years in roughly equal installments. This represents the largest single grant or gift in the history of the College.

The Strengthening Institutions Program is designed to help colleges and universities by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions.

Just the Facts about Title III

- This grant is the manifestation of four years worth of work and significant self study. Our success was made possible by the intensive, detailed review that the College undertook as a part of the strategic plan.
- The grant referenced all of the previous committees' and task forces' reports including the Strategic Plan, Program Prioritization and Review, Support Program Prioritization and Review, Implementing the Model, Environmental Scanning, the First Year Report and the SWOT analysis.
- The focus of Title III is to create a comprehensive learning experience by strengthening the Advising Process to be more responsive to the developmental, discernment and career needs of students through an integrated, supportive and challenging learning community.

Key Objectives

- Increase retention and graduation rates.
- Increase the number of faculty prepared to deliver developmental advising services.
- Reduce the percent of students on academic probation, initially concentrating on first year students then broadening to include students at all levels.
- Implement electronic portfolios to support strategic thinking and align the advising and academic experience.
- Decrease the percentage of students with an undeclared major in the second year of college.
- Increase compliance with Council on Advising (CAS) and NACADA standards and guidelines.
- Increase student satisfaction with advising.
- Increase the number of courses utilizing interactive and participatory pedagogies.

Methods

Developmental Advising
Faculty Development
Curricular Redesign
Intervention Teams
Collaborative, inclusive, student centered approaches to institutional issues.

What it is:

The grant:

- provides funds for **four positions**: Title III Director, Curriculum Designer, and two Academic Counselors;
- functions are co-located in Academic Affairs and Student Success and Engagement;
- provides significant funds for faculty and staff development in the areas of developmental advising and appropriate use of engaging pedagogies;
- provides some funds for experimental learning space;
- is payable over five years with implementing objectives for each year;
- is designed to support faculty and staff as co-educators in the Thiel experience.

What it is not:

Title III:

- is **not** a replacement for the Academic Success Center (ASC), but rather complimentary to the ASC, enriching the college's abilities to serve the complex needs of today's learners. The grant targets all of Thiel's students and is more multi-dimensional than just advising;
- is **neither** a complete retention **nor** enrollment management plan, but will be a cornerstone of both.

