LONG BEFORE STUDENTS EVER SET foot on campus, UW Bothell is already paving their path to success. Our commitment begins when kids are still in middle and high school. In partnership with school districts, we guide students toward college preparatory courses and bolster their confidence.

For applicants to UW Bothell who may have borderline GPAs or SAT scores, we dig deeper to determine if they might have the resilience and drive to succeed. Then, in the summer before they start classes, we provide an academic transition program where they learn success strategies, including time management, study habits and organizational skills.

“We actively seek out students who show that they have overcome adversity and have grown from their experiences rather than giving up,” explains Susan Jeffords, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. “They not only succeed but often go on to become some of our top students.”

The “how to be a successful college student” course got so much buzz that it has now become a popular elective open to any first year student.

The required Discovery Core program for first year students introduces them to UW Bothell’s cross-disciplinary approach to education, perhaps melding art with biology or English with math to show the real-world interconnectedness of subjects and disciplines.

Academic advisors work with students to help them plan for the careers they want after graduation. By participating in a new national initiative, the Student Success Collaborative, we will have access to data that allows us to better predict how students might fare in careers based on their academic performance in college.

“If they’re not doing well, we can provide them with support or suggest other careers that might better suit their skills and interests,” Jeffords says.

A broad array of out-of-class opportunities – like student government and internships – enable students to learn from each other and build leadership skills that contribute to their success.

“UW Bothell does more than other universities might do because it’s part of our DNA,” Jeffords concludes. “We are deeply invested in every student’s ability to excel.”