

Academic Department Student Success Plan Update 2015-2018

Department: Criminology and Criminal Justice

Department Chair: Dr. Devere Woods

Department Mission: The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Indiana State University has as its major goal to discover new knowledge and to assist the community in solving problems while providing all of its students a sound liberal arts education with a focus on understanding criminal behavior, the criminal justice system, mechanisms of social control and their relationship to society. Students electing to major in criminology and criminal justice are prepared for careers in the criminal justice field as well as for entry into law school or a graduate program in criminology or a related discipline. The wide variety of courses offered enables each student to determine his or her program in terms of interests and aspirations. An integral part of the criminology and criminal justice program is the internship which allows students to gain a clearer understanding of criminal justice agencies.

Department Freshmen (1st year) Retention¹ Goal(s):

Increase retention rates by 2% annually

Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):

Provide support in the introduction courses to create a foundation of success (TA's/tutors...etc) (Fall 2015; course instructors)

Formal/Informal Academic Interactions with Faculty & Staff (Spring 2016; Devere Woods)

Work with University College in providing freshman greater feedback from intro courses. (Spring 2016; Tyler Burns)

Bring guest speakers from various concentrations within the major to visit CRIM 200/210/220/230 courses to better explain career opportunities for students with a CCJ major. Fall 2015 and beyond; (Instructors of courses)

<i>Retention Benchmarks²</i>	Fall 2012 cohort:	Fall 2013 cohort:	Fall 2014 cohort:
(by latest department)	67.6%	63.7%	64.7%

¹ Departments w/o undergraduates can adapt the retention and persistence to completion sections to serve their graduate student success purposes or alternatively, integrate into the Other Goal(s), Action Steps, and Benchmarks of focal interest to department section at the end of the template.

² Department level current and historical retention and completion benchmark data to be integrated into the plan can be found through Blue Reports: <http://irt2.indstate.edu/cms/ir/blue-reports/>.

Fall 2015 target:	Fall 2016 target:	Fall 2017 target:
67%	69%	71%

Other Freshmen Retention related benchmarks of focal interest to department³

Provide opportunities to join Student Organizations within the department (Fall 2015; Tyler Burns)

Department Persistence to Completion Goal(s):

Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):

Pre-graduation checks of juniors/seniors, group advising of upperclassmen completed through in-class discussion in upper level major classes with respect to pathway. (Fall 2015; Tyler Burns)

Creation of monthly Roundtable lunches with faculty and juniors/seniors. (Fall 2015; Devere Woods, Travis Behem)

Advising students on importance of 15-18 credit semesters (All Advisors)

Insure students understand advising procedures. Mass mailings/ flyers to students on all important dates (Fall 2015; Burns)

Sophomore Advising Party. Provide pizza and refreshments to sophomores night before scheduling starts so they are aware of what classes are available to them. (Fall 2015; Burns)

Greater use of Social Media to connect with students. The newsletter will highlight activities by faculty and students and provide advising and programmatic information. (Spring 2016; Travis Behem)

Departmental Career Fair (Spring 2016; Travis Behem)

Continue to grow Departmental Student Organizations. (Spring 2016; Tyler Burns)

Have faculty seek participation in the Course Transformation Academy (Spring 2016; Any faculty member willing)

Expand partnership with Career Center for career readiness, resume writing, and interviewing skills (Spring 2016; Gary Hartsock)

The Department will begin to evaluate courses that may be considered problematic for students by reviewing D/F/W rates to determine if scheduling, curricular, or other factors are limiting student success in these courses. Once the courses and the data are identified, the department will devise mechanisms to assist students in successful completion of the course(s). (Fall 2015; Faculty member appointed by chair)

³ A retention and completion rate is an essential benchmark, but it is not necessarily the only benchmark of interest to a department. Others of interest to the department can be integrated as well.

Hold a ceremony/party for CCJ students during the spring semester to highlight the transition from UC to the CAS/CCJ major. Each student will be provided with a button from the CCJ department. A spoken pledge will be created for the students to take during the ceremony highlighting the requirements of the degree. Have local police/corrections/probation...etc. officers on hand to speak with students about possible careers. (Fall 2014; Tyler Burns)

<i>Completion Benchmarks</i>	Fall 2009 cohort:	Fall 2010 cohort:	Fall 2011 cohort:
(by latest department)	36.1%	31.1%	32.4%
	Fall 2012 target:	Fall 2013 target:	Fall 2014 target:
	35%	37%	40%

Other Persistence to Completion related benchmarks of focal interest to department

Provide Junior/Senior transfer students with financial aid information on how to finish once aid runs out. (Spring 2016; Tyler Burns)

Other Goal(s), Action Steps, and Benchmarks of focal interest to department⁴:

Course Transformation when appropriate

Blue files access (Fall 2015; Burns)

Review advising task force report

⁴ Departments may have student success related goals, action steps, and benchmarks that do not fit neatly into the other categories. If so, feel free to place them here.