

Academic Department Student Success Plan Update 2015-2018

Department: Multidisciplinary Studies

Department Chair: Donna Selman

Department Mission: The MST BA/BS degree is highly flexible offering students the ability to explore, create and mold cross and interdisciplinary programs of study that are not otherwise available in traditional disciplinary curriculum.

The 21st century presents the academy with a new learning environment that often raises questions and frames problems that the traditional university model was not designed to confront effectively. The Department of Multidisciplinary Studies provides a structure to create, support, and sustain inquiry that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries, modeling a different way of thinking and new approaches to problems. The component programs of the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies take a dynamic approach to the generation, application, and dissemination of knowledge, encouraging their faculty and students to pursue interests and potentially create new programs as they engage in conversations that naturally extend across and beyond disciplinary lines. The MST major offers a high degree of flexibility in curriculum planning. Through a variety of major and minor programs, the Department brings together and supports an intellectually diverse faculty and serves students by encouraging instructional excellence and offering opportunities and events that enhance the academic experience at Indiana State University.

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

1. Create a sense of community.
2. Provide students with suggested options for combining department minors with their current major in consultation with University Advisors.
3. Provide suggested paths/plans to degree completion within Major while maintaining the attractiveness of flexibility in degree creation.
4. Revisit advising process for MST majors and interested freshmen.

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

1. Establish Alpha Iota Sigma chapter at ISU. Alpha Iota Sigma is an honor society for Interdisciplinary Studies. (Complete necessary application Spring 2016 Donna Selman, Begin recruitment Spring 2016 all department resident and program faculty).
2. Each program (IS, PHIL, SOC, MST and GNDR) will identify no less than two majors outside of the department and develop materials that identify how and why a minor in their respective program compliments the major and enhances career readiness. These materials will be posted prominently and shared with advisors across campus. (Donna Selman, Michael Deem, James Gustafson, James Wurtz, Tom Steiger and Ruth Fairbanks, Fall 2016)

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.

3. Identify past successful programs of study in the MST major. (Donna Selman and James Wurtz Spring 2016) Provide a set of example paths to BA/BS in MST to advisors, students and faculty. (Donna Selman and James Wurtz Fall 2016)
4. Consider shifting advising to reside in the “Department” physically and with resident faculty for the flexible design majors while making use of affiliate faculty in concentrations. (Donna Selman, MST faculty Fall 2015)

<i>Retention Benchmarks²</i>	Fall 2012 cohort:	Fall 2013 cohort:	Fall 2014 cohort:
(by latest department)	Click here to enter text.	100%	100%
	Fall 2015 target:	Fall 2016 target:	Fall 2017 target:
	100%	100%	100%

Other Freshmen Retention related benchmarks of focal interest to department³

Click here to enter text.

Department Persistence to Completion Goal(s):

1. Create internal/external Scholarships in each program. (Majors and Minors)
2. Identify and Adjust Curriculum Barriers to degree completion in MST and PHIL Majors
3. Develop additional concentrations within the MST Major directly tied to Career Opportunities.
4. Required Degree Audits and Advisor consultation in MST

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

1. Cultivate relationships with alumni (and friends) in SOC (Donna Selman, Charles Norman Spring 2016). In PHIL (Donna Selman and Philosophy Faculty Spring 2016) In Gender Studies (Donna Selman and GNDR Faculty Fall 2016) In International Studies (Donna Selman and Rick Lotspeich Fall 2016) In Multidisciplinary Studies (Donna Selman and all MST program faculty Spring 2017) Ongoing-establish scholarship the following year.
2. Examine program of study proposals that required waivers. (Donna Selman and James Wurtz Spring 2016) Make curriculum changes that reduce the need for waivers. (See Philosophy Program Plan for steps regarding the PHIL Major) (Donna Selman and James Wurtz Fall 2016).
3. In consultation with industry and business determine specific skills needed, identify courses offered at ISU across the campus that address the specific skill set and work to develop

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/>.

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.

concentrations directly tied to the business/industry needs. (Donna Selman, Tom Steiger and Amanda Lubold Begin Spring 2016 –Ongoing).

4. Given the unique nature of the MST major consultation with the MST advisor is crucial. Each MST major will be required to consult with the MST Advisor regarding progress at the 60 and 80 and 100 credit mark. (James Wurtz, Fall 2016) Degree audit conducted at 80 and 100. Department Chair will also meet with majors at intake and 90-credit mark. (Donna Selman, Fall 2016)

<i>Completion Benchmarks</i>	Fall 2009 cohort:	Fall 2010 cohort:	Fall 2011 cohort:
(by latest department)	0.00%	0.00%	33.00%
	Fall 2012 target:	Fall 2013 target:	Fall 2014 target:
	66%	100%	100%

Other Persistence to Completion related benchmarks of focal interest to department

Click here to enter text.

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

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.