

Academic Department Student Success Plan Annual Update: 2016-2019¹



Department: Aviation

Department Chair: Dr. Steve McCaskey

Department Mission: The mission of the Department of Aviation Technology is to prepare our students for a lifetime career in the dynamic and challenging world of aviation. Indiana State University's Department of Aviation Technology is internationally recognized for the excellence of its facilities, faculty, and graduates. We offer three degree programs in aviation.

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

Increase first year retention and career readiness of AVT Students by 3%.

1. Participation in New Student Orientation by talking with students/families in small groups about their chosen majors and answering academic content-related (and flight fees) questions for 25 minutes per NSO. Aviation Departmental Contact: Steve McCaskey. This will resume again in June of 2017
2. Updating of COT Residential Housing Program to link themed housing to specific learning communities/courses during the freshmen year. Aviation Departmental Contacts: Jason Brown and Bruce Welsh. December 1, 2016
3. Continue to participating in pilot program (Destination Success) that focuses (with specific outcome-based objectives) on student success in COT female STEM students through academic and career. Contacts: Kara Harris. First meeting date was September 12, 2016.

Retention Benchmarks
(by latest department)

Fall 2013 Cohort:
79.17%

Fall 2014 Cohort:
85.48%

Fall 2015 target & actual: 84.72%

Fall 2016 target:
86.00%

Fall 2017 target:
89.00%

Fall 2018 target:
92.00%

Other Freshmen Retention related benchmarks of focal interest to department

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Department Persistence to Completion Goal(s):

Increase the number of students who successfully continue to persist and complete undergraduate degrees in four years by 3%.

1. Continue to participate in pilot program that focuses on student success in COT female STEM students through academic and career center programming. Contacts: Kara Harris. First meeting date was September 12, 2016.
2. Participation in planned retention/persistence events and programs in the COT. Each event has a specific theme for students (fall welcome, priority registration, career center services, last day to drop, It's on Blue, etc.), to assist students

¹ Plan updates are due to your Dean by Nov. 4 as informed by your 2015-16 End-of-Year Report that is due to your Dean by Oct. 3.

in gaining information that will assist them in persisting. Contact: Steve McCaskey, Kara Harris, and additional COT Faculty and staff 8/25/16, 9/30/16 , 11/5/15, 1/25/17, 2/15/17, 4/6/17

3. Offer night and weekend advising sessions to assist students take advantage of priority registration. Contact: Steve McCaskey, Xiaolong Li, Cindy Crowder, Kara Harris, Andrew Payne, Randy Peters, and additional COT Faculty and staff 11/5/16, 11/10/16, dates for spring are TBD.

4. Contact students who are eligible to register, but have not. We have done this via email in the past, but plan to also contact them via telephone as well this year. Contact: Steve McCaskey, Xiaolong Li, Cindy Crowder, Kara Harris, Andrew Payne, Randy Peters, and additional COT Faculty and staff December 2016, May 2017.

5. Contact (email and letter to permanent address) sophomores, juniors, and seniors who show deficient on interim grade reports. Kara Harris October 2016, February 2017.

6. Audit four-year plans and curriculum to ensure that unavoidable curricular barriers to programs are recognized, and a plan to assist students overcome barriers (without lowering academic rigor) is created. Steve McCaskey, Spring 2016.

7. Continue with pre-graduation checks of all students who have applied for graduation so that deficient requirements can be met prior to graduation. Kara Harris—ongoing

<i>Completion Benchmarks</i> (by latest department)	Fall 2010 Cohort: 30.56%	Fall 2011 Cohort: 34.78%	Fall 2012 target & actual: 43.33%
	Fall 2013 target: 46.33%	Fall 2014 target: 49.00%	Fall 2015 target: 52.00%

Other Persistence to Completion related benchmarks of focal interest to department

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

1.Promote participation and interest in the team and annual National Intercollegiate Flying Association (NIFA) competition to increase student awareness and team strength in the professional flight area. Teams grow and maintain knowledge and skill levels through annual tryouts for new members and team mentorships by senior class members. Team members who participate show a high level of success over their academic careers through morale, spirit, and involvement. Contact Jason Brown. Ongoing with planning and practices beginning in November and continuing until the annual Regional competition the following October.

2.Continue to generate female student pilot interest and participation in the Annual Air Race Classic for Women in Aviation annually. Senior team members mentor and assist in the growth of new members who compete for positions each year. Again, membership on the Air Race Classic team shows a direct correlation to successful students. Contact Jami Higdon. Ongoing with planning and coordination beginning in September and continuing until the competition the following June.

3.Generate interest and participation in the Design Build Fly teams and continued participation in the International Design Build Fly competition hosted annually by Cessna and Raytheon Missiles, Inc. Team membership is determined by interest, participation, and direct activity support of the competition. Contact Sam Morgan. Ongoing with design, building, and test flying beginning in September and continuing through the competition the following April in either Tucson, AZ, or Wichita, KS.

4.We plan to add a “Drone Racing Club” to the activities of the department. Other universities are asking us to field a team and participate with them. Contact Sam Morgan.

5.Make readily available the flight fees required for students to conduct flight training at the ISU Flight Academy. Flight fees are often a direct impact on student success; and, parents and students alike need the information available with ease. Flight fees and flight requirements are available via handouts to parents and students at all potential student interviews, all New Student Orientation sessions, and on the ISU website on the Professional Aviation Flight Technology page (link to PDF for download and printing). Review and maintain the current fees on a monthly basis. Additionally, we plan to address the flight fee process for the students and parents. This appears to them as a very cumbersome and hard to comprehend process. We will address through a diagram and simplification process that will help. Contact Dick Baker.

6. Conduct an annual Parent-Student Appreciation Day each September for all Aviation Technology students at the ISU Flight Academy to bring awareness and a sense of pride and belonging to students. The day consists of an open house to tour the facilities, view the aircraft, spend time with faculty members, and share in a cookout for lunch. Annual goal is to feed 200 or more students and parents, increase spirit, and create a desire to be part of the Sycamore Flyers of the future. Contact Steve McCaskey.

7. We will conduct an Aviation Alumni Appreciation Day in the academic year for ISU alum from the Department of Aviation Technology. The goal is to bring alumni who will want to provide encouragement and possible internships or paths to careers to the students. The location will be at the ISU Flight Academy to create an awareness of our program. Alumni will be able to speak to students about internships, careers, and future opportunities. Contact Steve McCaskey.

8. Coach students on scholarship programs available through the Aviation Association of Indiana (AAI) and how to apply. AAI has several scholarships for aviation students in Indiana that are presented at their annual conference in October. ISU students have often been recognized and received these scholarships and we need to revitalize this effort. Contact Azhar Hussain.

9. Attempt to implement time available for New Student Orientation and talking with students/families in small groups 25-45 minutes per NSO. This is the key time to get students and parents the information necessary for their initial registration and understanding the Aviation programs. The current 25 minutes is often cut short to 15 and we need more time to cover their questions. Contact Steve McCaskey

10. We will add a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and Flight Academy policies to the handouts given to all parents and students attending NSO and to those who ask for information to be mailed to them. This is an excellent way to cover many of the common questions asked year after year. Contact Steve McCaskey.

11. The Department of Aviation Technology will make our annual scholarship awards at the Spring Fly-in at the Terre Haute Regional Airport. This will give visibility to the students with their peers, parents, and potential airline employers at one event. Contact Steve McCaskey