



2015-16 End-of-Year Report Academic Department Success Plan

Department: Multidisciplinary Studies

Department Chair: Donna Selman

Person Primarily Responsible for Preparing this Report:
Donna Selman

Please answer the following questions in two or three pages and submit to your Dean by October 3. Your Dean will review and advance to Academic Affairs by October 10¹ and will offer you feedback by Oct. 17. This report will help inform your 2016-2019 Student Success Plan update that will be due to your Dean by Nov. 4.

1. Specific accomplishments/achievements this past year (briefly explain using bullet points, noting any changed/adapted):

- ✓ **Create a sense of community:** Alpha Iota Sigma (Interdisciplinary Studies Honors Society) established. 12 students inducted. Regular meetings held with Social Justice focus. MST students funded to attend community events (Human Rights Coalition and Deb's Banquet). T-Shirts created and distributed. Created the "Collaboration Room" for student and faculty use.
- ✓ **Provide students with suggested options for combining department minors with their current major in consultation with University Advisors:** Four of the five programs have created possible career lists that coordinate with the major (philosophy is "in progress"). International Studies and MST have provided advisor training to UC advising staff regarding the minors. Multiple IS affiliates have attending advising in IS workshop conducted by James Gustafson (IS advisor).
- ✓ **Provide suggested paths/plans to degree completion within Major while maintaining the attractiveness of flexibility in degree creation:** Suggested and successful 4 year plans for the degree in MST have been created and provided as examples to students in the two Informational Sessions held in Spring 2016. They are posted on the MST webpage and have been distributed to admissions and advising. The design a degree option is prominently displayed in University recruiting materials.
- ✓ **Revisit advising process for MST majors and interested freshmen:** Advising responsibilities have been reassigned to MST resident faculty and the appropriate affiliate faculty.
- ✓ **Develop additional concentrations within the MST Major directly tied to Career Opportunities:** Visual Arts Administration, Music Industry Studies, Genomic Advocacy and Social Justice and Sociology have been established and approved. Each are directly linked to business, industry and societal career opportunities. Currently working with Career Center to establish SJS career day and informational materials.
- ✓ **Advisor Consultation:** Every MST student is required to meet with Department Chair at intake. PHIL Philosophy requires all first year PHIL majors to meet with advisor twice per semester.
- ✓ **Identify barriers to success (courses):** Philosophy has identified high areas of DFW in the curriculum. Are revisiting the syllabi and assessments in PHIL 201 to develop a common curriculum and assessment tools. PHIL has streamlined the core of the major and revised the required courses to reflect flexibility and direct paths to graduation. Philosophy faculty have attended online teaching certification and developed online offerings of PHIL 201.

¹ Note that the Dean will request a refinement to the report if it is not suitably addressing the questions.

2. Objective/Actions Not Achieved (briefly explain using bullet points):

- Philosophy has not created updated career possibilities-with only two faculty on campus in the last year and intentions to redesign the major this was moved to goals for 2016-2017
- Create internal/external Scholarships in each program. (Majors and Minors) We have two internal IS scholarships (minor), one external Sociology (MST) and one external GNDR. Philosophy has yet to create and establish either an internal or external scholarship. MST is reliant on the Sociology scholarship and needs to establish an additional one.
- Sociology, MST and IS have compiled the list of Alumni and identified tier 1 and tier 2 possible donors. GNDR and PHIL have not. This will go a long way in created the external scholarships
- Required Degree Audits: The transition of advising to the resident faculty and the loss of our long time advisor prevented the regularization of advisor consultation at the 60/80/100 credit marks/

3. Looking ahead, briefly describe changes, additions, or subtractions that need to be made to your goals and/or action steps, including with respect to their linkage to student learning outcomes.

- Philosophy has made good progress redesigning the major for the 21st Century. This needs to be completed this year. The four-year possible plans for PHIL need to be created and prominently distributed. (Retention and Persistence) The career readiness plan for philosophy must be written this year. Concrete examples provided to admissions, advising and students should happen this year.
- International Studies has done a good job of promoting IS minor as a way to “Internationalize your Major” as a theme. It is important that they develop concrete examples of the career opportunities to a broader range of majors and provide specifics to each major. (Persistence)
- All programs must make a concerted effort to identify and reach alumni with an eye towards scholarships and job opportunities (internships) for our majors and minors. (Retention and Persistence).
- Advisors need to establish a process to insure that required advisor consultation at the 60/80/100 credit hour marks take place.

4. Do you see opportunity for this project to work more closely with another department, college, or unit such that greater impact might be possible (briefly explain)?

The department should build on our already excellent relationship with the honors program. Particularly it should continue to support faculty in teaching honors courses, should provide seats to honors students in an expanded number of courses and work closely with the honors program director to identify student needs.

The department should be working closely with the Center for Community Engagement. Specifically, the SJS concentration could benefit greatly by collaborating with the unit to place our majors in internships with community partners. This would go along way in providing career readiness.

The department should establish a liaison to the foundation and alumni organization. All units could benefit from the collaborative efforts in terms of scholarship development, student placement (experiential learning) and overall community engagement.

The interdisciplinary nature of the department requires that we not only maintain but also build our relationships with all departments on campus. Specifically we must resist traditional disciplinary (and college) boundaries and focus on what we each have to offer that supports the goals of the university. This will be particularly salient with regards to career readiness for all of CAS.

5. Is there anything else about your initiative you feel important to detail?

*Retention
Benchmarks²*
(by latest department)

Fall 2013 official:

Click here to enter text.

Fall 2016 target:
100%

Fall 2014 official:

100%

Fall 2017 target:
100%

Fall 2015 official:

100%

Fall 2018 target:
100%

Completion Benchmarks
(by latest department)

Fall 2013 official:

Click here to enter text.

Fall 2016 target:
66%

Fall 2014 official:

66%

Fall 2017 target:
100%

Fall 2015 official:

33%

Fall 2018 target:
100%

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/>.