

2016-17 Department Student Success Plan Assessment Report

Social Work

Please answer the following questions in two pages and submit to your Dean by October 2. Your Dean will offer you feedback by Oct. 16 and advance final version¹ to Academic Affairs by October 20. This report will inform your 2017-18 Student Success Plan update that will be due to your Dean by Nov. 3. Previous report and plans can be found at this website: <http://irt2.indstate.edu/cms7/sp16/index.cfm/departments-plans/>.

Person Primarily Responsible for Preparing this Report: Robert Guell

1. **Specific accomplishments/achievements this past year** (*briefly explain using bullet points, noting any changed/adapted*):
 - a. **BSW Curricular Changes Passed** The curricular changes began two years ago were implemented in their entirety. Those changes included increases to standards on cognate courses, removing the sequential requirement for four lower level courses, and the substitution of a Family and Groups course for field hours (which were reduced).
 - b. **Aligning the BSW Curriculum with the TSAP** We adapted the new curriculum to TSAP requirements to avoid previous bottlenecks.
 - c. **Perpetual Schedule Updates** Despite rapid faculty turnover and changes in responsibilities, faculty schedules will be increasingly predictable going forward.
 - d. **Maintained Community Engagement/Experiential Learning at a High Level**
 - e. **Actively Participated in Career Readiness Initiatives** Two faculty worked with Center Community Engagement on infusing Career Readiness within Social Work.
 - f. **Increased Lower Division Course Completion Ratios** (from 86.5% to 89.92%)
 - g. **Maintained High Upper Division Course Completion Ratios** (96.73%; 4th ranked Department in the University)
 - h. **Continued Low DFDr Rates** (under 10% and steady)
 - i. **Increased 4-yr Graduation Rate** (above 30%)

2. **Objective/Actions Not Achieved** (*briefly explain using bullet points*):
 - a. **Within Department Advising** We continue to object to (and continue to be thwarted regarding) the College practice of having non-faculty advisors for students who maintain their SOWK major. We have a long major with specific mileposts. A significant number of students majoring in Social Work have asked (and been denied) the ability to change advisors. A graduate assistant has been assigned as the advisor for many of our students. We will continue to object to this practice.
 - b. **Maintain CSWE Required Staffing Levels** We have continued to have difficulty managing the turnover in personnel and responsibilities while maintaining CSWE required staffing levels.
 - c. **Declining Cohort Size** After years of cohort size increases, we have experienced a significant decline in entering classes. Our junior admissions (which had been 45 or more) are now a third smaller.

¹ Dean will request a refinement to the report if it is not suitably addressing the questions. Report will be shared with Trustees.

3. **Attention areas going forward as informed by 2016-17 retention, completion, course completion ratio, credit hour productivity, and D/F/drop rate data provided as well as other Blue Report or departmental data** (*briefly explain using bullet points*).
- a. **Another Attempt to Convince a New Dean on Advising** We will, once again, make a full-throated pitch to bring all post-UC academic advising within the Department. We believe this will increase contact between students and faculty, students and advisors, and will ensure that BSW students continue on track to graduation. It will also allow the Chairperson to monitor and immediately deal with issues of advisor performance that now must be dealt with through the Associate Dean.
 - b. **Return to Emphasis on Recruiting**
 - i. **General Education**
 - 1. We will adapt SOWK 130 to become an FS: SBS course so as to increase the reach of the department and increase those interested in becoming Social Workers.
 - 2. We will adapt SOWK 270 to become an FS: MCS course to similarly increase exposure to students.
 - ii. **Increase Distance Offerings of Lower-Level courses** We have already converted SOWK 240 and 241 to distance formats. We will do the same for SOWK 130 and 270 so as to ensure that students can complete a BSW in six post-UC semesters.
 - c. **Initiate a 5-Year to Freshman to MSW Track** We will work with our BSW students to allow them to complete certain MSW elective courses and establish automatic MSW-AS admission standards for our BSW students.