

Academic Department Student Success Plan Annual Update: 2016-2019¹



Department: Multidisciplinary Studies

Department Chair: TBD

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.

Home to Philosophy (BA), MST (BA/BS) Concentrations in Social Justice and Sociology, Visual Arts Administration, Gender Studies, International Studies (minor), Gender Studies (minor), Sociology (minor) and Music Industry Studies (minor), Genomic Advocacy (minor)

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

1. Create sense of community
2. Demonstrate career opportunities in all programs
3. Establish regular tutoring opportunities

Action Steps² (with dates & person(s) responsible):

1. Design, sponsor, conduct and PROMOTE co-curricular activities for majors and minors.
Identify on and off campus events; community partner events, lecture series, student organization events etc. Create and maintain central calendar of events consult calendar. (Office staff) Update website to include current schedule of upcoming events. Designate funds to support student participation in community partner events—ie Human Rights Coalition, Deb's Foundation etc. Spring 17 (continuous) MST Student Affairs Committee, Chair
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. (MST Chair, Michael Deem, James Gustafson, Tom Steiger and Ruth Fairbanks, Spring 2017)

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.

² **Action Steps Defined:** The specific activities/actions taken to realize progress toward the goal. Such action steps should include not only student support type activities/actions but also student learning enhancement focused activities/actions.

3. In conjunction with the Career Services Center, each program will provide a list of careers relevant to their curriculum/degree. Website updated and all promotional items revised to include information regarding careers. (MST Chair, Deem, Lubold, Fall 17)
4. Seek resources for concentrated tutoring in Foundational Studies courses identified with high DFdr rates (PHIL, SOC and GNDR). (Namita Goswami, Lubold and MST Chair Spring 17)

<i>Retention Benchmarks</i> (by latest department)	Fall 2013 Cohort: 75%	Fall 2014 Cohort: 100%	Fall 2015 target & actual: 100%/100%
	Fall 2016 target: 100%	Fall 2017 target: 100%	Fall 2018 target: 100%

Other Freshmen Retention related benchmarks of focal interest to department

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.

Department Persistence to Completion Goal(s):

1. Create/Enhance Internal and External Scholarships
2. Incorporate Career Readiness Activities
3. Complete Philosophy program revisions
4. Ensure Accurate and Useful Advising

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

1. All programs identify tier 1 and tier 2 alumni. Design opportunities for identified alumni to visit campus, speak in classes about career, and attend special events. (Spring 17 ongoing. MST Chair, Norman, Goswami, Lotspeich)
2. Work with Career Services Center to incorporate career readiness into SOC 302. (Spring 17 Steiger, MST Chair and associated instructors ie: Robison)
3. Shepard PHIL revisions through the process. Demonstrate career opportunities and 21st Century relevance. Provide professional development opportunities to faculty with high DFdr rates. (MST Chair Spring 17 ongoing) .
4. Establish process for 60/80/100 credit hour mandatory advising. (Fall 17. Goswami, Deem, MST chair, Lubold).

<i>Completion Benchmarks</i> (by latest department)	Fall 2010 Cohort: 0%	Fall 2011 Cohort: 33.3%	Fall 2012 target & actual: 66%/30%
	Fall 2013 target: 33%	Fall 2014 target: 36%	Fall 2015 target: 39%

Other Persistence to Completion related benchmarks of focal interest to department

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

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.

