

2016-17 Department Student Success Plan Assessment Report

School of Music

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/department-plans/>.

Person Primarily Responsible for Preparing this Report: Scott Buchanan

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

- The School of Music has increased its enrollment from 199 (fall 2016) to 224 (fall 2017). This total number includes undergraduate majors, minors, and graduate students.
- According to the figures submitted by the Office of Academic Affairs, the (1st year) Retention rate for the School of Music Fall 2016 cohort is 73.85%. Though this is a very slight drop from the previous year, the actual cohort size has increased by 4.44%, due to a relatively large number of students that changed their major to music.
- The school of Music faculty has voted to move the Theory Sequence to a true four-semester sequence by eliminating MUS 101, which served as a fundamentals class, yet did not count toward the students' degree program. This should really help students stay on track for a four-year graduation. This curricular change will be fully in place by Fall 2018. For the current academic year, a temporary dual-track system is in place so the less-advanced students in the freshman cohort will not automatically be a semester behind. The impact of this system and the finalized 4-semester sequence will be studied carefully to determine its impact on retention and pass/fail rates.
- The School of Music continues to provide tutoring in both Music History and Music Theory. Grant monies from the College of Arts & Sciences and additional student wages monies have assisted us in these efforts. These seem to be having a positive impact, as course completion ratios have improved in our lower division courses.
- An ad hoc committee to revise and update the School of Music Handbook. Significant work was done to accomplish this, including the revision of our mission statement. The new wording is less wordy and more distinct.
- According to the figures submitted by the Office of Academic Affairs, the D/F and drop rates for courses taken in the School of Music are both on the decline. From Fall 2015 to Fall 2016, the D/F rate decreased by 1.11% and the drop rate decreased by 1.83%. From Spring 2016 to Spring 2017, these same rates decreased by 1.57% and 1.13% respectively.

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

- The current FTE model continues to be an issue for the School of Music. The class size for some of our classes continues to remain too high in order for effective teaching and assessment to take place. This issue will seemingly get worse as our enrollment continues to rise.

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

- The Music Theory curriculum has successfully been revised. We will continue to work toward the same sort of revisions for our Music History sequence and our Piano sequence. Additionally, we will continue to examine prerequisites that get in the way of degree progress. Further examination of summer offerings should be explored to allow students
- According to student exit surveys, advising and mentor programs need to be improved. As years go by, and increased data is gathered, we will examine trends and look for greater specificity in these comments.

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).

- Though our mentor program still exists in the areas of Music Theory and History, it seems to be sporadically effective, at best. Efforts must be made to find a more effective means of tutoring students in these areas. The communication between the instructors and tutors must improve.
- The School of Music retention rate is improving. Additionally, the course completion ratio for our 2016-17 lower division courses improved to 87.14%. This represents a 2.80% increase from the previous year. We will work toward continued increase in this area, as well as in the upper division courses. Ways to identify students who are struggling much earlier in the semester are being explored, in an effort to provide intervention so they can get on track much quicker.
- Recruitment efforts and strategies for targeted recruiting are being developed and implemented. Targeted recruitment means that we will seek to recruit students in areas where we have specific needs (male singers, oboe, bassoon, horn, strings, etc.) This will improve the quality of our ensembles and help to increase the visibility of the School of Music.