

2017-18 Department Student Success Plan Update

[Department of English]

Please complete this plan update and submit to your Dean by November 3. Your Dean will offer you feedback by November 17 and advance final version¹ to Academic Affairs by November 21. 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: Robert Perrin

Special Note: Dean Olsen responded positively to our plan, noting that our goals were prompted by the needs of our students and realistic (*and* achievable).

The two primary goals noted below will, we hope, be enhanced by a variety of other initiatives noted in other reports: the reenergizing of our student organization, the revitalizing of our honor society (which has languished in the last few years), the developing interest in student meetings, study sessions, film nights, and other interactive events that we hope will build a stronger sense of departmental “community.”

1. Department goals to facilitate persistence to degree (include action steps, dates, and person(s) responsible underneath each goal):

Curricular and Pedagogical Shifts for Major Courses for Freshmen. I will convene faculty who teach each of these courses and, together, we will develop strategies that will (we hope) improve students’ chances of success. These discussions will include some organizational changes, patterns for assigning papers and handling peer editing, test preparation, and other similar matters. These adjustments in the ways to courses are designed and delivered will address the challenges faced by the sometimes underprepared students who enter our program. (Spring/Fall 2018: Robert Perrin, Chairperson; Jake Jakaitis, Director of Undergraduate Studies)

2. Department goals to enhance student performance and/or learning outcome achievement² (include action steps, dates, and person(s) responsible for each goal):

Curricular Review. We have begun the process of reviewing our upper-division requirements. One of the categories for both of our majors—Contemporary Literature—now includes four courses from which majors must choose one. We are exploring the possibility of having a single course with a rotation of topics; this would be easier to schedule than four separate courses (which each have a faculty rotation) and would, consequently, simplify both scheduling and advising. (Spring/Fall 2018: Robert Perrin, Chairperson; Jakes Jakaitis, Director of Undergraduate Studies; Amy Ash, Director of Creative Writing)

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

² Department/Program Student Learning Summary Form report may inform what is noted here.

Benchmark Metrics

Metric	2016-17 FTFT-BDS Cohort Actual	2017-18 Target	3 Year Target (2019-20)
Freshmen Retention ³ (by <i>latest department</i>)	68%	70%	72%
4-Year Grad Rate (by <i>latest department</i>)	86%	88%	90%
	Source data for 2016-17 actual	2017-18 Target	3 Year Target (2019-20)
Other Metric #1 ⁴			
Other Metric #2			

³ In a very few cases, such as with departments with very small numbers of majors or who have few or no new freshmen who enroll in their program, this metric and a grad rate may not be applicable. Other appropriate metrics should be used instead (e.g., service course student performance, transfer students, part-time students, etc.).

⁴ Departments may wish to also focus on key metrics for sub-populations (e.g., transfer students, distance students, minority students, students at a particular class year or years where bottlenecks/movement out of the major/drop out from ISU appear to be a concern) or metrics such as credit hour productivity or D/F/drop rates. See Blue Reports or Institutional Research for ideas.