

# 2017-18 Department Student Success Plan Update

## Department of Earth & Environmental Systems

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 version<sup>1</sup> 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:** Stephen Aldrich, Undergraduate Affairs Committee vote 5-0-0

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

- a. Arrange that each first-year major meet with volunteer faculty mentor in the department (other than their departmental advisor) to discuss their educational and career goals and interests to help them engage with the discipline and to have a faculty support network. Person Responsible: Undergraduate Program Coordinator and Departmental Faculty, Date to be Completed: This is a continuing effort, but will begin in September each Fall semester.
- b. Increase Environmental Science Club, Anthropology Club, and Gamma Theta Upsilon effectiveness and participation by majors. Environmental club is slightly smaller than last year (20 students were active last fall), but its members are highly engaged. There are now 18 active members we hope membership will increase this planning period rather than decrease. Person Responsible: Club Faculty Advisors, Date to be completed: This is a continuing effort.
- c. After interim grades are submitted, departmental advisors and the department chairperson will evaluate performance at the course level for majors in order to recommend or intervene regarding academic success. The intent of this review is to catch problems before they affect first-year retention (but also before they affect retention for students further along in their programs of study) in our department. This is ongoing and intervention in Fall 2017 has been productive. Persons Responsible: Academic Advisors in the Department, department chairperson. Date to be Completed: Within two weeks of the release of Fall and Spring interim grades.
- d. Newer, simpler curriculum. The Department of Earth and Environmental Systems has revised all of its undergraduate curriculum to reflect a more consolidated, straightforward path to earning a degree in our programs. We will monitor how this complete revision affects student retention and persistence to degree. Persons Responsible: Undergraduate Affairs Committee and departmental chairperson. Date to be Completed: August 1, 2018.

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

- a. Our new comprehensive program assessment plans for each of our revised undergraduate majors include assessments of learning outcomes specific to each program. These revised assessment plans are much more rational and implementable than our current overwrought undergraduate assessment program, which relies too much on individual faculty members being reminded to complete assessment items to the Undergraduate Affairs committee of the department. Persons Responsible: Undergraduate Affairs Committee. Date to be Completed: assessment plan revisions are attached to curricular revision proposals, implementation will begin in Fall 2018.
- b. Continue core-assessment and culminating experience assessment at program level under existing student learning summary process. Persons Responsible: Undergraduate Affairs Committee and Department Chairperson. Date to be Completed: June 2018.

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

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

### Benchmark Metrics

<b>Metric</b>	<b>2016-17 FTFT-BDS Cohort Actual</b>	<b>2017-18 Target</b>	<b>3 Year Target (2019-20)</b>
Freshmen Retention <sup>3</sup> (by <u>latest department</u> )	88%	91%	91%
4-Year Grad Rate (by <u>latest department</u> )	25%	27%	29%
	<b>Source data for 2016-17 actual</b>	<b>2017-18 Target</b>	<b>3 Year Target (2019-20)</b>
Other Metric #1 <sup>4</sup>			
Other Metric #2			

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<sup>3</sup> 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.).

<sup>4</sup> 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.