

2017-18 Department Student Success Plan Update

Multidisciplinary Studies

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 to Academic Affairs by November 21. 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: Amanda Lubold, Katherine Lee, Tina Kruger

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

- **Create sense of community (addresses Goal 1: Student Success):**
 - a. Efforts have been made to promote student organizations (Philosophy Club, Student Coalition for Social Justice, Feminist Majority) and to create new clubs (Debate Club) and draw in students. We are in the process of arranging a Social Justice speaker (Jack Bratich will present on activism and social media on December 4, 2017). The promotion of student organizations facilitates the flowering of student-generated cultures on campus, which aligns with multiple departmental goals. (Joe Grcic, Ralph Leck, Marsha Miller, ongoing)
 - b. We continue to collaborate on planning for Human Rights Day - slated for March 2018 (Ralph Leck, spring 2018)
 - c. We are planning the next annual Women's History Month Colloquium (we plan on over 1,200 attendees, including involvement of 35 classes – for March 2018 (Marsha Miller, Katherine Lee, spring 2018)
 - d. We will continue to collaborate with a significant cadre of highly engaged affiliated faculty in the Gender Studies, International Studies, and Multidisciplinary Studies programs. These faculty are vital to the functioning and success of those programs, assisting with academic and co-curricular program planning, advising, serving on departmental committees, overseeing student organizations, and many other tasks and activities the facilitate the department accomplishing what needs to be done (various affiliated faculty, ongoing).
 - e. We sponsor the Feminist Majority's production of *The Vagina Monologues* – February 2018 (various GNDR faculty, spring 2018)
 - f. The department will build on its already-excellent relationship with the Honors Program by continuing to support faculty in teaching Honors courses, providing seats to Honors students in an expanded number of courses, and working closely with the Honors Program Director to identify student needs (Greg Bierly, Tina Kruger, ongoing).
 - g. To facilitate the sense of community among students and faculty, the office staff will create and maintain central events calendar, and post the calendar to the department's website (Barbara McNeill, admin assistant, ongoing)
- **Demonstrate career opportunities in all programs (addresses Goal 2: Experiential Learning and Career Readiness):**
 - a. Tri-fold brochures highlighting career opportunities are being developed for each program in the department. (Tina Kruger, fall 2017 and spring 2018)
 - b. In conjunction with the Career Services Center, each program is in the process of constructing a list of careers relevant to its curriculum/degree. The newest promotional materials contain pertinent information regarding careers, and this information is continually updated on the department's website (Tina Kruger, Amanda Lubold, fall 2017 and spring 2018)
- **Incorporate Career Readiness Activities (addresses Goal 2: Experiential Learning and Career Readiness):**
 - a. The department is planning a Careers Day for November 14, 2017. All programs will be present to highlight career opportunities students may pursue. This day will have representatives from the community who have majored in sociology, philosophy, gender studies, or international

studies at their respective institutions. We will be bringing three classes to this career day, guaranteeing at least 100 students, but we also are opening it to all of our students. (Lubold, Goswami, Grcic, Kruger, Leck, Steiger, various affiliated faculty, fall 2017)

- **Retention:** 1-year retention rates from Blue Reports indicate that, while we have few first time freshmen adopting majors in the department, we continue to retain them at a high level (100% of the first time freshmen who entered the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies in 2014, 2015, and 2016 were retained for at least one year). We will continue current efforts to maintain this high retention rate (all faculty, ongoing)
- **Graduation:** Our 4- and 6-year graduation rates are above the university average (33.33% of first time freshmen entering in 2013 who had majors in MDS graduated in 2017; 50% of first time freshmen entering in 2011 who had majors in MDS graduated in 2017), according to data from Blue Reports. We will continue current efforts to maintain this high graduation rate (all faculty, ongoing)
- **Departmental Minor Graduation rates:** We will track the 4-year graduation rates of our sociology, gender studies, international studies, philosophy, and multidisciplinary studies minors. We believe that having a minor in the Department of Multidisciplinary Studies encourages and facilitates strong 4-year graduation rates. (Kruger, spring 2018)

2. Department goals to enhance student performance and/or learning outcome achievement¹ (include action steps, dates, and person(s) responsible for each goal):

- **Seek discipline-specific resources:** Contact disciplinary organizations (American Philosophical Association, American Sociological Association, Association for Interdisciplinary Studies) for resources to support learning outcome achievement. (Grcic, Lubold, Kruger, spring 2018)
- **Exit interviews:** Survey or interview graduating seniors regarding strengths and weaknesses of programs. (Kruger, ongoing)
- **Establish department tutoring services:** identify qualified students to tutor those struggling in courses. Currently have a PHIL tutor at Student Services; need to identify SOC and GNDR tutors. (Lubold, Lee, Haynes, Kruger, spring 2018)
- **Course completion:** According to data from Blue Reports, 83.71% of lower division and 85.36% of upper division courses were successfully completed in the Fall of 2016. We will continue current efforts to maintain this high course completion rate (all faculty, ongoing)
- **DFDr rates:** DFDr rates were down 16.18% in PHIL and 8.05% in GNDR between fall 2015 and fall 2016, while rates in SOC were up 10.57%. We will work to maintain lowered DFDr rates for PHIL, and GNDR, and to reduce DFDr rates in SOC courses. (Goswami, Grcic, Kruger, Lubold, Steiger, fall 2017 and spring 2018)

Benchmark Metrics

Metric	2016-17 FTFT-BDS Cohort Actual	2017-18 Target	3 Year Target (2019-20)
Freshmen Retention ² (by <u>latest department</u>)	100%	100%	100%
4-Year Grad Rate (by <u>latest department</u>)	33.33%	35%	40%
	Source data for 2016-17 actual	2017-18 Target	3 Year Target (2019-20)
DFDr rates ³	GNDR: 13.26% PHIL: 17.67%; SOC: 22.36%	GNDR: 11.26% PHIL: 15.67%; SOC: 20.36%	GNDR: 10% PHIL: 15%; SOC: 16%
Minors' 4-yr grad rate	IR (awaiting report; req. 11/1/17)	+2%	+6%

¹ Department/Program Student Learning Summary Form report may inform what is noted here.

² 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.).

³ 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.