



## Academic Department Student Success Plan Annual Update: 2017-2020<sup>1</sup>



**Department:** Applied Health Sciences

**Department Chair:** Kathryn Berlin

**Department Mission:** The mission of the Department of Applied Health Sciences is to advance understanding about human health and well-being through research, instruction, and service. The central concerns of department faculty and students are to prevent unhealthy behaviors and dangerous conditions from harming people, to correct these situations where they exist, and to help people adopt healthy behaviors. Our overarching goals are to prevent premature death and disability and to promote quality of life for individuals, families, and communities.

### Department Freshmen (1<sup>st</sup> year) Retention Goal(s):

1. Our Fall 2015 starting cohort retention rate was 65.22%; the Fall 2016 starting cohort retention rate was 76.74%, an 11.52% increase from the previous year. Our continued goal is to:
  - a. Focus on improving student retention by 2% per year.
2. Our retention rate continues to be one of the top five in the university, with only four departments showing a comparable or higher retention rate; our goal is to remain in the top five in terms of retention.

### Action Steps<sup>2</sup> (with dates & person(s) responsible):

1. Continue program curriculum assessment to ensure current course offerings develop applicable skills for employment, increasing current students' desire to enter or stay in the AHS department (rather than transfer to another program or institution). (Date: Fall 2017/Spring 2018; persons responsible: Program Directors).
2. Implement Career Ready Certificate in HDFS and Health Sciences program, focusing on soft skills in the sophomore and junior years necessary for successful career trajectories. The soft skills inherent in the certificate (professionalism; dependability, etc.) are skills our students need to be successful in college. Including the Career Ready Certificate helps us to instill critical skills for students that translate into degree retention. (Date: Fall 2017/Spring 2018; persons responsible: All faculty).
3. The Food and Nutrition program will work with the college of Business to strengthen the Food Service Management degree and therefore offer new degree opportunities for incoming freshmen. Since the Dietetics program currently only accepts 16 students per cohort, those students who are not admitted move to other departments. By creating another degree trajectory, we are able to retain those students interested in Dietetics that may not be accepted into the program. (Date: Fall 2017/Spring 2018; persons responsible: Mark McInerney).

*Retention Benchmarks*  
(by latest department)

**Fall 2013 Cohort:**  
90.75%

**Fall 2014 Cohort:**  
86.75%

<b>Fall 2015 target &amp; actual:</b> 82.14%
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**Fall 2016 target & actual:**  
81.01%

**Fall 2017 target:**  
83.01%

**Fall 2018 target:**  
85.01%

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> **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.

## *Other Freshmen Retention related benchmarks of focal interest to department*

### **Department Persistence to Completion Goal(s):**

3. Our Fall 2012 cohort (2015-16 graduation) rate was 34.38%; the Fall 2013 cohort (2016-17 graduation) rate was 45.83%, an 11.45% increase from one year to the next. Our continued goals are to:
  - a. Increase four-year graduation rate by 2% each year.
  - b. Increase six-year graduation rate by 2% each year.

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

1. Continue advising efforts focused on “15 to finish,” course sequencing, timely registration, timely completion of four-year plans in MySam, and use of notes in MySam: (Date: fall 2017 and spring 2018; persons responsible: all faculty.)
2. Continue work on program curricula changes and sequencing to facilitate timely graduation. Specific steps for each department program include:
  - a. **Health Sciences:** faculty are working to switch the current bachelor’s degree in health sciences, public health concentration, to a Bachelor’s of Public Health. The graduate program will also change from a Masters in Health Sciences to a Master’s in Public Health. The ultimate goal is to obtain the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation for both programs. (Date: fall 2017 and spring 2018; persons responsible: Whitney Blondeau, Matthew Hutchins.)
  - b. **Health Sciences:** faculty are revising and updating the current Health Administration concentration to an actual Bachelor of Sciences in Healthcare Management. This will not only improve curriculum offerings but will enhance student success in terms of employment opportunities and essential skills. (Date: fall 2017 and spring 2018; persons responsible: Whitney Blondeau, Kathryn Berlin.)
  - c. **Human Development & Family Studies (HDFS):** faculty are revising course sequencing for AHS 145, 237 and 238 as well as reviewing pre-requisites necessary for admission to AHS 448/449. This will address issues with retention and completion. (Date: fall 2017 and spring 2018; persons responsible: Linda Behrendt, Anthony Walker, Lauren Lewis, Deanna Franklin.)
  - d. **Coordinated Program in Dietetics (CPD):** faculty are applying to one of ACEND’s demonstration programs for the Future Education Model Standards during the 2017-2018 academic year. (Date: fall 2017 and spring 2018; persons responsible: Mark McInerney.)
  - e. **Bachelor of Applied Health Sciences (BAS):** Conduct an assessment of BAS programs focused on the needs of faculty and students. Research curricula and learning outcomes from comparable programs (to BAS) offered by other universities to ensure students acquire the knowledge and skills they need to compete with students graduating with a comparable degree from other universities. (Date: fall 2017 and spring 2018; persons responsible: Maureen Johnson.)
3. We developed and began disseminating, October 2017, a monthly student newsletter that is sent electronically to current undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, faculty, staff, and administrators on issues related to student success. The newsletter, titled “AHS Career Pulse” focuses on critical skills needed for collegiate success, tips and resources for career paths, and advising and other logistical information needed by students. We will measure open rates on specific topics (advising, registration, soft skills) to determine student interest and exposure to critical graduation information. Brief surveys conducted throughout the year will provide input as to the utility of a newsletter on retention and timely graduation rates. (Date: fall 2017 and spring 2018; persons responsible: Kathryn Berlin, Susan Crist, other faculty as needed.)

*Completion Benchmarks*  
(by latest department)

**Fall 2010 Cohort:**  
28.26%

**Fall 2013 Cohort  
target & actual:**  
45.83%

**Fall 2011 Cohort:**  
38.64%

**Fall 2014 Cohort  
target:**  
47.83%

<b>Fall 2012 target &amp; actual:</b> 34.38%
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**Fall 2015 Cohort target:**  
49.83%

*Other Persistence to Completion related benchmarks of focal interest to department*

4.

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

1. The department will look into how it can position itself to assume leadership roles for the proposed shared resources model. Specifically, AHS could be the primary provider for both statistics and research courses for the entire college.
2. Explore ways to ensure faculty are actively engaged in all aspects of program development and revision during the curricular revisions, additions, and deletions.