

Project Name: Comprehensive Undergraduate Advising Plan

MIU Round: Round 2

Sponsor(s): Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning

Coordinator(s): Annette McDaniel, Assistant Dean, Division of Student Life
Aaron Brower, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning

Report Date: Year 1, July 2011

Project Specific Goal and Measures

Project Impact Measure(s)

- Increase access to advisors by 1) reducing advising loads in key areas by hiring additional advisors, 2) targeting other new hires to the Exploration Center for Majors and Careers, the Center for Pre-Health Advising, and pre-law students, and 3) target other new hires to services for transfer students in the Transfer Transitions Program and in L&S.
- Coordinate advising leadership and services by the creation of a campus-level unit. The new unit will be led by a Director of Advising who will report to the Provost through the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning. In addition to the Director, 3 other staff will be hired (Training and Assessment, Advising Technology, Human Resources).
- Improve advising-related technology to maintain and enhance the Advisor Notes system (separate MIU funding). Strongly encourage development of an early warning system to identify at-risk students and the creation of a web portal to connect students with advising resources.
- Improve advisor training and assessment.

Project Impact Data Source(s)

- Number of advisors assigned to students, advising loads of individual advisors, and timing of advisor assignments (APA queries)
- Hiring for four administrative positions within the central advising office. Report from Director.
- Progress towards developing an early warning system and web portal. Report from Director.
- Development of advisor training and assessment resources. Report from Director.

Baseline Measure(s)

- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) questions related to advising satisfaction.
- Advising loads and timing of advisor assignments from 2009 (see <http://apa.wisc.edu/CLH/AdvisingIssuesAnalysis.pdf>).

Comprehensive Undergraduate Advising Plan, Page 2

General MIU Goals and Measures (applicable to project)

A	Increased access in bottleneck areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advising loads in high demand majors with under-resourced advising will be reduced. Reduced advising loads give undergraduates more timely and personal access to their assigned advisors.• Students will be able to find some information on the web portal, reducing the need to contact advisors.• Advisors will be better connected to each other through the Advisor Notes system resulting in consistency in information provided to students.
B	Increased capacity for high-demand experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students are increasingly interested in medical-related careers and will benefit from advisors knowledgeable about the breadth of career options and help provided with applications for graduate/professional programs.• Like medical careers, students interested in the legal professions will now have targeted advising and help with career decision making and law school application issues.• UW-Madison's enrollment plan calls for an increase in the number of transfer students. Serving more transfer students requires specialized staff who understand the different needs and issues that transfers students face.
F	Decreased achievement gaps	Advisor training and resources in the areas of diversity should contribute to the overall campus efforts to reduce the achievement gap. Reduction of advising loads are being specifically directed at areas/programs that serve targeted students. Directing additional resources to students who are undecided should help guide these students in course selection and timely decision making increasing the likelihood that they will be retained at UW-Madison and graduate in a timely manner. Reduced advising loads facilitate increased contact (both in time and frequency) between advisors and students. The development of an early warning system and intrusive advising initiatives will identify at risk students when there is still time to address developing programs.
G	Attention to diversity in new hires	NA in Year 1. New advisors and the four central office administrative staff will be hired during Year 2.

Progress Reports

Year 1	A working group charged by the Provost was convened and met throughout the 2010-11 academic year. In April 2011, the recommendations for advising "reforms" were finalized. In June 2011, a call for pre-proposals was issued for the new advising positions. The full invitation will happen in August. The search committee for the Director of Advising was convened and began meeting in June.
--------	--