Implementing a Mandatory Advising Program: A Multi-level Collaborative Effort Topic: Student Persistence, Retention and Academic Skills

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Learning Objectives

• Learn how to rollout required advising with limited resources
• Discuss effective major advising in multidisciplinary colleges
• Present ways to engage with students at-risk
San Diego State University- Main Campus

- Enrollment (Fall 2020): 30,142
- Hispanic Serving Institution
- Impacted University
College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts

- 7 schools and 3 departments (ROTC)

As of Fall 2020, student enrollment: 4,617

- Underrepresented Minorities (URM): 1,855 (40.2%)
- Pell Grant: 1,552 (33.6%)
As of Fall 2020, students in the CJ/PA major:

- Enrollment: 1144
- Underrepresented Minorities (URM): 660 (57.7%)
- Pell Grant: 517 (45.2%)
CSU GI 2025 Goals

• First-year students:
  • 40% 4-year goal
  • 70% 6-year goal
• Transfer students:
  • 45% 2-year goal
  • 85% 4-year goal

PSFA GI 2025 Goals

• Goals
• PSFA GI 2025 Strategic Plan
  • Revising Curricular Structures
  • Engaging Faculty
  • Renovating the Advising Experience
Strategic Areas of Focus:

• Revising curricular structures
• Engaging faculty
• Renovating the advising experience
  • The First Two Years
How?

- Individual emails
- Meeting 1-1 with DQ students
- Follow up halfway through the semester
Support for Students at Risk

Who?
- Academic Probation (2nd and 3rd term)
- Disqualified
- Faculty referred

Why?
- Intervention
- Understanding
- Connection
What?

- Enforced major advising

Why?

- Research shows the positive effects on student persistence and success, particularly among underrepresented student populations and students-at-risk.
- Strategic student populations: second semester sophomores

How?

- Adviser Capacity
- Messaging
- Registration hold

Students were required to meet with their major adviser in order to prevent/lift a registration hold.
Why: Strategic Student Population

Fall
- First Semester Sophomores
- Why? To ensure they are on track to complete impaction criteria by the time they reach 60 units. The goal is to prevent pre-majors with 60+ units.

Spring
- Second Semester Juniors
- Why? To ensure they are on track for a four-year graduation.
● Adviser Capacity
  ○ Building capacity with limited funding

● Messaging
  ○ Three messages (at minimum)
    1. After add/drop deadline
    2. 3-4 weeks after first message. Prior to registration hold being placed.
    3. After registration hold has been placed.

● Enforcing registration holds
  ○ Registration hold message leads to website with advisers’ information
How: Timeline (Fall)

Sept. 4
- Message 1 is sent the day after the add/drop deadline.
- Message 2 is sent.
- 3-4 weeks later

Early to Mid October
- Registration dates are posted online.
- Hold is in place.
- Third message sent shortly after.

Nov. 1
- Spring registration begins.
- Students continue to meet with adviser to lift hold.

Dec. 31
- Semester ends.
- Registration for Spring continues through Feb. 1.
- Students continue to meet with advisers if they still have a hold.
• Recruitment
  ○ Application
  ○ Supplemental documentation
  ○ Interview

• Training
  ○ Academic adviser
  ○ Fellow peer advisers

• Scheduling
● 1-3 units per semester
● 3-6 hours weekly
● SPA Advising Team meetings
● Ally Trainings
Spring 2019
- Second Semester Juniors: 278

Fall 2019
- First Semester Sophomores: 116
- Navigate introduced

Spring 2020
- Second Semester Juniors: 343 (suspended due to COVID-19)

Spring 2021
- Second Semester Juniors: 304

Fall 2021
- First semester sophomores and new transfers: ~400
Four-Year Graduation Rates (FTF):

- Fall 2015 (AY 18-19): 52.3%
- Fall 2016 (AY 19-20): 60.5%
- Fall 2017 (AY 20-21): TBD

Two-Year Graduation Rates (Transfers):

- Fall 2017 (AY 18-19): 70.2%
- Fall 2018 (AY 19-20): 66.5%
- Fall 2019 (AY 20-21): TBD
Why: Strategic Student Population

**Fall**
- First Semester Sophomores + New Transfer Students
- Why? To ensure they are on track to complete impaction criteria by the time they reach 60 units. The goal is to prevent pre-majors with 60+ units. To ensure that new transfer students are supported in their transition to SDSU, answer questions they may have, and update their two-year academic plan.

**Spring**
- Second Semester Juniors
- Why? To ensure they are on track for a four-year graduation.
Thank You!

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