Improvement Plan Update

Dr. Martha Saunders
Provost and Executive Vice President
Key Areas of Focus

• **Metric 4.** Six-Year Graduation Rate for First-time-in-College (FTIC) Students

• **Metric 5.** Academic Progress Rate

• **Metric 9.** Baccalaureate Degrees Awarded Without Excess Hours
The University College houses:

- First Year Advising Center
- Kugelman Honors Program
- General Studies Program
- Professional Readiness initiatives

The University College welcomes all students who enter UWF during their first year of college and provides continuing support to help all students become fully prepared to enter the career or profession of their choice upon earning a baccalaureate degree.

Dean of University College
Dr. Greg Lanier

Associate Dean, University College
Kathy Parker
While UWF has been actively engaged in enhancing and strengthening advising services throughout the campus, hiring 3 new academic advisors will provide support in areas of identified need. One of the advisors will be assigned to University College. The other two will be assigned to the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities and the College of Science, Engineering & Health. This will ensure that a professional advisor is assigned to each college to support the faculty advisors.

Tamara Kelso

Lindsey Byrd

Rafael Arreaza-Scrocchi
Create and disseminate a Financial Literacy Program

Financial Literacy Plan and Financial Literacy Committee approved – August 1, 2014

The Financial Literacy Program seeks to raise awareness among students about financial resources and more importantly, provide financial aid literacy information to seniors approaching graduation.

Fall 2014 Activity

- College of Business - Pen Air Financial Literacy Boot Camp - October 17, 2014
- Financial Aid Awareness Day – October 15, 2014
- College Survival Skills Course - October 14 and 16, 2014.
- Day of Declaration - November 12, 2014
Implement Degree Works Degree Audit system. Integrate 8 semester degree plans.
Purchase and implement College Scheduler software platform in order to create more refined, targeted and critical course scheduling. Integrate with Degree Works.
Enhance Policies to Support Student Progress to Obtaining a Degree

- Secure Approval of **Progress to Degree Policy**
  - Approved by President Bense December 9, 2014

- Secure Approval of Revised **Attendance Policy**
  - Approved by President Bense December 9, 2014
Administer The Student Strengths Inventory© for FTIC students.

The Student Strengths Inventory© (SSI) is a 54 item self-report measure which provides scores on 6 scales (motivation factors known to predict student outcomes) and two student success/risk indices (probability of retention and probability of academic performance).

Fall 2014 Activity

- 1,309 FTIC students responded to the survey at UWF, yielding a response rate of 91%.
- The First-Year Advising Center (FYAC) and Honors Program advisors met with 133 at-risk FTIC students September 15-25, 2014.
- Excellence Series – Offered by the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE)- SSI related topics.
Distribute a supplemental Excess Hours Guide to all faculty, staff and students.

Fall 2014 Activity

- Enhanced Excessed Hours web guide.
- “Avoiding Excess Hours” Guide- Available online
- Emailed to Students, faculty and staff.
- Printed copies:
  - New students and parents during new student orientation
  - Academic Advisors
  - Argo Central – UWF’s One-stop-Shop.

EXCESS CREDIT HOURS

Avoiding Excess Hours
A Practical Guide for UWF Students

We’ve built the University of West Florida for you—with small classes taught by some of the nation’s most engaging scholars, our programs are some of the strongest and most affordable around.

Our mission is to make an impact. The University of West Florida professors are here to work one-on-one with you. And when you graduate? Watch out, world. So make the most of your time at UWF by starting off with an academic plan that ensures you graduate on time. This guide is designed to provide you with practical information on the excess hours surcharge and tips to avoid being charged extra tuition.

The Key to Avoiding Excess Hours Includes:

- Understand the Excess Hours Surcharge
- Develop a Degree Plan
- Take Advantage of UWF’s Resources

Example Surcharge:

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
50% & \times \$105.07 \\
100\% & \times \$105.07 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[= \$52.54 \text{ credit surcharge} + \$105.07 \text{ credit surcharge} \]

Develop a Degree Plan

Develop a plan to help you get started, stay on track throughout your years at UWF. Meet with your academic advisor regularly and plan your academic career. Keep your grades up! Only register for classes that apply toward your degree. Taking additional classes outside of your new-year plan may put you in jeopardy for the Excess Hours Surcharge and your financial aid may not apply toward the courses.

In order to be successful in your academic requirements, consider what type of course load is realistically manageable each semester:

- Should you attend part-time or full-time?
- Do you work jobs while attending UWF, and if so, how many hours per week do you work?
- How many hours should you be dedicating to your courses, i.e., study time, assignments, readings, etc.?
- Are you a student-athlete required to devote time to practices and competitions?
- Do you have family responsibilities?
- Are you involved with extracurricular activities on campus?
Evaluate 2014 Summer Success Program Pilot

- The Summer Success Program was targeted towards students on academic warning at the end of the spring semester of their first year.
- The program gives students two options:
  1. Repeat a course for which they qualify for a grade forgiveness option.
  2. Enroll in an academic foundation course geared toward at-risk freshman.
- Financial Aid was offered to students taking this course.

Pilot Program – Summer 2013

- 32 students with a 1.99-1.8 GPA were invited to participate in the program.
- Overall, the additional intervention produced positive results
  - 59% completed their first year with a 2.0 GPA (89% without grade forgiveness)
  - 4 completed the grade forgiveness process.