



## 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





# STUDENT SUCCESS

- **Creation of UWF University College**
- **Hire A Dean for University College**
- **Appoint an Advising Czar**

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





# STUDENT SUCCESS

## ➤ Hire 3 Academic Advisors

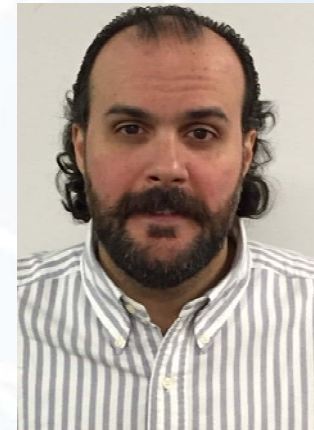
- ✓ While UWF has been actively engaged in enhancing and strengthening advising services throughout the campus, hiring 3 new academic advisors will provide support in areas of identified need. One of the advisors will be assigned to University College. The other two will be assigned to the College of 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



# STUDENT GRADUATION SUCCESS

## ➤ 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
- ✓ Produced Financial Survival Guide- December 1, 2014.
- ✓ Launched Financial Literacy website – December 2014. <http://www.cashcourse.org/>

## UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA Financial Survival Guide

A Practical Guide for **UWF Students**

At the University of West Florida, we recognize that financial planning is important. Students come here for our small classes, dynamic professors, and the chance to participate in cutting-edge, hands-on fieldwork and research.

Our programs are some of the strongest and most affordable around. The *Financial Survival Guide* is a guide designed to provide you with practical advice on personal financial topics.

### The Key to Financial Planning Includes:

- ☐ Understanding Financial Aid
- ☐ Living on a Budget
- ☐ Earning Money in College
- ☐ Knowing When to Save
- ☐ Having a Plan



### Understanding Financial Aid

There are several different kinds of grants and scholarships available to college students. Make sure that you complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) in a timely manner. Ask your advisors, faculty, employers or local leaders to uncover potential opportunities for additional aid. Try to avoid private loans whenever possible because they have higher interest rates and less flexible repayment plans. Always remember to borrow responsibly, as student loan debt is not dischargeable in bankruptcy, so anything you borrow will need to be repaid plus interest. Whenever possible, apply for academic scholarships. UWF offers merit and Foundation scholarships as well as academic departmental awards. Stop by the Financial Aid Office or visit the Financial Aid website at [uwf.edu/offices/financial-aid](http://uwf.edu/offices/financial-aid) for more information on UWF's scholarships.

### Living on a Budget

Look at your expenses and create a monthly budget. Keep track of exactly what you spend and evaluate what you might be able to cut or limit from your expenses. Also consider evaluating banking options.

Many students will obtain a credit card. The challenge is to become a transaction payer, which means you pay your full credit card balance every month and do not use the credit card to "splurge" with borrowed money. Credit is determined by a FICO score, this determines a borrowers' worthiness. Every 12 months you may view your credit report for free at [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com).

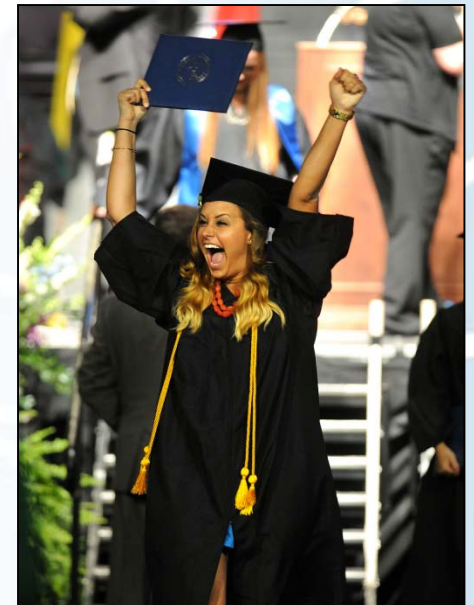
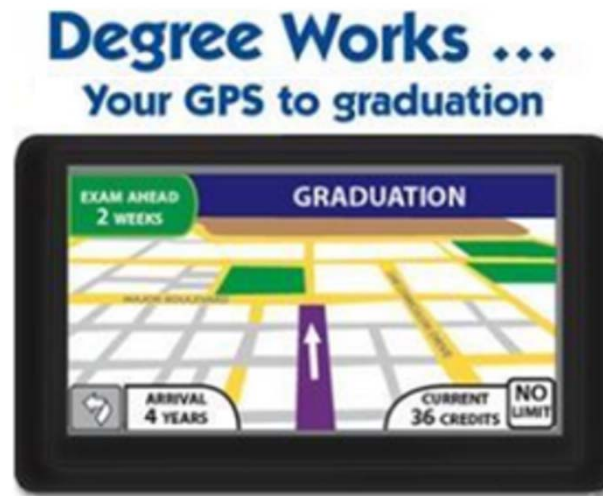
### Earn Money in College

Get to work! Consider working on or off campus while in school. While it may be challenging to work full time, it can provide a great sense of accomplishment in your independence, and give you the opportunity to reduce student loan debt. More than 1,100 students work in UWF departments across campus, typically for 10 to 15 hours per week. UWF offers Federal Work-Study, Graduate Assistantships and Other Personal Services, or OPS, student employment.



# STUDENT GRADUATION SUCCESS

- **Implement Degree Works Degree Audit system. Integrate 8 semester degree plans.**








# STUDENT GRADUATION SUCCESS

- Purchase and implement College Scheduler software platform in order to create more refined, targeted and critical course scheduling. Integrate with Degree Works.



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Help Videos - Exit

Course Status: Open Classes Only

Term: Spring 2015

Parts of Term: 1 of 4 Selected

Campus: 1 of 5 Selected

Info (H) Honors

Courses

Add Course

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Course	Options	Info	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ADV 3101	<a href="#">View/Edit</a>	<a href="#">Info</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COM 5933	<a href="#">View/Edit</a>	<a href="#">Info</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COM 6525	<a href="#">View/Edit</a>	<a href="#">Info</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ENL 2010	<a href="#">View/Edit</a>	<a href="#">Info</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PUR 4930	<a href="#">View/Edit</a>	<a href="#">Info</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>

Breaks

Add Break

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name	Days	Time	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lunch	MTWRF	12:00pm to 1:00pm	<a href="#">Add</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Practice	MWR	4:00pm to 6:00pm	<a href="#">Add</a>

Schedules

Generate Schedules

Generated 1 schedule.

	#	Compare	
<a href="#">View</a>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	ADV-3101-01, COM-5933-01, COM-6525-01, ENL-2010-01, PUR-4930-01, Lunch, Practice

Print Page Send To Cart Close Schedule

\*You are viewing a potential schedule only and you must still register.

More Info	C/N/P	Subject	Course	Section	Open Seats	Day(s) & Time(s)	Date	Location(s)	Campus	Credits
1	11300	ADV	3101	01	1	MW - 2:30pm - 3:45pm	1/7/2015 - 4/22/2015	0036 0152	Main (Pensacola)	3
2	11741	COM	5933	01	9	T - 4:15pm - 5:45pm	1/6/2015 - 4/21/2015	0036 0175	Main (Pensacola)	3
3	11315	COM	6525	01	9	T - 6:00pm - 8:45pm	1/6/2015 - 4/21/2015	0036 0175	Main (Pensacola)	3
4	11525	ENL	2010	01	14	TH - 9:30am - 10:45am	1/6/2015 - 4/23/2015	0051 0165	Main (Pensacola)	3
5	11339	PUR	4930	01	6	MW - 9:00am - 9:50am	1/7/2015 - 4/22/2015	0036 0175	Main (Pensacola)	3

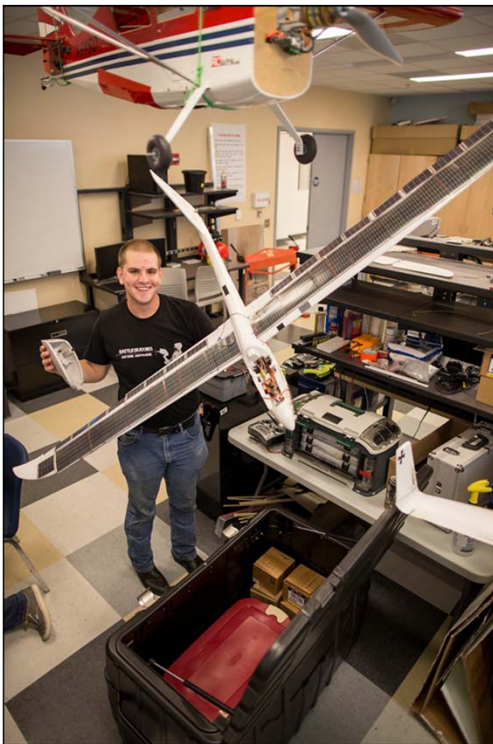
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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	PUR-4930-01		PUR-4930-01		
9:15	0036 0175-CLAS		0036 0175-CLAS		
9:30	McLaughlin, Sabrina S.		McLaughlin, Sabrina S.		
9:45		0051 0165-CLAS		0051 0165-CLAS	
10:00		Bomack, Katherine		Bomack, Katherine	
10:15					
10:30					
10:45					
11:00					
11:15					
11:30					
11:45					
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:15					
12:30					
12:45					
1:00					
1:15					
1:30					
1:45					
2:00					
2:15					
2:30	ADV-3101-01		ADV-3101-01		
2:45	0036 0152-CLAS		0036 0152-CLAS		
3:00	Huang, Ying		Huang, Ying		
3:15					
3:30					
3:45	Practice		Practice	Practice	
4:00					
4:15					
4:30		COM-5933-01			
4:45		0036 0175-CLAS			
5:00		Wise, Kurt Alan			
5:15					
5:30					
5:45					
6:00		COM-6525-01			
6:15		0036 0175-CLAS			
6:30		Penner, Christopher J.			
6:45					
7:00					
7:15					
7:30					
7:45					
8:00					
8:15					
8:30					
8:45					



# STUDENT SUCCESS

## ➤ 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





# STUDENT RETENTION

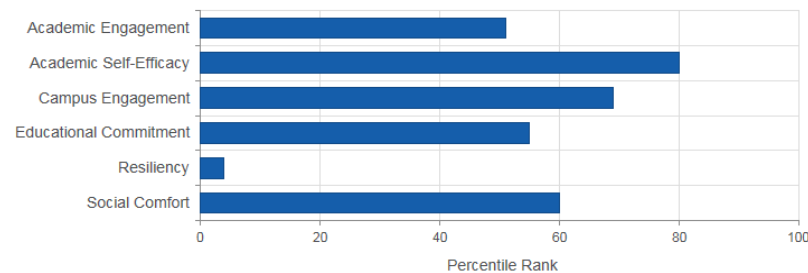
Retention Probability: 65%

Academic Success Probability: 76%

## Success Network

*This student is not part of a success network.*

### Student Strengths Inventory - Student Strengths Inventory Summer 2014



#### Academic Engagement

*Your commitment to school work and the value you place on academics.*

Percentile  
**51**

##### Moderate

Your responses indicate that you take your schoolwork seriously. You value getting your homework done and attending classes. There may be times, however, when you procrastinate, submit work that is not your best effort, or consider skipping class. Your performance is dependent on your effort - fortunately there are resources on campus that can help you develop good academic habits.

##### What's Next?

- Visit [uwf.edu/finishstrong](http://uwf.edu/finishstrong) for the Excellence Series schedule to learn about weekly workshops that assist students with effective study and time management skills.
- Talk with your advisor about approaches that other students have used to improve their performance.
- Are you going to class? Skipping class is the number one reason students fail. If you miss a class contact your instructor and get a copy of the notes from a classmate. Make a habit of attending all your classes.

#### Academic Self-Efficacy

*The confidence that you can achieve academically and succeed in college.*

Percentile  
**80**

##### High

Your responses suggest that you are very confident in your ability to be a successful college student. You believe that you can attain a high grade point average in required courses as well as perform well in your major. Having high confidence in your academic abilities is a valuable asset and will support your efforts to be successful in college and beyond.

##### What's Next?

- Continue to challenge yourself to set high performance goals.
- If your performance falls short of your expectations talk with your advisor or professor about the outcome.

## ➤ 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.



# EXCESS CREDIT HOURS

- Distribute a supplemental Excess Hours Guide to all faculty, staff and students.

## Fall 2014 Activity

- ✓ Enhanced Excess 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.

UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

## 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

**Understand the Excess Hours Surcharge**

In 2009, the Florida Legislature implemented the Excess Hours Surcharge (Section 1009.286, Florida Statutes) to encourage students to complete their baccalaureate degree as timely and efficiently as possible. All UWF students have access to their Excess Hours Calculator and should monitor it each semester. Make sure you check your Excess Hours Calculator multiple times during the year, especially after registering for future semesters or altering your class schedule.

- Once you have exceeded your threshold you will be charged a surcharge. The Excess Hours Surcharge is applied on a per-credit basis and based on your year of enrollment.
- Students who matriculated at any college or university between Fall 2009 and Summer 2011 will incur 50 percent extra of the Undergraduate Basic Tuition Fee, and students who enrolled between Fall 2011 and after, 100 percent extra of the Undergraduate Basic Tuition Fee.
- Example Surcharge fee:

50%	100%
x \$105.07	x \$105.07
<b>\$52.54 1 credit surcharge</b>	<b>\$105.07 1 credit surcharge</b>

**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 four-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 a job while attending UWF, and if so, how many hours per week do you work?
- How much time should you be devoting 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?

uwf.edu/enraffairs

University of West Florida



# STUDENT RETENTION

## ➤ 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.

