

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Monitoring Student Progress

Plan for 2005-2006

The Office of the Registrar supports several methods for monitoring a student's academic progress. The most obvious are:

Satisfactory Academic Progress:

An undergraduate student will be placed on academic probation if at the end of any term the student's grade point average: is less than 2.0, but not less than 1.5, for the term; **or** is less than 2.0 for all courses taken within the University of California.

An undergraduate student is subject to academic disqualification for further registration in the University if at the end of any term: the student's grade point average for that term is less than 1.5; **or** if the student has completed two consecutive terms on academic probation without achieving a cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

Once a student's academic progress has been determined, the OTR will work with the various academic schools and Student Advising and Learning Center to find ways to help the student regain their academic balance.

Mid-Semester Grades:

U.C. Merced passed a Mid-Semester Grade policy where all lower division undergraduate courses (numbered 001-099) are to have mid-semester grades reported by faculty teaching those sections. The OTR will collect and post these grades, and place registration holds for future semesters on all freshmen students who receive a D+, D, D-, and/or F grade on any class they are taking. Those students are then required to attend an Student Academic Success Workshop where they are counseled, informed of options, and offered resources by which they can succeed in their classes by the end of the semester.

Final Grades:

Final grades are another data point that directly feeds the Satisfactory Academic Progress. It also allows the University to track grade distributions by section and/or by class to see in a general sense how students are faring academically. These reports can then be shared with faculty and Deans to brainstorm what more could have been done to prepare students and/or help students who are struggling recover and succeed.

Degree Audit:

A degree audit system would be a valuable tool to help students achieve several objectives. First, it would allow a student to do "what-if" analyses in case they wished to see what they would need to take to complete a degree in their area of study, or to see what it would take if they switched to a different degree or area of study. It would also be

a great tool to gauge how students are progressing in their normal progress to degree. It could provide statistics about how many students are at what stage of completion and better help the University plan which courses could be offered at specific points to assist the student complete their degree.

Graduation Rates:

Graduate rates are also a valuable data point in assessing how a cohort class did in graduating within the expected four year, how many may have taken long, and how many are not progressing along an expected path. This can also help the University decide how to better support future classes graduate earlier.

Summer Session:

Another important monitoring point is to provide a nice breadth of course offerings during the various summer session periods. This will allow students to retake courses they may have done poorly in during the normal academic year, take various pre-requisite courses before the next semester, and generally move more quickly towards graduation or staying on target for graduating on time.