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LEARNING LOG Degree Planning Improvement

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DETAILS

MAKING IT WORK, UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, AND SHARING WHAT WORKS

TITLE

Degree Planning Improvement

SOLUTION

Redesigned Planning Advising and Student Services

CAPACITIES

Leadership & Culture

Owner

[Randi Harris \(/education/s/profile/00536000003BijZAAS/\)](/education/s/profile/00536000003BijZAAS/)



Record Type

Monthly-Current 2017



INSTITUTION

Portland State University

REFLECTION

SITE INITIATIVE

Help improve the degree planning experience for current and prospective undergraduate students by providing dynamic, mobile-responsive solutions and improving related policies, practices and procedures.

PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS

We have made progress on several of our projects that are a part of the Degree Planning Improvement Program.

Degree Audit Improvement- The project team worked with a local design consultant on recommendations to improve the output of our degree audit (DARS). We are now in the process of implementing the changes based on the style guide that was developed through student, faculty, and advisor engagement. We aim to launch the improved audit report by the end of the summer term.

Update Course Planning Guide- The project team is currently working with campus stakeholders to enhance and improve the course planning guide. Our IT team is developing a prototype based on initial discovery and will be engaging stakeholders for feedback and iteration. This project is critical for successful implementation of Interactive Degree Maps, as it will be used to store and provide course offering data.

Interactive Degree Maps- The project team is nearing the end of our consulting phase with a vendor to determine if we will move forward with co-developing a degree planning tool. The 6 week on-campus engagement with the vendor was positive, and the use of student-centered design and iteration have produced a concept that we believe can provide tremendous value to our students and advisors.

IMPACT

Collectively, these projects will enhance student agency and self-efficacy in the area of degree planning. The use of new and/or improved tools may impact how students interact with academic and career advisors and so it is incredibly important that our efforts in these areas are tightly connected with our efforts to redesign advising.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES

We have utilized the resources of outside consultants and vendors for their expertise in user-interface and design which has been critical to moving our projects forward. Additionally, we have benefited greatly from our colleagues at Florida International University, who we have teleconferenced with

several times over the past 6 months in regards to developing Interactive Degree Maps. We continue to learn from the different approaches to degree mapping and look forward to additional conversations in the future as we both learn more.

NEXT CRITICAL STEPS

A critical step in implementing the degree planning improvement projects is the connection to our initiative to redesign advising. As we implement tools and practices to improve degree planning, we will be collaborating with Advising and Career Services to understand more deeply how new tools and processes will impact the workflow of advisors. We want to ensure that there are not unintentional behavior changes in students that could impact their successful path towards their degree/goal.

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES

A continued opportunity/challenge is how we can create an integrated interface of all advising tools and platforms to help streamline processes for academic and career advisors.

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS

STATUS

Final

Completion Date 

5/31/2017

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Randi Harris (/education/s/profile/00536000003BijZAAS) (Portland State University) updated this record.




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