Status Report: Grad Plan/University Transfer Enhancement Project

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Overview

Expected outcome
- Assess options for integration of Grad Plan and University Transfer data for a more accurate and user-friendly tool
- Increase Grad Plan usage to help students get to PCC Completion and University Transfer simultaneously

Recent progress
- Advisers and Advising Council initial input and stakeholder feedback
- Student focus groups
Phase 1 - Engage Internal Stakeholders

Who uses Grad Plan?

- Students, Advisers, Student Records
- While stakeholders all use grad plan, they have various needs and wants of the tool
- How to prioritize the various needs of stakeholders for enhancement recommendations?

What works well? What does not?

- Using intentional feedback gathering techniques to determine what needs improvement/enhancement
Phase 1 - Engage External Stakeholders

Input from University Transfer Partners

- What are our transfer partners currently using to satisfy similar needs of users?
- PSU is creating a tool with the help of Barnes & Noble

Input from State

- Challenges with CC to University transfer is a key statewide issue.
- SB regarding transfer was passed to make Community College transfer to Four-Year Institutions an easier process
- Oregon Student Success Center
Attention areas

Training tools for users

● Need to create a training module that is accessible to students and internal users
● Need the support of IT and Webteam to have this training module available online

User Experience

● What enhancements/improvements will make the tool easier to use and navigate?
● What enhancements/improvements can ensure accuracy of the information provided to the user for both PCC Completion and Transfer?
Considerations

How does this initiative sync with other initiatives?

- Syncs well with Advising Re-design as a major component of advising is accurate degree audit and transfer planning
- Will be important for Achieving the Dream data collection and also for Guided Pathways, should the college pursue this initiative

How will this initiative support equitable student success?

- A better tool that is user friendly and accessible to students will result in greater usage and better completion for all students
- A better tool will allow advisers and student records to provide accurate guidance for students to transfer
Schedule
Spring 2017: Initial stakeholder engagement

Summer 2017: Student usability sessions and focus groups

Fall 2017: Further stakeholder engagement informs initial recommendations

Winter 2018: Research and cost-impact analysis of available options, further engagement with transfer partners

Spring 2018: Synthesize research and finalize recommendations
Next steps

Phase 1
Usability sessions and focus groups, with targeted outreach to recruit diverse student participants

Phase 2
Synthesize student feedback and compare with staff feedback to identify overlapping areas of concern and low-hanging fruit

Phase 3
Address short-term problems and develop materials for staff and students to fill gaps in training
Goals for next update

1. Completion of stakeholder input & focus groups
2. Bring forth synthesized stakeholder input to inform initial recommendations
3. Early recommendations for enhancement/improvement
Grad Plan/University Transfer Project Steering Committee

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