



Student Success Initiative

Credit Accumulation Initiative Status Report, April-May 2015

Achievements in this period

The Credit Accumulation Initiative first convened on March 17, 2014. The research questions formulated by the team members included determining whether policy or campaign that encouraged students to earn at least fifteen credit hours per semester would be advantageous. Over the next three months, the group met a number of times. Data prepared by OIR confirmed that both attempting and earning an average of fifteen or more credits per semester in the first year is associated with increased odds of graduating in four and six years. Earning fifteen or more credit hours is associated with improved odds of retention. Additionally, no significant differences in retention and graduation were found when considering students Pell eligibility, CPS alumni status or race/ethnicity. The working group agreed that benefits of the project warranted a coordinated campaign. To develop rationale, group members investigated current practices in the undergraduate colleges, financial aid implications, career implications, and theoretical frameworks for the policy. On May 20 and May 21, Tom Moss presented the rationale to campus advisors on behalf of the team. The slides from this presentation are attached.

PDF file for the initiative presentation to the advisors may be accessed through this link <https://studentsuccess.uic.edu/files/2015/05/Credit-Accum-Init-Campus-Presentation1.pdf>

Goals for next period:

Over the next two months, the team will determine a "brand" for the campaign and establish a timeline for future activities, which will include writing and distribute a policy paper of data findings (with colleagues in OIR), working with a graphic designer to prepare materials targeted at students, staff, faculty, and parents, and developing a Web site.

Open Issues:

To be determined:

- The "brand" of the campaign
- The design and content of campaign materials
- The timeline for activities

Key Decisions

The team debated the timing of a roll out to advisors; in consultation with the team sponsor and in light of the team's findings, it was determined that the roll out should proceed without delay.

Progress Indicator:



Team Lead: Tom Moss

Team Members: Eileen Doran, Lillye Hart, Elsa Soto, Philip Vasquez, Joey Volpe