

CSU CHANNEL ISLANDS

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES | NON-FUNDED WORK

Degree Planner

Strategic Initiatives and Actions

Student Success.

2.1 Increase academic support for students in the first year (e.g., proactive advising, embedded tutors, peer mentors, block scheduling).

2.6 Ensure that students have the opportunity and structured support (including four-year degree maps for all programs) to complete 30 credits every year.

Capacity and Sustainability.

4.12 Leverage technology to allow more time for people to engage in the activities that require human intervention (e.g., eliminating rote manual processes in favor of automatic ones).

Project Summary

Implement Degree Planner for each of the 22 undergraduate degree programs within the School of Arts and Sciences. This tool enables students to accurately plan their schedules in a way that meets individual needs and enables timely progress towards degrees. Meanwhile, the information provided by students allows for better predictive ability when scheduling courses, thus avoiding roadblocks and time conflicts for students.

Degree Planners allow students to explore graduation requirements, course sequencing, and timing of courses (for those not offered every semester). The tool allows students to map out an individual path to graduation and guides them through the process, allowing students to plan as many semesters ahead as desired. Students may explore “what if?” options regarding various majors and minors and determine best semesters for optional high-impact practices such as study abroad. Degree Planners take information from a student’s CARR (CI Academic Requirements Report) to automatically generate a plan for the student to complete remaining graduation requirements: the student may then modify the plan to meet his/her needs. Evidence from other institutions using similar forms of “smart planners” indicates that CSUCI may expect this tool to contribute to reduced time to degree and potentially higher 4-year and 6-year graduation rates.

An important side benefit to implementing Degree Planners -- once we have collaboratively influenced student culture so that a majority of students use this tool -- is that chairs and those planning schedules will have meaningful information to predict demand for seats in courses. This will allow us to address course demand, minimizing last-minute closures and additions of sections, thereby benefiting students who will be able to register earlier and with more security that their desired classes will run. This will also provide more stability for our non-tenure-track faculty, thus potentially leading to a more stable workforce and higher morale.

Degree Planners provide a tool to be used in conjunction with in-person advising. Use by students will allow professional and faculty advisors to better use their advising time, moving from interpreting the requirements and discussing timing of courses to individual-student focused conversations about extracurricular post-graduation preparation activities.

Baseline Data

21 of 22 degree programs have completed Degree Planners for 2016, 2017, and 2018 catalog years. (The 22nd is in the final stage of an iterative process of review, request modifications, clarify software capacity and catalog nuances, review, etc.) Programs have begun reviewing Degree Planners corresponding to the 2019 catalog.

Goals

We expect to have all program to have approved final versions of Degree Planners for 2016 through 2019 by October, 2019. Evidence indicates that Degree Planners will contribute to reduced time to degree and a rise in graduation rates.

Project Status

Implementing phase

Key Leaders and Divisions

Lead Division	Academic Affairs
Collaborating Division	none
Action Champions	Dean of A&S, Vandana Kohli
Action Project Leads	Ana Rosa Duran, Cindy Wyels, Chris Long
Action Collaborators	A&S Department Chairs and faculty