Getting to the Finish Line

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• If you must leave the session early, please do so as discreetly as possible
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Thank you for your cooperation!
Introduction

- Our purpose in this presentation/discussion is to spend some time thinking and talking about the ‘non-completer’
- Are there steps our institutions can take to assist these students to cross the finish line?
- What is the role of the Office of the Registrar in assisting these students?
- Dialogue and time for sharing thoughts and ideas
UW-Madison

• Established in 1848, land-grant, comprehensive

• Located in Madison, Wisconsin

• 29,504 undergraduates, 9,433 graduate students, 2,526 students in professional programs

• Registrar’s Office clears students for College of Letters and Science undergraduate degrees (largest college, 55% of undergraduates)
UW-Stout

• Established in 1891, Wisconsin’s Polytechnic University
• Located in Menomonie, Wisconsin
• 8,180 undergraduates, 1,106 graduate students
• Registration and Records awards approximately 1,600 undergraduate degrees per year
Why?

- National initiative
  - 60% of the US adult population to have a post secondary degree by 2025

- State environment
  - By 2018, 61% of Wisconsin jobs will require post-secondary education
  - At current pace, 47% would have college degree in 2025
Why? - continued

- Increasing scrutiny of financial aid, student debt

- Personal interest
  - “Statistics are human beings with the tears wiped off.”
    Paul Brodeur, *Outrageous Misconduct*
Why?
Strategies and Ideas

• Remind students to apply for graduation
  • E-mail reminder
  • Calendar on Registrar’s Office website
  • Advising Fliers
  • Post on Facebook page
Strategies and Ideas

• Clear communication to students about deadlines and procedures – more than posting to the Web and expecting them to find it
Strategies and Ideas

• Communicate with students who have potential issues in their final semester
  • Study abroad transcripts
  • Internship requirements
  • Grading deadlines for student teaching
  • CLEP and other exam timeliness
Strategies and Ideas

• Earlier intervention
  • Students getting off track in required sequenced courses, such as math or foreign language
  • Students taking too many courses that do not fit in their academic plan
  • Students who aren’t accepted into competitive programs – are there support services to help them find an alternative
Strategies and Ideas

• Earlier intervention software solutions
  • Starfish, AdvisorTrac, DropGuard, etc.
Strategies and Ideas

- Identifying and contacting students who ‘stop-out’
Strategies and Ideas

• Assist colleges and departments with course demand/waitlist information
  • “Course Planning” query
  • “Active Waitlist” report
  • Data from course scheduling software
Strategies and Ideas

• Maintain good connections with dean’s offices, advisors, to help information about individual students to flow more optimally
Strategies and Ideas

• Follow up with non-completers

• “Not all those who wander are lost”
  • - JRR Tolkein, The Fellowship of the Ring
Questions?

“…to fail at the first attempt does not mean that you won’t succeed later.” – Mr. Carson, Downton Abbey
Thank You!

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