

Student Success Initiative - Academic Support Task Group

Objective & Background

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the Academic Success Support Task Group set forth to develop a set of recommendations that would advance our efforts to cultivate a successful undergraduate experience for all students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The committee met throughout the year to discuss and review the feedback collected through various student and faculty engagements, as well as data collected by the Office of the Provost. The committee gathered and reviewed information on the existing policies and services that were already in place on campus. Members were encouraged to pull from their own set of experiences with students on campus, explore all possibilities, and reimagine what academic success would look like if there were no limitation on resources. In a thorough process of review and through much deliberation, the committee identified four emerging themes that were deemed essential to providing the type of academic support that would improve student achievement and aid us in our efforts to close the graduation gap for all students.

- 1) Standards for Advising Practice, Policies and Development Advising infrastructure, staffing numbers, training, onboarding, professional development, consistency, required advising
- 2) Data Informed Academic Monitoring and Outreach Enhanced and standardized use of academic technology/data management for tracking progress and identifying students at-risk, increased and more consistent communication and student outreach strategies
- 3) Campus-wide Policies and Practice Policy evaluation, consistency across colleges, removing institutional barriers
- 4) Structure of Academic Support Resources Centralized student support resources and spaces, greater emphasis on mental health, increased staffing

In early January, committee members were assigned to subcommittees based upon these themes. They were then charged with conducting a comprehensive review of institutional data, practices at partner institutions, relevant research and literature, and stakeholder feedback to identify and summarize their recommendations.