

CSU, CHICO REPORT TO THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE CAMPUS ACTIONS TO FACILITATE GRADUATION

Prior related reports on this same topic have confirmed that Chico has made substantial progress on many of the items identified as best practice programs to be implemented. We have most of our user and technical staff committed to the completion of CMS/PeopleSoft 8.0 in the spring of 2006 with version 8.9 to follow immediately. We anticipate very good advising support from PeopleSoft once implemented.

Some campus program efforts are underway while others will become part of our campus strategy for degree completion. Both existing campus programs and some new campus initiatives are highlighted as follows:

- **Recommendation #7** - Graduation Roadmaps incorporate course-to-course articulation of degree requirements with pre-planned offerings of specified and elective courses by term. Roadmaps were a prominent recommendation in the systemwide graduation report of 2002 and during January 2005 collegial visits to campuses, interlocutors reported that most programs have developed such roadmaps.

CSU, Chico has successfully implemented its version of Roadmaps, locally called MAPs (Major Academic Plans), for the past dozen years, with numerous innovations since the initial inception. Our foray into MAPs began with the Trustee initiative *Four-Year Degree Advising Program* and later was refined with the 1998 adoption of *Cornerstones--Principle 5*: "The California State University will meet the need for undergraduate education in California through increasing outreach efforts and transfer, retention, and graduation rates, and providing students a variety of pathways that may reduce the time needed to complete degrees."

- a. MAPs for all 153 academic programs (called 'major plans' in PeopleSoft) are available from the same website address;
- b. Each MAP covers an eight-semester span and identifies the order in which courses should be taken and the semester a student would typically complete the course. Courses which are to be taken in the first year will generally be numbered in the 100s. Courses which the MAP identifies as second-year courses will be numbered in the 200s, third-year courses in the 300s, and fourth-year courses are numbered in the 400s;
- c. Chico's listing of MAPs includes not only majors, but also all sub-plans such as options and concentrations;
- d. Each MAP clearly identifies every specific course in the plan and how many units/courses are required in order to graduate;
- e. Each MAP informs students when to apply for graduation;
- f. Each MAP contains advice and recommendations specific to that academic plan, such as "Consider an Internship in your Junior or Senior year," "Complete Senior Project Portfolio," "Consider meeting Ethnic and Non-

Western requirements with GE,” “GE Area A courses must be completed with a C- or better,” “Consider taking a Course Link in your first semester,” or “Apply for student teaching in fall semester;”

- g. The format of MAPs is standardized and consistent across all majors, facilitating the ease with which a student can read the information even if she changes her major from geology to business;
- h. MAPs clearly identify the units required for the degree; and
- i. Specific courses listed in the MAPs frequently have links to a more complete description of that course or requirement.

The use of MAPs is woven into the fabric of Chico State’s academic tapestry. For example:

- a. Academic units must submit a new MAP with any proposed change or addition to a degree plan, option, or advising pattern;
- b. New students are introduced to MAPs during their Summer Orientation session;
- c. Numerous and prominent links from various campus web pages (including most academic department sites) point to the location of the MAPs;
- d. Each semester, when both returning and new incoming students are E-mailed their *Invitation To Register*, they are provided information regarding MAPs and a direct link to the MAPs web site;
- e. Students’ Portal pages also contain a link to the MAPs web site;
- f. Chico State has fostered universal support from academic departments in the formulation and utilization of MAPs. EVERY baccalaureate level academic plan has been submitted as a MAP; and
- g. The MAP web site is among the most popular of the University’s web pages, with more than 750,000 hits in the past year with a monthly range between 40,000 to over 72,000 hits.

The use of MAPs has resulted in both effectiveness and efficiency for the University. For example:

- a. Advisors can spend more quality advising time with students who can resolve many course selection and sequencing/program planning issues prior to their time with advisors;
 - b. By eliminating the printed versions and then placing the MAPs on the WWW, we experienced tremendous cost savings in printing/paper.
- **Recommendation #1** - The campus has reduced all major programs to 120 units except those requiring more for accreditation.
 - **Recommendation #2** - 22 majors double count major courses for GE or Code requirements.
 - **Recommendation #5** - Each major in the catalog lists career options.

- **Recommendation #6** - All undeclared students are contacted intrusively by the advising office with information to choose a major. The AS also sponsors a Choose a Major Fair each Spring.
- **Recommendation #11** - New freshmen engineering majors enrolled in calculus have an additional unit of Supplemental Instruction (SI) required as part of the course. This is the class where most of our new students encounter D and F grades. Initial results are encouraging.
- **Recommendation #11, Part II** - 900 to 1000 new freshmen now participate in structured learning communities as groups of 25 students enroll in three courses together. Higher persistence to the second year and slightly higher GPA's seem to be the results.
- **Recommendation # 14** - Students may now request degree audits on demand. We'll also plan to distribute these at the end of each grading cycle. Faculty advisors now encourage students to bring these audits to advising sessions.
- **Recommendation #15** - The College of Agriculture and the Department of Journalism now have mandatory advising for all students. The College of Engineering is planning this for Fall 2006 registration. Other majors are interested and we expect to support more of this type advising.

The campus will identify these and other best practice ideas on a web site. Many more ideas already have been suggested.

Submitted by R. L. Hannigan for President Zingg
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