

DEGREE MAPS 101

Creating a Degree Map

Degree maps provide college students with a clear and direct path to on-time completion.

Required Elements

- ✓ Description of specific Program Major **OR** broad Major Interest Area
- ✓ Description of expected employment opportunities **OR** link to relevant career resources
- ✓ Expected on-time graduation date
- ✓ Specific required courses listed by semester
- ✓ List or link to list of possible general education courses and electives
- ✓ Milestone courses and action steps clearly identified by semester
- ✓ Minimum of 30 credits per year (include *15-to-Finish* icon and 15toFinishIndiana.org link)
- ✓ Notice of financial aid credit completion requirements and FAFSA application deadline
- ✓ Dual credit, AP, and remediation included (on customized map only)
- ✓ Streamlined content (no codes, acronyms, superfluous information)

Using the Degree Map to Guide Student Success

A clear degree map combined with proactive advising will guide students to on-time completion.

Step 1: Give every student a standard degree map at orientation and registration.

Suggestion: Have students participate in a “choose your major/interest area” seminar to help guide the creation of the degree map. Note that students must choose a major by 30 credits (4-yr) or 15 (2-yr).

Step 2: Student customizes standard degree map in consultation with an academic advisor.

Suggestion: Use predictive analytics or transcript analysis to suggest 2-3 courses for a student in a given elective slot. Use Major Interest Areas to better prescribe courses for undeclared students.

Step 3: College integrates the degree map into the registration and advising process every semester.

Suggestion: Set up registration processes so that the student’s map courses are the default selection. Streamline registration (early registration, preferential course selection) if students select map courses.

Step 4: College uses the map to provide targeted proactive advising for students that go off of their degree map, fail milestone courses, transfer, change major, or let their GPA fall below 2.0 or SAP.

Suggestion: Schedule mandatory meeting with advisor for students whenever these issues arise.

Step 5: Guarantee course availability so that students finish on time.

Suggestion: Use the collective maps as a representation of “customer demand” and schedule courses proactively to meet that demand and remain unaffected by the legislated “free course” guarantee.



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