Developing an Education Plan

“How long will it take to finish my degree?” This is the most common question we hear from students. If the student is new to you, you’ll need more information:

- Is the student just starting college classes?
- Do they have transfer credit, Advanced Placement or CLEP test scores?
- What level of math is needed for their major and where are they today in the math sequence?
- Is the student taking classes full-time, part-time, in summer and/or January intersession?

By using a semester-by-semester planning tool, also called a degree plan, you and the student can map out the answer. The template for the education plan is located under Resources > Advisors (Degree Planner) on the Advising Center web page. You and your advisee can play out how many semesters it takes to finish all courses in their degree plan as a full-time student (12 to 18 credits) or less than full-time – clarity that students greatly appreciate. Don’t forget to scan it into Advisor Notes for future reference.

The course periodicity guide will also help the student plan with more accuracy and prevent unnecessary delays in graduation. The periodicity chart is located on the Academic webpage and on the Advising Center’s webpage.

What does the student gain?

- A comprehensive picture of their educational journey with a clear beginning, middle, and end;
- A pathway that leads to graduation;
- Familiarity with the specific courses in their major, pre-requisite requirements and periodicity;
- A sense of ownership in the planning and implementation of their college education.

Help students develop a realistic timeline for graduation and transfer!