

Tracking Cougar Curriculum

April 2015



STUDENT ENROLLMENT BEHAVIOR AND PROGRESS TOWARD SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

General Education Core Objectives

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Empirical and Quantitative Skills
- Teamwork
- Personal Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

Foundational Component Areas (with credit hours)

- American History (6)
- Communication (6)
- Creative Arts (3)
- Government / Political Science (6)
- Language, Philosophy and Culture (3)
- Life and Physical Sciences (6)
- Mathematics (3)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (3)
- Component Area Option [distributed across the components] (6)

Intermediate outcomes that students must achieve on the path to degree completion were the focus of a comprehensive analysis of higher education research undertaken by Moore and Shulock (2009). Several of the factors associated with community college student success seem especially applicable to Collin College students.

Monitoring accumulated credits. An analysis of community college students, using data for all Florida colleges and for institutions in other states participating in *Achieving the Dream*, points to the importance of monitoring credit accumulation over time (Marti, 2007). Students earning fewer than 20 credit hours in their first year were less likely to complete than those who earn 30 credit hours or more (Adelman, 1999, McCormick & Carroll, 1999, Chen & Carroll, 2005). Long-term decliners, students who accumulated credits at a declining rate over successive terms, compared to part-timers who accumulated credits at a steady pace across terms, were more likely to drop out. These studies were among those used to develop the Collin College Quality Enhancement Plan. As the various QEP initiatives are implemented, students, professional advisors and advising coaches will be better able to monitor accumulated credits and track progress.

Encouraging continuous enrollment. Benefits of summer enrollment are multiple: momentum, quicker time to completion, and reduced opportunity cost. Accumulating credits during summer terms increases overall credit accumulation (McCormick & Carroll, 1999) and the likelihood of degree completion by students who start in community colleges (Adelman, 2005; 2006). These students sustain their momentum and are more likely to reach a critical 30 credit hours that is positively correlated with degree completion. Adelman (2005) found that earning any credits during summer increased the probability of bachelor's degree attainment by 20%. In addition to the motivation of seeing their credits accumulate, quicker time-to-completion reduces a student's exposure to external life events that can deter a student from completion. Still another advantage of continuous enrollment

is a reduced opportunity cost. The quicker a student attains his or her educational goal and begins a career path, the sooner s/he is earning and may be able to receive benefits compared to continuing in lower wage, part-time positions without benefits while in school.

CAB ACTIONS February 2015

Three programs were revised to reflect exemptions from the 60 SCH degree rule:

- ♦ Dental Hygiene—68 SCH
- ♦ Interpreter Education Program (IEP)—65 SCH
- ♦ Respiratory Care—66 SCH

Sociology and Psychology courses added TSI prerequisites

Electrocardiography (ECRD 1111) removed prerequisites