



Student Enrollment and Success Plan: 2014-2017

Department: Mathematics and Computer Science

Department Chair: Ralph W. Oberste-Vorth

Department Mission: The Department offers five degree programs in five areas. These areas are related, but culturally distinct. The areas are mathematics, mathematics education, and computer science. We offer BA/BS in all three areas and MA/MS in mathematics and computer science. The mission of the programs is to prepare graduates for work in mathematics or computer related employment and for further studies in either the mathematical or computer sciences.

Department Enrollment Goal(s):

To increase the number of MCS majors by 10% by 2017.

Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):

- A. Work with University College to help entering freshmen clarify their degree and occupational interests regarding mathematics, math education, and/or computer science. Freshmen often have imprecise ideas about what mathematics is (it is not arithmetic or high school algebra) or what computer science is (it is not information technology or computer engineering or gaming). (Fall 2014 and continuing; MCS faculty)
- B. Encourage students with appropriate preparation, interest, and motivation to consider changing or adding one or more of our majors, or a minor. (Fall 2014 and continuing; MCS faculty)

<i>Total Enrollment Benchmarks</i>	Fall 2013 Baseline:	Fall 2014:	Fall 2015:
	153	156	160
	Fall 2016:	Fall 2017:	
	164	168	

Department Retention Goal(s):

To increase the retention rate for MCS majors to 70% by Fall, 2017.

Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):

- A. Advisors will continue to work with MCS majors to ensure that their educational and occupational goals are compatible with their major program declaration (mathematics, math edu, or computer science). Fall 2014; departmental advisors
- B. Have all faculty advisors trained on MySAM. Fall 2014; Chair
- C. Monitor new majors and provide tutorial assistance (Math Center) as early intervention in major courses. Fall 2014; departmental faculty
- D. Develop a student mentoring program so that selected Jr/Sr MCS majors are prepared to work with new majors to provide a better transition into their MCS major programs. Fall 2015; Chair

<i>Retention Benchmarks</i>	Fall 2013 Baseline: 66%	Fall 2014: 67%	Fall 2015: 68%
	Fall 2016: 69%	Fall 2017: 70%	

Other Retention Related Benchmarks

None

Department Completion Goal(s):

To improve the 6-year graduation rate of MCS majors to 35% by Fall, 2017.

Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):

- A. Seek approval of 4+1 programs in mathematics and computer science and begin implementation. (Fall 2016, department chair)
- B. Revive department clubs and consider ties with national professional organizations. (2014-2015; chairperson.)
- C. Review all major program curricula for course sequencing problems and/or course availability inconsistencies. (Fall 2015; Chair and Curriculum Committee)
- D. Assess departmental advising processes to ensure that all faculty advisors are current on MySAM, advising best practices, and clearly communicated availability. (Fall 2015; Chair and Advisors)
- E. Develop a departmental advising assessment instrument. (Fall 2016; Chair and Advisors.)

<i>Completion Benchmarks</i>	Fall 2013 Baseline: 29%	Fall 2014: 30%	Fall 2015: 31%
	Fall 2016: 33%	Fall 2017: 35%	

Other Completion Related Benchmarks

None

Post-College Achievement Goal(s) (e.g., employment & graduate school):

Work with the Career Center to establish benchmarks for tracking the success of MCS graduates entering related occupations and/or graduate programs.

Action Steps (with dates & person(s) responsible):

- A. Develop an exit interview to be administered to all MCS graduates in their final term; the exit interview will collect contact information and graduates' plans for post-graduation employment and/or graduate school. (Fall 2015; Chair of Curriculum Committee)
- B. Develop a departmental Facebook page to maintain communication with graduates and current students. (Fall 2015; Administrative Assistant and Chair)
- C. Update the departmental website and ensure that all information about programs, faculty, student resources, announcements, and departmental contacts are current and accurate.

<i>Employment & Graduate School Benchmarks</i>	Fall 2013 Baseline: N/A	Fall 2014: Establish baseline	Fall 2015: +2%/+2%
	Fall 2016: +2%/+2%	Fall 2017: +2%/+2%	

Other Goal(s) and Action Stepsⁱ:

None

ⁱ Departments may have other goals that do not fit into the four areas previously indicated or adequately subsumable as an action step within one of the four goal areas. They may be placed here.