

SAP from a Different Point of View

Leo Hertling, Purdue University

&

Monica Taylor, Indiana University





"Sometimes you need to look at Life
from a different perspective."



HEA Section 479A

Section 479A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA) provides the authority for the financial aid administrator (FAA) to exercise discretion in a number of areas when an applicant has special or unusual circumstances

-



NASFAA Monograph 25: Satisfactory Academic Process

Monograph 25 is the third edition of a NASFAA publication that first appeared in 1982. Practicing financial aid administrators and NASFAA staff have prepared this document for reviewing and evaluating an institution's satisfactory academic progress standards as part of NASFAA's continuing effort to assist financial aid administrators in fulfilling their professional responsibilities.



SAP at Purdue

- ▶ Is run on an annual basis for all students receiving financial aid
- ▶ Division of Financial Aid Monitors
 - ▶ Pace
 - ▶ Maximum Time Frame
- ▶ Is run on a semester basis for all students who are on probation
- ▶ Is run on a semester basis for all students approaching time.



SAP at Purdue

- ▶ Purdue run SAP process immediately after grades post
- ▶ Sends emails to students telling them
 - ▶ they are satisfactory
 - ▶ they are approaching the time limit
 - ▶ they have been cancelled
- ▶ Student cancelled or approaching time are given appeal options



Appeal Process at Purdue

- ▶ All students needing to appeal must complete a Plan of Study
- ▶ Plan of Study must be completed and signed off on by the student and their academic advisor.
- ▶ Student must submit plan of study along with letter of explanation to the Division of Financial Aid for review.

SAP at IU

- ▶ Ran annually ~2 weeks after spring semester ends
 - ▶ Emails only to students not meeting SAP
 - ▶ Appeal options and requirements if not meeting SAP
- ▶ OSFA monitors
 - ▶ Pace
 - ▶ Maximum Time Frame
 - ▶ GPA
- ▶ Only ran after end of each semester for students with approved contracts



Appeal Process at IU

- ▶ Require separate appeal for summer and academic year
 - ▶ Require new appeal each year
- ▶ Statement requires student to answer two questions:
 - ▶ 1. What happened?
 - ▶ 2. What has changed?
- ▶ If approved, contract is tailored to student
- ▶ Only require an Academic Plan if student has been selected for too many credit hours

Perspective of Our Students from Academic Advisors

- ▶ Wait until the last minute
- ▶ A lot of scrambling to get it done
- ▶ Do not understand why they have been cancelled.



How our academic advisors work through

- ▶ Start from the end and work to where they are now.
- ▶ Take into account
 - ▶ CODO's (change of degree objective)
 - ▶ Course availability
 - ▶ AP / Dual Credit
- ▶ Connect student with different resources on campus
 - ▶ Twenty-first Century Scholars and Purdue Promise
 - ▶ Disability Resource Center
 - ▶ PUSH / CAPS



Styles of How to Handle Academic Plans

- ▶ Student is responsible for completing the whole plan and scheduling appointment for review
- ▶ Some will have student bring in a blank form
 - ▶ Student schedules an appointment
 - ▶ They will complete for form together at the academic advising meeting
- ▶ Academic advisor takes the form and simply completes it based upon where the student is in their academic career.



Does It Have to be EXACT?

- ▶ Depending on where student is in their academic plan
- ▶ Student may have options as to what the take...
 - ▶ They may take this or this or this as long as it falls into this part of the academic plan fulfilling this requirement
 - ▶ Students late in career:
 - ▶ Students must take XYZ432 to complete the graduation requirement
 - ▶ This is an exact course and substitution is not allowed.



Advisors get asked: What goes in the appeal?

- ▶ Academic Plan - required for all appeals regardless of anticipated time to graduation
- ▶ Circumstance
- ▶ Rectification
- ▶ Steps being taken to ensure compliance
- ▶ 3rd party documentation



Private Information

- ▶ Students develop close relationships with academic advisors
- ▶ Regularly do not want to share as they do not know who will be reading the appeal.
- ▶ Students have to recognize that information disclosed in appeals are not protected by client privilege.
- ▶ Information disclosed is protected by FERPA and GLB
- ▶ If student discloses possible Title IX violations, must be disclosed



What are the academic advisors seeing?

- ▶ Mental Health Issues
 - ▶ Depression
 - ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Not prepared for rigors of current program
- ▶ Returning for 2nd degrees
- ▶ AP / Dual Credit / Overachievers



Issues Academic Advisors are Facing

- ▶ Can counsel but students ultimately get to choose courses and courseload
 - ▶ Anywhere from 8 - 18 hours is flat fee for Purdue
 - ▶ Unless student had been dismissed and readmitted cannot control enrollment
- ▶ Heavy Case Load
 - ▶ Average for some colleges is 200 - 250 students
 - ▶ Schools with influx of students may have 300 - 400 students in case load





How we can help academic advisors

- ▶ Training
 - ▶ Financial Aid 101 & Academic Advising trainings
- ▶ More clear instructions
- ▶ Tip sheets

