

Evaluation of Undecided Transfer Student Advisement: Grant Task 1.3.3

Executive Summary

The Title III Grant implemented the Undecided Transfer Student Advisement to help increase the retention and graduation rates of undecided transfer students enrolled at the university since students that fail to declare a major have a higher tendency to drop out of the university than those who enter with a decided major. The Undecided Transfer Student Advisement assists undecided transfer students with career and academic advisement and additional efforts to increase their engagement levels, which have been linked with improved student retention and graduation.

Retention is defined as the number of incoming undecided transfer students that return to UW-Stout the following fall.

To determine whether grant supported Transfer Student Advisement helps increase transfer student retention, the undecided transfer students receiving advising were compared with all other undecided transfer students not receiving career advising. Analysis suggests that the Undecided Transfer Student Advisement has minimal impact on student retention. Central findings are summarized as follows.

- Fall 2005 Cohort (35 advisees)
 - There were no significant differences in retention between the undecided transfer students receiving advising and those not receiving advising.
- Fall 2006 Cohort (54 advisees)
 - There were no significant differences in retention between the undecided transfer students receiving advising and the comparison group not receiving advising.