Assisting Probationary Students Who Are “Between” Majors

Students whose grade point averages fall below 2.0 are unable to change their majors. Unfortunately, the poor grades they’ve earned can sometimes be the result of a poor “fit” with the current major. You may find that students are listed under your department’s major, but wish to pursue a different major. You are welcome to continue to assist the student if you feel comfortable doing so. However, we realize that you may not feel comfortable advising the student for their desired major. The information below may help you in either case.

What you should know:
- These students can, in some cases, take courses toward their desired major.
- Students can seek advisement from their desired major or department.
- Students considering majors University-wide can seek transition assistance from our office (109 Mitchell Hall).
- If students are undecided about their majors and have fewer than 60 credits, it is possible that the University Studies (UST) program would be a good fit. UST is happy to accept probationary students into the major.

Reminders:
- Students who were placed on probation as a result of their Fall 2011 or Winter 2012 academic performance will have registration holds in place for their Fall 2012 registration planning. These students will NOT be able to register without seeking advisement from their faculty advisor OR attending one of the UAS probation sessions (called Dare to Excel). Our office will be holding information sessions in early April, with dates to be determined in the near future. We welcome faculty attendance.
- Students on academic probation are limited to a maximum of 14 credits per term.

Sanford’s Theory of Challenge & Support

Psychologist Nevitt Sanford studied the impact of the college experience on women at Vassar college in the 1960s. According to Evans (2003), Sanford concluded that in order to develop intellectually, emotionally, and otherwise, a balance of challenge and support is necessary (as cited in Komives & Woodward, 2003). Too little challenge may not push students to learn and grow, while too much challenge may overwhelm students and result in delay or inadequate coping skills. As we work with students in advising or in the classroom, it can be helpful to keep this theory in mind. While we want to challenge students to be self-directed and responsible for their own actions, we should remember that they also need support and encouragement to succeed.

References:
THE ASSOCIATE IN ARTS PROGRAM

The University of Delaware's Associate in Arts Program, housed within the College of Arts and Sciences, is a two-year, non-residential program grounded in the traditional liberal arts. First-year Delawarean students are able to begin their University of Delaware career in a small-campus atmosphere close to home. Courses are taught by University of Delaware faculty on the three campuses of Delaware Technical and Community College in Dover, Georgetown, and downtown Wilmington. The Associate in Arts degree is awarded upon completion of the required 60 credits of coursework and a minimum grade point average of 2.0. Students enjoy an uninterrupted transition to the Newark campus to continue on to the bachelor’s degree.

The Associate in Arts Program is structured in ways that promote student academic success, offering:

- Small class sizes
- Close faculty contact
- Close-knit learning environment in a small campus atmosphere
- Individualized math and writing assistance
- A curriculum designed to lead to an eventual major
- Substantially reduced tuition, possibly free if students are eligible for the State of Delaware SEED Scholarship

Additionally, support is offered to students with preparing for the transition to Newark, including the annual Majors and Minors on Main event held each March and the Transitions Day program held in late-July. Plans are in place for a peer mentoring program, to begin in fall 2012, offering students support in their first semester on the Newark campus.

Any questions about the program may be directed to:
Jack Bartley, Ph.D., Faculty Director, Rm. 101, 77 E. Main Street, 302-831-2473, jbartley@udel.edu
Carolyn Quinci, Assistant Dean, 109 Mitchell Hall, 302-831-3020, cquinci@udel.edu

What To Do If Students Stop Attending Class

On occasion, our office is contacted by faculty members who are concerned that they have not seen a student in class for a long period of time. We welcome these calls and would encourage you to contact us if you notice these prolonged absences, particularly if the student has not replied to your messages or turned in assignments. We will reach out to the student and be sure that he or she is safe. If unable to reach the student, we would involve the Dean of Students Office and/or Public Safety. If you have concerns about the safety of your students, please take action. For additional resources, please see below.

The Student Behavior Consultation Team has published a guide for faculty and staff:

Public Safety has also issued a statement regarding missing students:
http://www.udel.edu/PublicSafety/missing.htm

If you have concerns about the immediate safety of a student or believe there is an emergency, please call 911 (or x2222 from an on-campus phone).

Our office, located in 109 Mitchell Hall, is accessed from the walkway between Gore Hall and Mitchell Hall.

Walk-in hours: M-F 1pm—4pm
Office hours: M-F 8am—5pm
(302) 831-3020/as-advice@udel.edu