

## CORE Subcommittee on Pre-Health Students

10/9/2024

Attendance: Dr. Jill Bowers, Dr. Julie Dietz, Bobbi Kingery, Dr. Michael Cornebise, Justin Tierney, Danny Gourley Fischer, Sam Laingen, Dr. Ed Treadwell

- I. Defining the problem
  - a. Enrollment Management perspective
    - i. Need for students to be able to find pathways by career title (e.g. veterinarian)
    - ii. While we can edit the EIU application, changes to the Common Application are more difficult
    - iii. Would like keywords added to the Majors & Minors page (e.g. "therapist")
  - b. Academic department perspective
    - i. Some pathways do not align 1-to-1 to a degree plan, and students need to also have a major to ensure timely progression and graduation
    - ii. multiple majors can guide a student to a goal (e.g. medical school)
  - c. Advising perspective
    - i. Many pre-health pathways do not connect to any degree plan in Degree Works, meaning students cannot track their progress easily
- II. Samples
  - a. Combos provided by Josh
    - i. Estimated 200+ undergraduates with a pre-health pathway and no Degree Works plan; additional 100 on the pre-nursing pathway
  - b. Student examples (reviewed cases in the meeting)
    - i. Pre-Nursing
    - ii. Exercise Science Pre-PT
    - iii. Pre-Medicine
    - iv. Pre-Vet
- III. Solutions
  - a. Improved pathways in Degree Works
    - i. Danny to email Dr. Farley and then Angie Cawthon and Janet Fopay to explore the feasibility of linking pre-nursing pathway to nursing (tradition) degree plan in Degree Works

- ii. Additional ideas to prompt students to select a major with their pre-health pathway would enable Degree Works to display the major requirements as intended
- b. The role of the advisor
  - i. Academic advisors would help ensure students have paired the best fit major with their pre-health pathway
  - ii. Help students select prerequisites needed for their professional program as part of their degree plan for the major
- c. Brainstorming
  - i. Ensure applications refer to pre-health "pathways" rather than majors. The current application uses "plan of study."
  - ii. Use PRM to send customized messages to students who select a pre-health pathway to make it clear that they also must choose a major.
  - iii. Make it part of the myEIU checklist that students who select a pre-health pathway would need to choose a major during orientation reservation.
  - iv. Modify the orientation reservation so that when students select a pre-health pathway as their plan of study that they get a follow-up question to choose a major.
    - 1. Example 1: Pre-Social Work would lead to major choices of a BSW in Human Services or a BSW in Sociology. It is possible that a BA in Psychology might be listed as an option with a note that it is a pathway to a graduate program in social work.
    - 2. Example 2: Pre-Medicine would offer common degree plans such as Biology and Chemistry but also note that any EIU undergraduate degree is a good choice.
    - 3. Example 3: Pre-Physical Therapy would offer common degree plans such as Biology and Exercise Science but also note that any EIU undergraduate degree is a good choice.
  - v. Automate the plan of study selections on the orientation reservation to flow into and update Banner.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 30 at 3:00 pm in Career Services Conference Room