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# UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2022

## GOAL 2 for **Medical Lab Science**

### LEARNING

**One UND Strategic Plan Goal 2: Increase undergraduate, graduate, and professional graduation rates.**

**UND SMHS Strategic Plan Goal 2: SMHS Units will expand their current systems of student support to ensure continued high graduation rates and improve student satisfaction with the overall quality of their education.**

#### 1. Describe if/how your unit has addressed this goal.

The Department of MLS has identified advising support for graduate (MS in MLS program) students as the target for improvement/enhancement efforts. Specifically, interactive advising sessions have been implemented for program students. During advising sessions advisors utilize a standardized checklist to help work through potential problem areas related to student retention/completion and to build connection, as well as to ensure that programmatic decisions align with and/or foster the student's program goal(s). Additionally, a program orientation session has been added for all new students. During this session students are walked through program components/expectations, introduced to faculty and advisors, and given information to help avoid common obstacles to timely graduation and program retention. We have also been trying to increase utilization of a Blackboard Community site for information related to and tracking of degree progress. The site can be utilized by both graduate faculty/advisors and students.

#### 2. Describe how your efforts are being assessed.

Students complete a 'Goals Survey' at the beginning and at the end of the program. Results are compared for growth in goal areas, and analysis of whether goals were reached. Additionally, student perceptions of satisfaction with program resources including advising are assessed as part of this survey. Program retention factors and program completion rates also will be assessed.

#### 3. Describe how your unit analyzed these data and what assessments were determined.

Exit Goals Surveys from 2021 graduates showed that 100% of students reported reaching their intended program goals (compared to ~88% for students that never participated in the interactive advising sessions). Also, 100% of 2021 graduates reported that advising communication helped them navigate program requirements/processes (compared to 75% prior to beginning interactive advising sessions). Assessment of graduation/retention rates will begin to be analyzed at the conclusion of the 21-22 academic year.

#### 4. Describe how your unit will implement any further changes and what barriers may exist.

Assessment procedures for this goal will continue on a consistent cycle, as defined by the Department of MLS Assessment Plan. Changes may need to be implemented if assessment data suggests that such a change is warranted to improve student satisfaction and/or retention/graduation rates. We do anticipate potential negative impacts to student retention/graduation rates due to COVID-19-related changes in employer reimbursement policies and workload, since almost all of our students are also simultaneously working in the field. Available advising personnel is also becoming a barrier as the program grows, and we are actively working toward re-organization of MLS 590 and MLS 997 course structures to help address this issue. A last issue has to do with trying to improve response rate for the MS in MLS program exit survey.

**PROVIDE A RATING OF YOUR PROGRESS ON THIS GOAL:**  On Track;  Delayed;  Behind

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**Additional Information on Goal 2 (optional):**

Insert any additional information here.