
UND SMHS Strategic Plan Individual Unit Report for 2021

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 on a semester basis 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. An advising/registration virtual open house was also added this year.

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 will also be assessed with implementation of an updated departmental assessment plan in Fall 2021.

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

Exit Goals Surveys from 2020 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 2020 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 more in-depth with implementation of the updated departmental assessment plan in fall 2021.

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. Available advising personnel is becoming a barrier as the program grows. We are currently investigating options to help address this barrier, including potential modifications to our Independent Study (MLS 997) processes.

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

(additional space for text is provided on page 3 if needed)

Additional Information on Goal 2 (optional):

Insert any additional information here.