Transition from DARS to u.achieve

In early April 2014 the College upgraded from our prior Degree Audit System (DARS) to a product known as u.achieve which we announced in late March as Degree Completion Tracker. As the next phase of enhancing student access and the student experience, we will transition from the Academic Completion Plans in Ivy Advising and implement a student and advisor interface that connects degree audit information to clearly display a student’s remaining degree requirements and pathways to success. This interface product is called u.direct and you can learn more about it and u.achieve from the website: https://www.collegesource.com/products/uachieve/

Aside from how important tools like this can be used for student success, this tool will also support our compliance with Indiana Commission for Higher Education requirement that all colleges provide degree maps for all full-time students. According to CHE documents the objective of these requirements is “providing a clear path for students to graduate on-time and helping state financial aid recipients stay on track to meet credit completion requirements.”

The new Degree Completion Tracking tool with the addition of u.direct will provide an integrated way to complete academic plans by enabling advisors and all Ivy Tech students to connect directly from their degree audit information to a term-by-term map of courses they still need to take. Access to this system will be directly through self-service in MyIvy, and while not integrated with the registration system, it will provide a critical tool for students and advisors to help guide students through the registration process.

We are transitioning from the Academic Completion Plans to this system with Advisor training this fall for a full implementation and availability to new incoming students beginning January 2015. Course requirements from Fall 2013 and beyond will be loaded into the system, and long-term plans include examining how these new tools can assist the college in phasing out CR Web and other systems in which the course catalog is stored.

If you have any questions about the new Degree Completion Tracker including u.achieve and u.direct, please contact Susan Hawkins-Wilding, Assistant Vice President Academic Advising, shawkinswilding@ivytech.edu or Ann Yater, Assistant Vice President Academic Records, aniebrug@ivytech.edu.