

Discipline Advisor Program Evaluation, 2015

Child Development:

1. What have you noticed that has worked with the DAP?

This has been an interesting initiative, and I support its intent. However, there have been some challenges as well as the clear benefits:

Benefits:

- Our students are always grateful to have advising through the department, as the academic preparation requirements and career ladder opportunities in child development are complex and often confusing.
- Faculty members often have established relationships with students so there is an open and safe climate for students to ask questions and request clarification that may seem intimidating with an unfamiliar person.
- Demand for advising in child development is extremely high, so it increases access to important information
- Our training sessions were excellent. We were given valuable information and procedures for maximizing the value of the advising process.
- Counselors are extremely supportive and responsive to the needs of the students and the department.

2. What have you noticed that has not worked and would need improvement?

Challenges:

- The volume of requests for advising is sometimes overwhelming. There are so many students, and the sessions take so much time that it becomes almost a second full time job.
- It would be helpful to have further trainings so that more faculty can assume the role.
- The documentation became prohibitive and I simply stopped doing it. Students come to my office, stop me in the hallways, make appointments, drop in, phone, email, etc. etc. I respond as quickly and thoroughly as I can amidst responsibilities of teaching, meetings, and chair responsibilities. First priority is to meet the needs of the students, the documentation of each interaction has become impossible.
- Students often report that they have been given different information from their counselors. There is a need for clearer and more frequent communication between the department and the counselors, as child development is complex and continues to evolve in response to an ever-changing and growing field.
- There is a clear and growing need for a designated counselor for child development, even for a few hours per week. Those campuses that have this support report higher numbers of completions and transfers. The child development field is considering pursuing legislation/policy that would support this initiative.

Biology:

1. What have you noticed that has worked with the DAP?

- The program has been inactive for the last several years due lack of time to implement the program.

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- DAP, Faculty member also serves as Department Chair which does not lend itself to enough time to advise students.

- 2. What have you noticed that has not worked and would need improvement?
 - Training of other faculty within the discipline would be needed in order to further implement this program within this discipline.

Administration of Justice:

1. What have you noticed that has worked with the DAP?
2. What have you noticed that has not worked and would need improvement?
 - Like Child Development, documentation of student advising meetings became prohibitive because of the volume.
 - The manual needs to be updated.