RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNICATING ACADEMIC STANDARDS
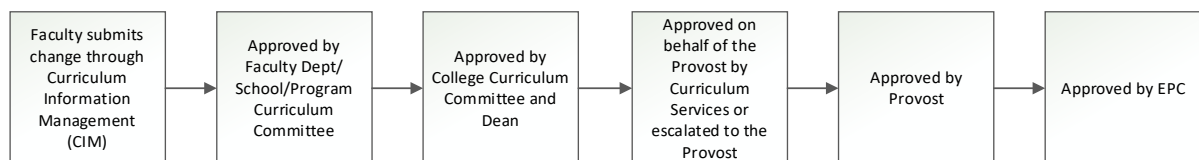
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BACKGROUND

During the Reauthorization of Kent State University's Program Participation Agreement (to participate in federal financial aid programs) audit from the Department of Education, it was noted that Satisfactory Academic Progress policy was not as strict as the University policy for undergraduate students. And after a further spot check review, there were inconsistencies in how GPA requirements were being shared on university academic web pages.

DISCOVERY

- There were misconceptions regarding the acceptability and process for updating a major GPA.
- A well-defined process is in place for programs to change GPA requirements:

| Faculty submits change through Curriculum Information Management (CIM) | → | Approved by Faculty Dept/ School/Program Curriculum Committee | → | Approved by College Curriculum Committee and Dean | → | Approved on behalf of the Provost by Curriculum Services or escalated to the Provost | → | Approved by Provost | → | Approved by EPC |

- The catalog always follows what has been approved.
- Changes are published with the next catalog which is done in May.
- The GPS audit is also updated at this time as it follows the catalog.

- On our public websites, some colleges link to the catalog to see program requirements and some have the information hardcoded.
  - Based on the audit from Department of Education, there is concern that this information does not always match.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

- For the Student Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), instead of using 2.0 across the board, the logic for identifying students that do not meet academic standards will be based on the student's major GPA requirement.

RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

1. Under the purview of the Provost Office, Curriculum Services will remind colleges and academic programs of the current process to ensure understanding for how major GPA requirements changes are made.
2. The University Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will hire a Federal Work Study student to:
   a) Research and document which colleges/programs are not linking to the catalog for program requirements.
   b) Contact the webmaster for the college/programs with hard coded program requirements on their websites to make updates to use a link to the catalog so there is never a discrepancy.
   c) Follow up and document when changes are complete.
3. Give option to use the delivered API from CourseLeaf which will alleviate the need to manually update the college website.
   a) Requires Curriculum Services work with UCM to make the API easily available to programs that prefer to keep the information on their websites.

ADDITIONAL ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION

In addition to the major GPA being in the University Catalog, it also lives in the GPS Degree Audit system. While GPS plans were not directly impacted by the scope of this subcommittee, we would additionally like to recommend all academic programs (graduate, certificate, etc.) be put in the GPS system. This impacts the students' understanding of the requirements they need to complete their program and provides the opportunity to create a plan.