February 2019
WVMCCD DegreeWorks Team Newsletter

WVMCCD is Gearing up for DegreeWorks:
Coming in Fall 2019

DegreeWorks is a web-based tool designed to assist students and counselors in reviewing student degree, certificate and transfer goal progress. DegreeWorks clarifies the path to goal completion by organizing transcripts chronologically and categorically, easily identifying courses completed and courses needed to fulfill program requirements. The Audit monitors progress toward degree completion and clearly indicates which course requirements have been met. The Student Educational Planner, used by students and counselors collaboratively, will map out students’ academic journey from their first class to graduation day.
Who Is Impacted by DegreeWorks?

First and foremost, STUDENTS! Students will be able to see classes they have taken, classes they have remaining, and how far along they have progressed. They will know with certainty that they are taking classes that will count towards graduation and transfer. Students will also be able to see courses they would need to take if they changed their program of study or catalog year by using a function called “What-If.”

With real-time data, COUNSELING FACULTY will be able to provide comprehensive advising and assist students in creating accurate Student Educational Plans. DegreeWorks will reduce paperwork and the need for manual program check sheets, freeing up time for Counselors to work with students in more meaningful ways.

The manual processing of evaluations and graduation applications will be a thing of the past! The RECORDS OFFICE STAFF will have the technology to minimize the time needed for these lengthy tasks and provide students the information they need in a timely manner.

With data from the Student Educational Planner, the OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION & INSTRUCTIONAL FACULTY will be able project course scheduling needs to assist in enrollment management.

THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE will have the potential to report a higher number of completed educational plans as well as degrees and certificates awarded to the state.
I am beyond excited about the launch of DegreeWorks! Finally, instead of using our time shuffling through papers and catalogs, Counseling Faculty will be able to fully engage in the work that means most to us - making a personal connection with each student as we help them reach their personal goals.

DegreeWorks is a game-changer! ~Yolanda Coleman
Spring and Summer DegreeWorks Activities

The Degree Works Implementation Team has been working tirelessly since Spring 2017, analyzing Banner data, ensuring accuracy and completing design modifications. As we move into Spring and Summer 2019, some of the campus-based activities include:

- Developing a Counselor and Staff training schedule
- Developing user guides and FAQs
- Testing every program of study to ensure accuracy
- Reviewing and implementing business processes that will influence the effectiveness and accuracy of DegreeWorks.
- Conducting presentations regarding DegreeWorks across campus.
- Developing a targeted messaging campaign to inform students about these new tools.
- Piloting both the DegreeWorks Audit and Student Educational Planner with students.
- Collecting student feedback regarding interface and language.

This is an ambitious task list, but it will prepare both campuses for a soft launch in Summer with full implementation in Fall 2019.

New Tools Bring New Terminology

DegreeWorks will require users to become familiar with new terminology. As we go forward
DegreeWorks will require users to become familiar with new terminology. As we go forward, we will share a few key terms each newsletter.

**Audit**

An analysis of a student’s academic progress and unfulfilled program requirements

**What-If Audit**

Allows students to select other programs to determine how coursework they have already taken would apply to a new or additional program. This can be helpful when a student is considering changing majors.

**Scribe**

A simple programming language for codifying and storing degree and program requirements used in Student Degree Audits. The term scribe is also used to identify the individual who maintains the catalog information in DegreeWorks.

**Scribe Blocks**

Sections on that audit that shows the courses and total number of units needed to meet general education, program and elective requirements. Blocks also contain general advising notes.

**Catalog Rights**

Determines which catalog year requirements students follow to obtain a degree or certificate. This is the year the student’s continuous enrollment began.

*See the March edition of Gearing up for DegreeWorks! for more terms...*
We are excited about the impact that DegreeWorks will have on our campuses. This tool will empower students by providing them real-time access and information regarding progress towards their educational goal. It will also allow us to identify students who are close to goal completion, which will lead to an increase in degrees and certificates awarded. Further, DegreeWorks will streamline the evaluation and graduation review process, allowing counseling faculty more time to work directly with students in a meaningful way. This new system compliments the great work being developed for Guided Pathways and we look forward to sharing more information as we near implementation.

~O. Murillo, Interim VPSS, Mission College

~S. Kashima, Interim VPSS, West Valley College

**The WVMCCD DegreeWorks Team**
Made with Microsoft Sway
Create and share interactive reports, presentations, personal stories, and more.

Get started

https://sway.office.com/5o93tz9tuHXpEU2c?ref=Link&loc=play