You’ve heard about it but do you know what it is?

By Lisa Rigoni Reeves

The University is determined to improve graduation rates. One way to help achieve this goal is for students to know and register (if available) for courses that fulfill their degree requirements. Currently in development is the Graduation Planner whose main purpose is to simplify the degree-planning process into one, easy-to-use Web tool.

How does this work? The Graduation Planner pulls information from centralized systems (APAS, PCAS, ECAS, PeopleSoft) to provide students with up-to-date course and program information. The attractive look and feel combined with powerful information hopefully will encourage students to spend more time planning. Imagine spending less time during advising on ‘what courses do I need” questions and more time on life, career, and graduate school goals? As an adviser, you have the ability to view and comment online or request a printed copy for advising sessions.

When can you begin using the Graduation Planner? The “go live” date is August 2007.

Focus group comments about the Graduation Planner:

“Definitely something students would use,” “Easier than planning with the paper course catalog,” “Liked the notes feature,” “Thought the look was organized,” “Would tell their friends to use,” “Helpful to compare degree programs,” “User friendly,” “Would use right away,” “Made sense of a lot of information,” “Good for students to plan on their own”
How does it work?
Simple, really!

All students have access to the Graduation Planner and all advisers have access to their advisees plans.

**For Students**
1. log in with their X.500
2. Click on “create new plan”
3. Pick the major you want to plan for. A student can plan for a double major, a major and minor, just a major or just a minor, the combinations are endless.
4. Mark the plan as “my favorite.” This marker means “this is the plan I am following.” This is helpful for advisers who can specify, “I am only going to view your favorite plan.”
5. Open plan
6. Click on What Do I Need? This will pull up all remaining requirements needed for their chosen plan.
7. Begin Planning
8. Review with your adviser

Other features: Course information (prerequisites, description, sequencing, lib. ed. category); ability to add notes for important events/opportunities, able to send planned courses into their APAS to see if requirements are being met by course choices, a link to a planning Toolbox, which is campus specific, a print option, and a course search feature.

**For Advisers**
1. log in with X.500
2. view their advisees list (lists name, id, ferpa, and if they have a plan)
3. click on students name to open plan
4. click on “my favorite plan” and view plan
5. comment online (if desired).

Other features: view students APAS with their planned courses, View students APAS GPA and U of M GPA, declared program, and the number of credits right on the first page of their plan, view course information by clicking on course in plan, and view past courses and grades received.

If you are interested in a live demo or finding out more information, please contact Lisa Rigoni Reeves - #7701, lreeves@d.umn.edu
You can download a powerpoint presentation or PDF about the Graduation Planner at [http://www.d.umn.edu/kmc/gradplanner.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/kmc/gradplanner.html)