



The Alert Advisor

2008 - 09

JANUARY 13, 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

*SJSU impaction

*Changes to Academic Renewal and Withdrawal policies

*Petition to enroll in upper division courses with <60 units

*Advising Hub up and running

*TIPS for success

*Students on academic probation must limit units

SJSU Impacted

The word is out by now that the CSU system is under stress with the state's financial crisis. Increasing unemployment leads to soaring numbers of people going back to school and currently, the CSU is overenrolled by 10,000 students for whom it does not receive additional funding. While this allows the CSU to serve students who otherwise may not have been able to get an education, it does strain the CSU system and the quality of everyone's education because universities are unable to provide adequate instruction and support services

for their student populations (http://www.calstate.edu/PA/news/2008/systemwide_impaction.shtml).

Specifically, for SJSU, it means students need to be fully eligible for admission, follow all appropriate required deadlines, and complete all requirements to be admitted. Unfortunately, impaction leaves little room for flexibil-

ity with students who do not meet requirements and follow all directions.

What does impaction mean for advisors? It means that SJSU is becoming stricter with policies and deadlines. More specifically, it means that students who take breaks from school and who are disqualified may not be allowed back into SJSU during their intended semester, especially if they miss any deadlines. It also means that students who are thinking of taking a break from (more details)



CHANGES TO ACADEMIC RENEWAL AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

Have you heard about the upcoming changes to the Academic Renewal and Withdrawal Policies? On September 8, 2008, Chancellor Charles Reed's office issued Executive Order 1037, which will lead to changes in how you advise students. During Spring semester, keep your eyes and ears open for training workshops and more details about these changes and their implementation dates. Some highlights of the changes include:

1. Changes in terminology: Currently, the term "academic renewal" refers to the repetition of courses for grade replacement. Beginning in Fall 2009, this process will be known as "grade forgiveness". Additionally, the term "Disregard of Previous Semesters' Work" refers to the removal of previous term(s) work from degree consideration through a specific petition process. Beginning in Fall 2009, this process will be known as "Academic Renewal".
2. Undergraduates and post-baccalaureate students will be able to seek grade forgiveness (the updated (more details))

ACADEMIC RENEWAL (cont.)

term for academic renewal) for up to 16 units. They may forgive up to 9 lower division units and up to 9 upper division units.

3. Grade forgiveness will be an automatic process that begins once the student registers for an eligible class. However, prior to the census date, the student may petition NOT to have a repeated course count toward grade forgiveness.
4. Undergraduates and post-baccalaureate students may repeat up to 28 units for grade averaging. These units include the allowable 16 grade forgiveness units. Graduate students, who are not eligible for grade forgiveness, may repeat up to 9 units of "grade averaged" upper division and graduate coursework.
5. Undergraduates may withdraw from no more than 18 semester units.
6. Withdrawals will not be permitted after the 13th week of the semester, except when there is a documented serious and extenuating circumstance that is beyond the student's control. In these cases, the withdrawals will not count toward the 18 maximum allowable units.

For more details, visit Academic Senate Policy F08-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/F08-2.htm>

PETITION TO ENROLL IN UPPER DIVISION COURSEWORK WITH <60 UNITS

Have you noticed that some students who are academically focused may complete their lower division general education requirements, lower division major requirements, and pass the WST, yet still do not have the required 60 units necessary to enroll in SJSU studies courses?

The "Petition to enroll in UD coursework with <60 units" is now available to help students in this situation. Petitions will be considered for those students who have been enrolled at SJSU for at least one semester, have a GPA of at least 2.5, and have completed all lower division GE coursework (or will complete remaining GE coursework during the semester for which the petition is being sought). If the petition is approved, the student will be able to register for

SJSU Studies courses beginning on the first faculty duty day of the semester.

If a student wishes to take advantage of this petition, the student needs to be advised that if he/she does not reach 60 units at the end of the semester in which this petition is in effect, the student **WILL BE DROPPED** from the SJSU studies courses. This may have financial consequences on financial aid recipients. Aid recipients should check with the Office of Financial Aid before adjusting their schedules.

The petition form lists very specific information that the student must attach. See the form for details. It is available in Undergraduate Studies and expected to be online at the end of January 2009.



*It's Time for Winter
Fun !!!*

SJSU IMPACTION (cont.)

school and those on academic probation should plan very carefully and consider the possible consequences of their actions. It may also mean that disqualified students seeking reinstatement into impacted majors may have more difficulty getting their major departments to support their reinstatement.

What messages do you want to deliver to students? Students should understand that taking breaks and being disqualified could seriously impact their education. Additionally, students will need to know that they absolutely must follow all requirements and meet all deadlines. Not only is this good sense for their academic careers, but it is also an opportunity to teach students the importance of carefully following directions in a timely manner.

For more details about the CSU impaction, visit http://www.calstate.edu/PA/news/2008/systemwide_impaction.shtml

FORGOTTEN POLICY REGARDING PROBATION

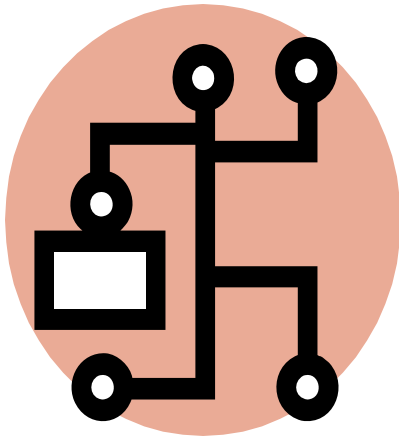
Have you ever felt like an archaeologist? Certainly the Advising Council felt that way when they dug up an academic policy that has been in effect since Fall 1996, but has long since been forgotten. Academic Senate policy F96-11 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/f96-11.htm> states, “An undergraduate student on academic probation is restricted to a course load no greater than 12 units”. In other words, an undergraduate on academic probation must limit their enrollment to a maximum of 12 units. As we all know, students who perform poorly will sometimes enroll in excessive units the following semester to “make up” for their deficiencies. This practice may send them spiraling downward to losing their financial aid and being academically disqualified.

When the Advising Council stumbled upon this policy, they knew they needed to take quick action to be in compliance with the Academic Senate resolution. Therefore, they began messaging students on academic probation to inform them of this policy and to explain that these students on probation are required to limit their units. Those who do not limit their units will be required to meet with an Academic Advisor in the Student Advising Center. As you continue your work with students on academic probation, please spread the word and help them understand that limiting their units will help them be successful.



THE ADVISING HUB IS UP AND RUNNING!

<http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>



After two long years of hard work and planning, the Advising Council, a joint venture between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, has gotten the Advising Hub up and running. Designed and maintained by Andrea Mitchell in Academic Advising and Retention Services, the Advising Hub (<http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>), is an online resource center that contains extensive information for undergraduates, graduates, and campus advisors. Examples of information you may find on the Advising Hub include links to catalog information, links to forms you may need to sign for your students such as academic renewal forms and other petitions, links to general education information and to Graduate Programs and Evaluations (GAPE). You may also refer your students to the website because there is also a tremendous amount of information and resource links for students.

Because the site is very new, we are constantly looking for ways to make it more accessible and useful for you. Next time you go to the site, please take a few minutes to give us your feedback at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/feedback/> or click on the “[Send us feedback!](#)” link at the bottom of the Advising Hub web page. In the future, a login feature may be added to the advisors’ section of the Advising Hub for increased security for information that pertains directly to advisors.

ADVISING TIP:

If you are having trouble lifting a student’s hold and have had the CMS training to do so, you can go to the following website for instructions...its really easy!

http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/for_advisors/index.htm#holds

TIPs for Success

On Friday, December 5, 2008, SJSU's Academic Advising and Retention Services held its final TIP (Transfer Information Program) for Spring 2009 transfer students. November's TIP yielded a whopping 400 students, and although the December TIP was smaller with 195 students in attendance, the program was a success!

Coordinated by Lupe Zuniga in Advising and Retention Services with the collaboration and assistance of many departments across campus, the transfer students learned valuable information about the WST, General Education requirements, major requirements, the Career Center, EOP, and international advising.

Now that the students have completed TIP, they are well-equipped to get their first semester started; however, they will still come to you with many unanswered questions. The most common questions will be more specific in nature, including developing a semester-by-semester academic plan to graduate, and planning for graduate school.



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