The First Semester Success program is a two-part platform designed to support students’ academic success through the transition to IUP. As educators it is important to us, that we provide students with as many resources as possible to prevent them from falling into the “at risk” academic range. The First Semester Success program is dedicated to doing just that, through engaging, informative online content.

The first section of the platform is offered through our website as a series of PowerPoint presentations. These presentations offer a detailed explanation of the content and walk students through strategies and resources as necessary. Each are available year round and are downloadable so students have continual access to the information. These presentations cover subjects ranging from “Making Textbooks Work for You”, to “Preparing for Midterms/Finals”, to “Success at Work equals Success at School.”

The second section of the platform is a First Semester Success Blog. This updates every two weeks and provides content to students in an engaging manner, without diminishing the importance of the content. The blog allows us to bring in outside resources, and tailor the information to students who learn in different ways: visual, auditory, physical, etc. To give you a snippet of the topics covered:

- **Lecture Notetaking:** Provides students with efficient note-taking strategies and how to identify their personal learning styles
- **End of the Semester Transition:** This post discusses how to navigate the transition back home, after a semester without your parents.
- **Time Management:** Provides a toolkit of strategies to develop action plans and prioritize tasks each semester.

We encourage you all to share these resources with your students. There is a link to our blog [here](#) and our website [here](#). In addition, you can keep up to date about post releases and new content by following us on Twitter [@MyIUPSuccess](#).

Special thanks to Jhane Cummings, GA in ASC@IUP, for providing this valuable information.
ISSUES & GLITCHES THAT BLOCK GRADUATION

The following are important points to keep in mind as you advise students nearing their graduation.

INSTITUTIONAL CREDITS BEWARE! Know these distinctions.

1) THEY COUNT for determining full-time enrollment status.
2) DO NOT COUNT for determining credits applicable for degree eligibility for graduation.
3) DO NOT COUNT for GPA/CGPA calculations.

Examples of SOME institutional credit courses are Developmental Studies courses that BEGIN with a zero (0): DVST 070 Reading Skills for College Study; DVST 093 Developmental Math, Elements of Algebra; and DVST 083 Intro to College Math

Assure ALL TRANSFER CREDITS have been RECORDED with the Transfer Credit Office AND APPEAR on the TRANSCRIPT.

Assure DOCUMENTATION OF SUBSTITUTIONS AND WAIVERS according to the college requirements (each college Dean’s Office handles this process differently).

Change of Grade form completed to update an “I” (INCOMPLETE) grade.

Change of Grade form completed to update a MISSING or INCORRECT grade.

EDUCATION MAJORS: completed the Three-Step Teacher Education Process.

Keep in mind the requirements for DUAL BACCALAUREATE DEGREE and SECONDARY DEGREE (DBD/SD): IF the student NO LONGER chooses to pursue this option, the DBD/SD MUST BE REMOVED from their record before applying for graduation (in writing with Registrar’s Office).

GPA/CGPA CONCERNS: EDUCATION MAJORS must have a 3.00 CGPA to graduate. OVERALL CGPA min. for a student to graduate from IUP = 2.00. AS APPROPRIATE, and UNLESS otherwise specified: MAJOR GPA minimum = 2.00; MINOR GPA minimum = 2.00

TOTAL CREDITS: 120, 124 OR More? BARE MINIMUM: MUST meet 120 credit minimum to graduate. SOME academic programs require MORE than 120 credits.

Doubts?? Questions??
Consult your Chairperson, ADean, or the Registrar’s Office