DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

## Degree Progress Report Helps Students Chart a Path to Graduation

To support a number of strategic objectives, a top priority was put on codifying degree requirements and creating a centralized online degree audit system for the university—moving away from the paper-based system that had been used to determine and audit degree requirements. This initiative was seen as a key investment to foster an academic advising environment that supports student learning success; achieve planned enrollment growth of our undergraduate transfer students; provide efficient, user-friendly and integrated student services; and improve retention and graduation rates for all students at DePaul.

To this end, an interactive HTML version of the Degree Progress Report (DPR) was launched in December 2006. This monumental undertaking was spearheaded by the Division of Enrollment Management and Marketing and involved areas from across the university. In addition, the Degree Progress Report Oversight Committee (DPROC) was established; membership represents all colleges and other stakeholders within the university.

Feedback from DPROC and college advisors led to the development of DPR 3.0—a one page visual roadmap and printable worksheets that put the power of information into the hands of the students. DPR 3.0 represents the coordinated efforts of Student Records, DPROC, Information Services and Academic Affairs.

The success of the DPR is evident by its increasing usage by students every year since launch.

**Using the Degree Progress Report**
The DPR, accessed through the university's portal (Campus Connection), provides a detailed look of a student's major, minor, and double-major requirements and itemizes completed and in-progress DePaul coursework, accepted transfer coursework and test credit. With this information, students can have more meaningful discussions with their advisors and better plan for timely completion of their degree.

For students who have not yet declared a major, are considering changing their major, changing colleges, declaring a minor, or other changes to their academic career, a "What-If" Report is available. This report shows students how the courses they have taken will apply toward the new program requirements as well as what additional courses are needed. This report also is useful for undergraduate students considering applying to a DePaul graduate or professional program. Students also can run a "Planner" Report to see the courses that they have put into their Planner through Campus Connection's Student

Center and how they will count toward degree requirements— helping students plan out their courses each quarter.



For advisors, the DPR allows them to review student progress as well as record individual student course exceptions—one academic advisor noted that making an exception through the DPR is just as fast as waiting for white-out to dry on paper records.

**Creating a Dedicated DPR Team**
The commencement of the 2009-10 academic year marked the launch of the DPR team within Student Records to provide a centralized level of support for the DPR. The team includes degree progress coordinators who specialize in each of the colleges' needs, and the team works with the Office of Academic Advising Support and the Honors Program to ensure coordination with advisors in those offices. The team also collaborates with Academic Affairs and Information Services to leverage student system advising enhancements. This new approach and staffing structure improves and sustains the DPR initiative, which helps DePaul students chart a clearer path toward graduation.