THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

BUILDING COMMITMENT AND GUIDING STUDENTS TOWARD GRADUATION
What is a Personal Development Plan (PDP)?

- An online tool that allows students to design, focus, and document their college experience
  - Completed as part of the first-year seminar
  - Remains with the student to update until five years after graduation

- Students create a follow a personalized plan that is open to revision and reevaluation every semester in collaboration with an academic advisor or faculty member.
The personal development plan is designed to foster:

1. Goal commitment (student commitment to earning a degree)
2. Academic achievement (through goal setting and planning)
3. Curricular coherence and meaning in the first-year seminar
4. Each of these goals is a way to foster student development
Five Learning Outcomes for the PDP

1. **Self-Assessment**
   Students identify success-related competencies

2. **Exploration**
   Students research and identify realistic and informed academic and career goals

3. **Evaluation**
   Students analyze their academic progress over the semester in terms of progress toward academic and career goals

4. **Goal Setting**
   Students connect personal values and life purpose to the motivation and inspiration behind their goals.

5. **Planning**
   Students locate programs, information, people and opportunities to support and reality test their goals.
Structure of ePDP and FYS Curriculum

- The ePDP is a presentation; it is the outcome of a semester’s worth of work.

- Developing assignments and templates that support successful completion of each section that will reside in a matrix.
Components of the “ePDP”

- About Me
- Educational Goals
- Educational Plan
- Career Goals
- Academic Showcase
- My Experience
- Resume
The Present and The Future

- **Fall 2010**
  - Piloting ePDP in 15 first-year seminars (UCOL, ENGR, TECH, PSY, NURS, INFO)
  - Group meeting to continue to develop the PDP beyond the first semester

- **Spring 2011**
  - Voluntary expansion of ePDP in first-year seminars
  - Faculty development workshops

- **Fall 2011**
  - 50% of first-year seminars using ePDP
  - Repeat assessment done in fall 2008
  - Pilot expansion of PDP past the first year of enrollment
I thought the PDP was a great idea. It helps you think about the processes you use to study and complete assignments. It helped me to revise my goals and come up with some new ones. The best part was the peak performance plan because it helped map out the future classes so that you know where you need to go and where you have been.”