Support timely degree progression

It's important for departments to support timely progression through their programs. Supporting timely progression through a degree program helps students stay engaged, reduce financial and personal barriers, and achieve their academic and career goals more efficiently. Facilitating on-time completion also promotes equity by ensuring that all students have the guidance and resources they need to navigate their educational pathways successfully.

Some actionable, evidence-based practice for supporting timely progression through a program include:

1. Distributing difficult early courses across terms to reduce burnout and build confidence.

2. Providing long-term course plans that specify when students should take required and recommended courses.

3. Sequencing required courses to distribute workload evenly, remove "pinch points," and scaffold knowledge.

4. Addressing courses with high percentages of students receiving a grade of "D" or "F" or withdrawing (DFW rates).

5. Implementing policies and practices to facilitate timely completion for transfer students (e.g., with articulation agreements, credit transfers and course equivalencies, clear pathways through the major).

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