PRIMARY RESEARCH PLAN

Team: AK-47

"The idea that the credit hour has, apparently, been an arbitrary measure of accomplishment is disturbing."
- Dallen H.

Problem

Students struggle to meet the necessary requirements to succeed during and after their school experience; creating a network of "guesses" between higher education and students.

Objective

Determine if improved access to services and knowledge of degree requirements will assist students.

Research Methods

Student Interviews
- 18-22 year-olds, full time
- Non-traditional students
- Transfer
- Part-time
- Delayed enrollment/ returning, etc.

Advising Observation

Pre and post survey and interview for both students and advisers at advising sessions.

This team focused in on a very specific part of the problem. They felt that students were failing to make good decisions in the face of so much information and that may issued stemmed from this problem.

"I believe that [the problems] all center around the finding that students are making decisions with little information about their options" -Becky K.

They found in their preliminary research that all the information was out there and there were many willing and able to help students navigate the system, but somehow the system failed to work as it was intended to.

"There is a disconnect somewhere between what the system thinks everybody knows and what the students actually know and do. It seems there is a huge demand for a central place for information." -Andy S.

They wanted to understand how students were getting the information they needed and what could be done to make it more accessible. It was their hope that if students could understand the system they could work within it better to work toward their future and many other problems of higher education would be solved as well