MAP-WORKS @ NIU

What is MAP-Works?
MAP-Works is a survey based tool that helps students start off on the right track. MAP-Works is a student success program that identifies students who are struggling with the transition to NIU as well as students who might be looking for additional resources.

Why do we use MAP-Works?
- To identify at-risk students
- To help students align behaviors with their personal expectations and aspirations
- To connect students to campus resources and experts

Does MAP-Works work?
Over the past six years, students who participated in MAP-Works earned higher GPAs, accumulated more credits, and were less likely to be placed on academic warning or probation than their counterparts who did not participate.

From fall 2012 to fall 2013 there was a 16% difference in first-year retention for freshmen students who opted to take part in MAP-Works as compared to those who did not.

Who can participate in MAP-Works?
All first-year freshmen and first-year transfer students can elect to participate in MAP-Works. Eligible students receive invitation emails with unique survey links at the start of each survey. Students can also log in directly at: https://niu.map-works.com/Login.aspx.

Faculty and staff who work directly with students are eligible to use MAP-Works as well. In order to gain access faculty, staff, and instructors must attend a training session. Training sessions are as follows:
- Friday, August 15, 10-11:30 a.m. (Cole Hall 106)
- Monday, August 18, 10-11:30 a.m. (Cole Hall 106)
- Tuesday, August 26, 2-3:30 p.m. (Cole Hall 106)
- Thursday, September 4, 2-3:30 p.m. (Cole Hall 106)

Email OSAS@niu.edu or call 753-0713 to reserve your spot in a training session. Additional training dates will be added as needed.

How can I encourage students to participate in MAP-Works?
- Add MAP-Works survey dates and information to your syllabus
- Mention the survey and its benefits when the survey opens launches. Verbally remind students about the survey periodically at the beginning or end of class
- Norm participation; make certain your students know that over 70% of first year students participated in MAP-Works last year
- Remind students that all participants will receive a gift for participating (Fall Transition survey: foam finger, Fall Check-Up survey: NIU t-shirt, Spring Transition survey: reusable water bottle)
- Share MAP-Works fast facts and data with students. For instance, 56% of students reported that they struggled in at least one class, but only 10% of those students spoke to their instructors. Or, 44% of all freshmen and transfer students expressed interest in conducting research with a faculty member. Student Success Specialist Deb Miller can provide you with more facts and corresponding resources. Email dmiller20@niu.edu or call 753-2403
- Encourage students to access their personalized MAP-Works reports
- Consider incorporating Map-Works into assignments such as essays, speeches, journals, personal reflections
- Use individual MAP-Works talking points to guide 1:1 conversations
- Use aggregate date from MAP-Works to identify common challenges and concerns among all students in a course; mention relevant tips and campus resources
- Invite Student Success Specialist Deb Miller and staff from the Office of Student Academic Success to do a presentation on MAP-Works and student success. Time the presentation to coincide with a day that you’ll be presenting at a conference and would otherwise need to cancel your class. Email dmiller20@niu.edu or call 753-2403.

When are the MAP-Works Surveys?
Students may take any or all of the surveys.
- Fall Transition Survey: September 13th-October 6th
- Fall Check-Up Survey: November 1st-November 17th
- Spring Transition Survey: January 31st-February 23rd

How can I get more information on MAP-Works?
Contact your Student Success Specialist for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Deb Miller at dmiller20@niu.edu or 753-2403.