



Smart Planner and the KEYS to Degree Toolbox | Talking Points

With ambitious CSU graduation rate goals guiding us, Sacramento State has been transforming the way we plan and support our students' graduation goals. Among several operational shifts, the implementation of the Smart Planner online tool is a key component transforming our student success model. Introduced in October 2016, and fully implemented for all majors in May 2017, Smart Planner is the foundational step of a new, automated process for our students to plan, pick, enroll, assess and ultimately graduate on time.

While currently optional, Smart Planner is being introduced to all incoming first-year and transfer students during Orientation sessions (June-August 2017). Smart Planner adoption and utilization is helping to support the [California Promise Program](#), which, through the "[Finish in Four](#)" and "[Through in Two](#)" pledge campaigns engages students to commit to taking 30 units an academic year. Together, we can help champion, educate, and show our support for these new tools and processes that will contribute to student success.

What is Smart Planner?

[Smart Planner](#) is Sacramento State's online planning tool to help students and advisors map out a successful and timely path to degree. Part of the [KEYS to Degree Toolbox](#) (Kit to Empower Your Success), Smart Planner is the first step that students are encouraged to take in order to thoughtfully plan, adjust and manage their degree path in conjunction with regular advising sessions. Smart Planner is joined by other integrated tools in the KEYS Toolbox including:

- Smart Planner
- Sac State Scheduler
- Enrollment
- Financial Aid Meter
- Progress to Degree (P2D)
- Transfer Credit Report
- Academic Requirements Report
- Advising Summary
- Application for Graduation

How does Smart Planner work?

Smart Planner integrates department roadmaps by major to help students and their advisors plan coursework for each semester. Students can plan for now and multiple semesters ahead through to the completion of their degree plan. Smart Planner is where students plan and "pick" their



courses for each semester, which they will upload into Sac State Scheduler in anticipation of registration. Using Smart Planner helps students plan out and meet the “Finish in Four” and “Through in Two” 30-unit pledge commitment, build their ideal schedule, and meet their major’s specific graduation requirements.

What are some benefits of Smart Planner?

- Students can plan multiple semesters in advance and see which courses are typically offered by semester
- Helps students map out pre-requisites and other requirements, and personalize their degree plan
- Provides a consistent working model for advisors to assist students
- Smart Planner accounts for all degree requirements: Pre-requisites, required major/minor courses, general education, and overall degree requirements
- Real-time graphs and online analysis of their progress to degree
- Provides critical course demand metrics to help the University to better schedule programs and sections

How can I help promote Smart Planner?

Learn more and view Smart Planner tutorials at csus.edu/smartplanner, and help champion it as a great tool for supporting student success. The more students use Smart Planner in conjunction with the other KEYS to Degree tools, the better positioned we will be to support course demand and resource planning. Our enthusiasm will speak volumes to these new students!