

**Key Strategy: Provide consistent, effective advising across campus to increase accountability and ensure students are on track to graduate**

### Advising Centers

USI is moving to a college-based intake advising model. This model creates a centralized area within each college for all first-year students to receive advising assistance and allows for flexibility within each of the colleges to manage the complexities of their respective student population.

- Fall 2012 - The College of Science, Engineering, and Education and the College of Nursing and Health Professions will open advising centers.
- Fall 2013 – The College of Liberal Arts and The College of Business will open advising centers.

**Key Strategy: Develop an effective framework for student recruitment and retention**

### EBI MapWorks – A Retention Effort that Works

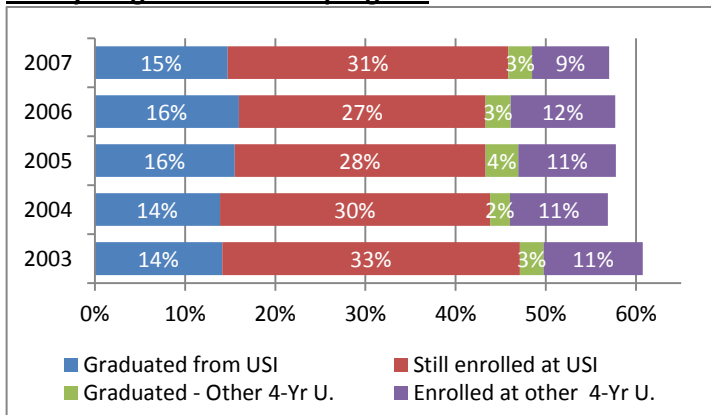
EBI MAP-Works, an on-line transition survey taken by students early in the fall semester, serves as a catalyst for early intervention. In 2011, USI expanded the use of this program to include all first-year students.

EBI Impact	Fall 2011	Spring 2012	1 Semester Retention
1 <sup>st</sup> time Freshmen Cohort	2,025	1,746	86%
<i>EBI Participants</i>	1,860	1,641	88%
<i>Non-EBI Participants</i>	137	96	70%

### USI First-Time Freshmen Success Rates

Improving the success rate of USI students is a key focus of the strategic plan. The 4-year graduation rate has improved slightly over the years. This trend is expected to continue with the new advising centers and EBI-MapWorks initiatives in place.

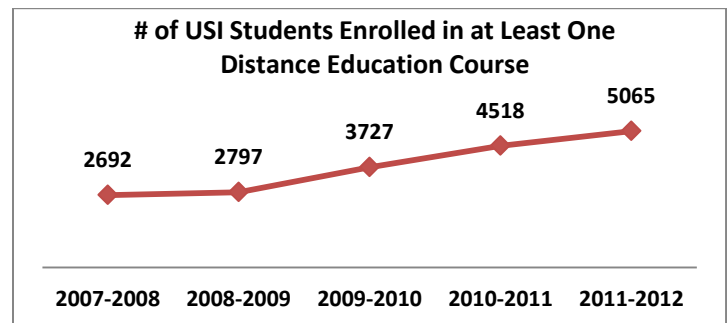
### Four-year graduation and progress



**Key Strategy: Provide more flexible ways to gain a degree**

USI is currently implementing initiatives that will increase the flexibility of degree attainment.

- Seven faculty and staff are currently participating in the national Quality Matters Certification Program with the goal to develop a “USI faculty peer-support network” for distance education.
- Efforts are underway to allow students to fulfill all university core curriculum (UCC) requirements via distance education. In the past five years, the percentage of UCC courses available via distance education has increased over 138%, from 52 courses in 2007-2008 to 124 in 2011-2012.
- In fall 2014, USI will implement a revised core curriculum with a significant reduction in required credit hours (from 50 to 39) allowing for more flexibility in class scheduling.



### Distance Education Courses Available by College

Academic Year	2007-2008	2011-2012*	% Change
Business	7	47	571%
Liberal Arts	77	148	92%
Nursing & HP	211	206	-2%
Science, Eng, & Ed	36	59	64%
University Division	4	4	0%
Outreach & Engagement	0	3	---

\*2011-2012 counts do not include Summer II 2012 DE courses.

**Key Strategy: Increase on-campus job opportunities for students who need financial assistance**

In the past five years, the number of student worker positions has increased 19%, from 806 undergraduate positions in 2007-2008 to 957 in 2011-2012. In addition, the number of graduate assistant positions has more than tripled, from 4 to 13, in five years.