

Carl Sandburg College
Department of Occupational Programs
“Fast Forward” Occupational Degree Program Initiative

Overview: Carl Sandburg College officials have identified a need to improve student retention and completion of occupational degree programs. The “Fast Forward” Occupational Degree Program is a model pilot program designed to promote and increase full time participation and completion of targeted two-year occupational degree programs.

What Is “Fast Forward”?

- The model offers students a two-year preset full time schedule of classes guaranteed to get the student to degree completion if they follow the preset full time schedule.
- Incentives by way of an agreement between the College and the students provided to participating students to encourage degree completion by attending full time to complete their degree.

How Will “Fast Forward” be Implemented?

1. The model would be phased in over two years beginning with the 08-09 school year.
 - ✓ 15 occupational two year AAS Degree programs targeted
 - ✓ All Certificate programs will continue to be offered as before
 - ✓ Course schedules will be structured to allow but not encourage part-time participation
2. The student would be required to understand that by signing up for “Fast Forward” they are committing to attend “full-time”.
3. The student would then “Fast Forward” through their degree program as planned by the two-year preset schedule until they complete their degree as stipulated in the agreement.

How Will “Fast Forward” be Marketed to Students?

- A marketing campaign promoting the “Fast Forward” program will be developed and target marketed to potential students coming out of area high schools as well as non-traditional older students.
- The recruiting department will be provided with information on the program to use in communication at school visits and other recruiting functions.

Goal:

To increase the current number of full-time students in targeted occupational programs in the “Fast Forward” program by at least 10% for the 08-09 school year, and 10% in subsequent years.