

## **Analysis of DegreeWorks Usage in Advising and Its Impact on Advising Quality and Outcomes**

This research brief examines the correlation between the frequency of DegreeWorks usage in advising and its impact on various variables such as accurate information provision, academic support, overall success, and satisfaction with academic advising. The data was collected through a survey questionnaire administered to a sample of USC students, and the participants were divided into two groups based on their reported frequency of DegreeWorks usage in advising.

### **What is DegreeWorks?**

DegreeWorks is a tool that helps both students and advisors track progress towards degree completion by matching students' academic records with degree requirements. It assists students in selecting suitable courses to fulfill their degree requirements. By integrating with student academic records, DegreeWorks provides a comprehensive overview of a student's academic journey.

### **Methods**

Data was collected through a survey questionnaire administered to 25,533 USC undergraduate students in the spring of 2023. The instrument received a 9% response rate (n=2,301). Participants were divided into two groups based on their reported frequency of DegreeWorks usage in advising: "No or Infrequent Use of DegreeWorks" and "Frequent Use of DegreeWorks in Advising." The participants rated their experiences on several variables related to advising quality and outcomes. Group statistics, t-tests for equality of means, and effect sizes were calculated to analyze the data.

### **Key Findings**

#### ***Accurate information about courses and requirements***

The group that reported frequent use of DegreeWorks in advising perceived a higher level of accurate information provision compared to the group with no or infrequent use.

#### ***Academic support***

Students who reported frequent use of DegreeWorks in advising had a higher perception of academic support than those who reported no or infrequent use.

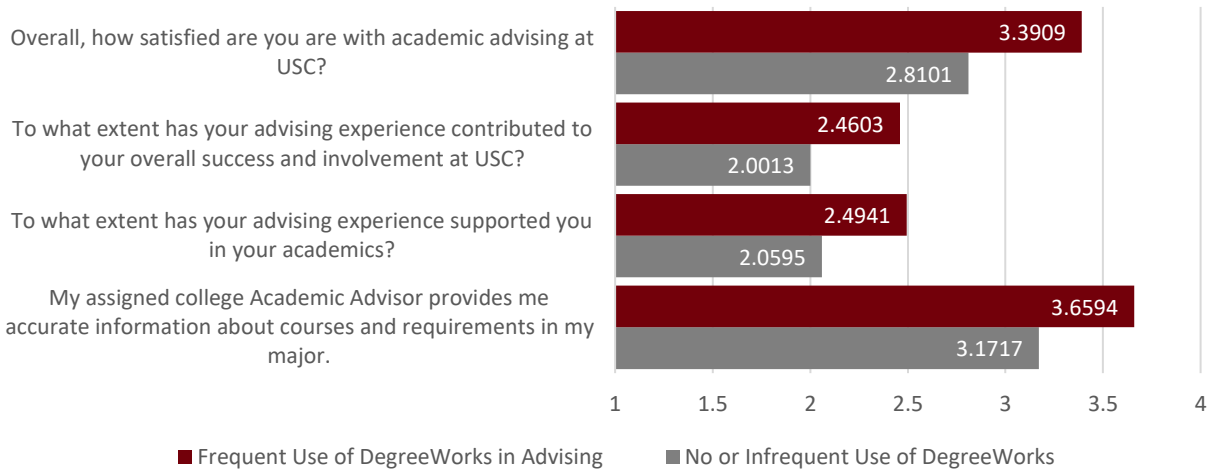
#### ***Overall success and involvement***

Participants who reported frequent use of DegreeWorks in advising believed that advising contributed more to their overall success and involvement at USC compared to the no or infrequent use group.

#### ***Satisfaction with academic advising***

Students who reported frequent use of DegreeWorks in advising expressed higher levels of satisfaction with academic advising at USC than those with no or infrequent use.

## Impact of DegreeWorks Usage on Advising Outcomes



The statistical analysis showed that there was a significant difference between the two groups in all four variables, indicating that the frequent use of DegreeWorks in advising is associated with higher perceived accuracy, academic support, overall success, and satisfaction with academic advising.

Further analysis shows that students are likely to see variation in the frequency of advisor usage of DegreeWorks by their degree-granting college.

### Conclusion

The analysis of the data reveals a consistent pattern indicating that the frequent use of DegreeWorks in advising is associated with positive outcomes in terms of accurate information provision, academic support, overall success, and satisfaction with academic advising at USC. The effect sizes (Cohen's d) for these variables range from 0.729 to 0.812, indicating a moderate to large effect. These findings suggest that DegreeWorks can be an effective tool to enhance the quality of advising and improve students' experiences and outcomes at USC.

Overall, this research brief provides evidence that DegreeWorks, when used more frequently in advising, is associated with improved advising experiences and outcomes at USC. Implementing and promoting the use of DegreeWorks in advising practices may benefit students by providing them with accurate information, academic support, and overall success, leading to higher satisfaction with academic advising.