



Degree Audit & Planning

Lead students on the most direct route to completion and post-academic success

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More than half of students don't complete on time. And yet, on-time completion is a top priority for nearly every student.

41% of 4-year students complete on time.

30% of 2-year students complete on time.

[NCES](#)

So what exactly is happening? Institutions repeatedly share the same seven shortcomings:

- Audits have cracks in their foundations.
- Academic plans are rarely revisited by anyone.
- Students take courses that don't count toward their goals.
- Advisors lack the time to offer real-talk advice.
- Students lose too many credits when transferring.
- Students earn credentials they are never awarded.
- Planning and registration are siloed activities.

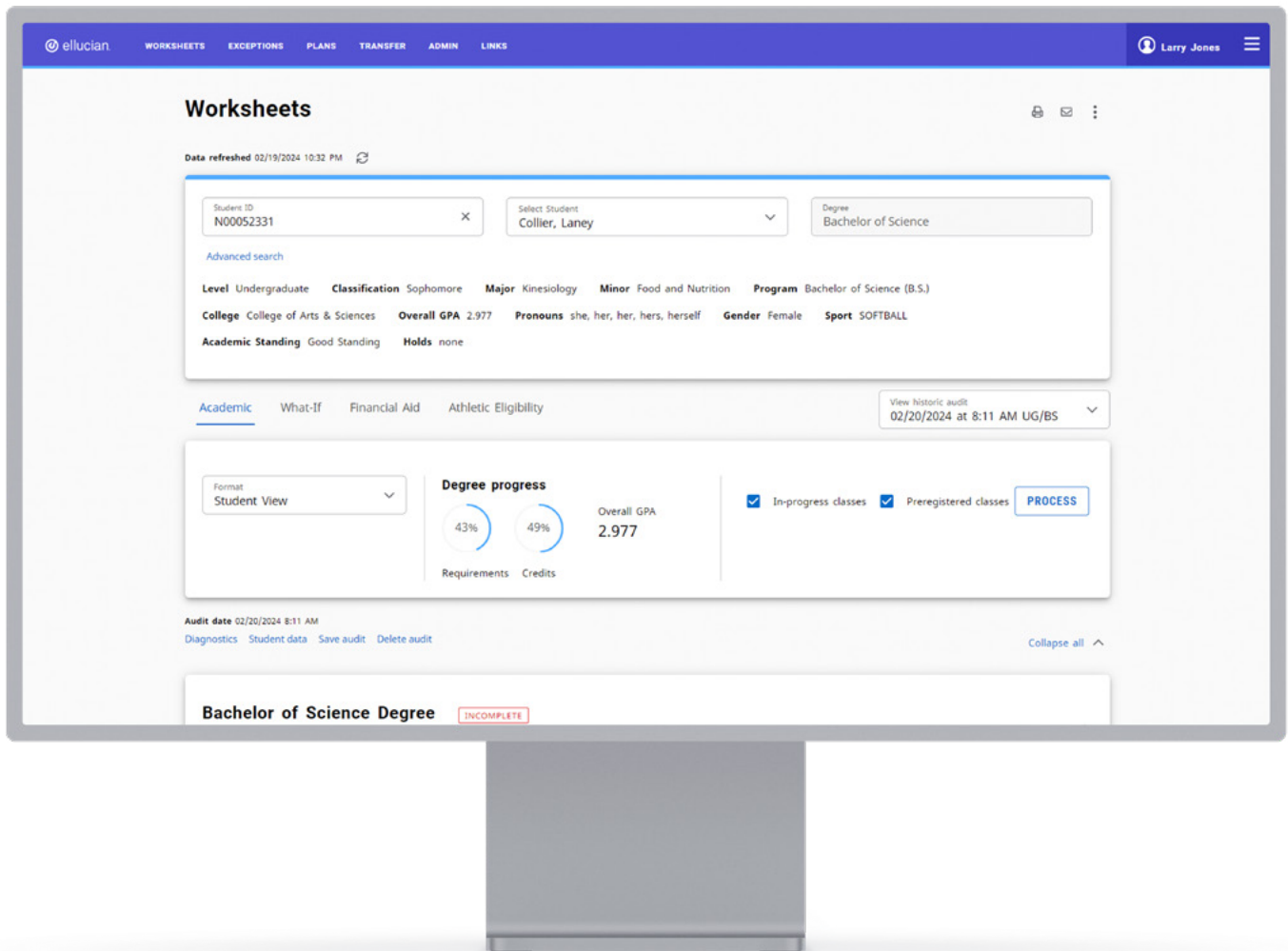
And why is this happening? For far too long, auditing, planning, and credential discovery have been viewed as independent, disparate initiatives. In reality, they are related entities that power academic and career triumphs, together. Here's what success looks like.

Build the Strongest Foundation: Your Detailed Audit

Would you build a new home on a cracked foundation? Your academic audit technology is your home's foundation. In academia, so much shifts around: catalog years, program requirements, and class sections to name a few. You'd hate for your foundation to shift, too.

A successful audit must remain detailed, up-to-date, and accurate — not just to pass an inspection, but to power academic plans that rely on its integrity, all the time.

Ellucian Degree Works



Degree Works transforms course catalogs, program requirements and student academic data into actionable, detailed audits and manually administered plans to power on-time completion.

It's the engine that makes successful planning, advising, and credential discovery *possible*.

Make audits actionable.

Convert audits into plans that can be actively managed for most scenarios — like changing majors or withdrawing from a class.

Offer personal support.

Stay updated when students all behind completion requirements so you can intervene proactively with tailored advice.

Scale with templated plans.

Create academic pathways for similar students, such as pre-med majors who must take courses in a specific sequence.

Let students be owners.

Show students their progress with real-time degree and academic plan details on their personalized dashboards.

Simplify the transfer process.

Map credits across institutions, helping students understanding how their previously earned credits apply to your requirements.

Questions Answered by Degree Works

- Is my plan off track?
- Are the courses I'm taking helping me attain my degree or certification on time?
- How does my progress toward completion if I change my major?

Successes Unlocked by Degree Works

- ✓ Audits remain detailed, up-to-date, and accurate at all times.
- ✓ Students know how their completed and planned courses map before transferring.

175 hours saved on manual auditing processes

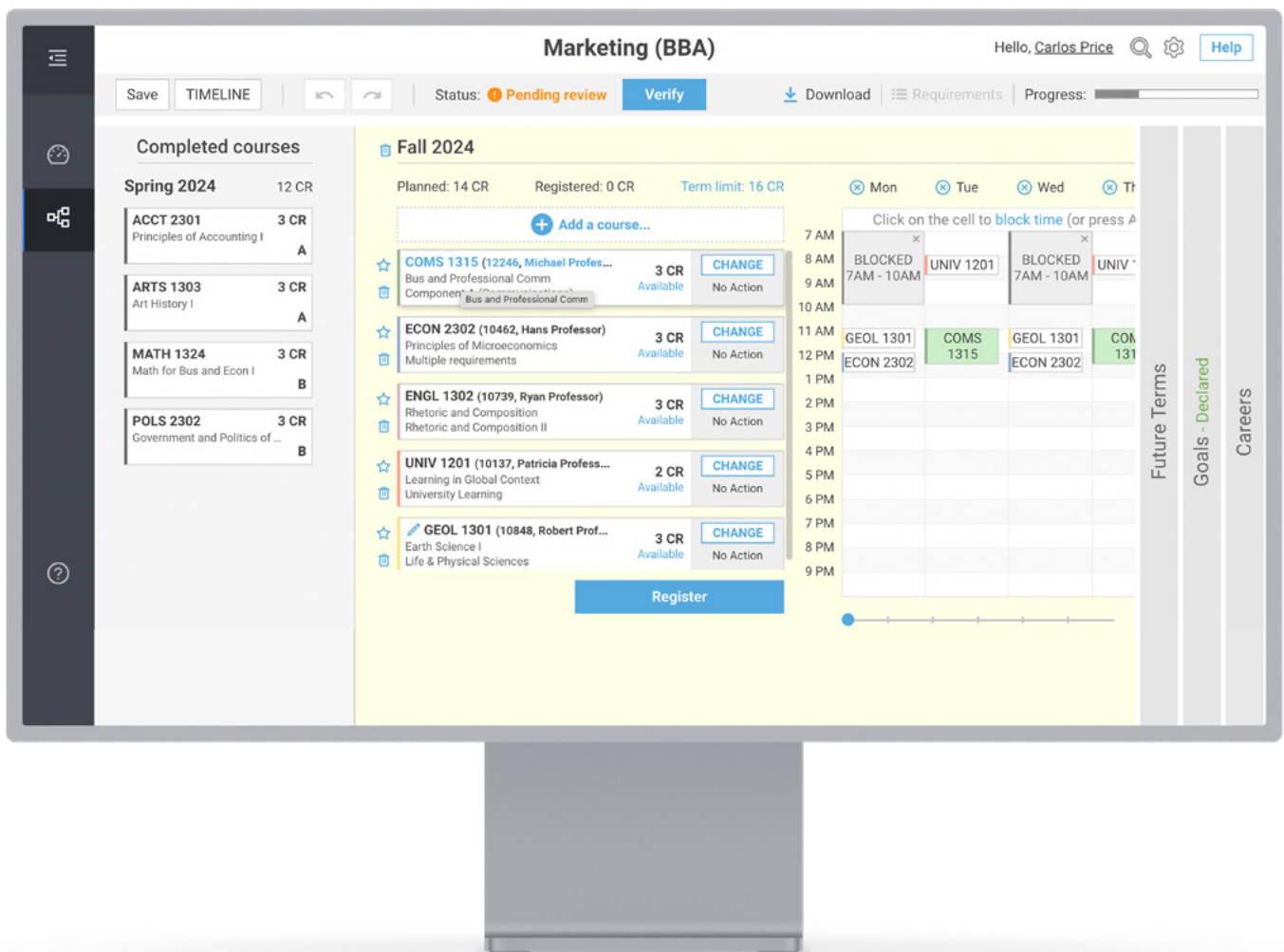
Holyoke Community College

Maximize Personalization and Scale: Your Self-Correcting Plan

If the audit is your foundation, then the plan is your house. Would you expect your home to be structurally sound if your foundation isn't? Far too often, valuable advising time is spent creating band-aid fixes to unstable audits — like manually verifying program requirements, identifying best-fit courses, and building schedules. But technology can do this. In fact, technology does do this — automatically.

When the planner *is* the planning expert, students and advisors can focus on the most important objective: executing it.

Ellucian Smart Plan



Smart Plan personalizes academic plans for each student — and automatically updates them to accommodate any change: a life event, declaration change, you name it.

It's the Google Maps for academic planning, generating the most optimal path — term-by-term, course-by-course — from enrollment to completion.

Let the plan do the work.

Witness every plan self-heal to accommodate student-specific scenarios — no more eleventh-hour revisions or forgetting to update it at all.

Foster more meaningful dialogue.

Free advisors' time to foster deeper, more effective student conversations about academic, career, and life aspirations.

Make registration a breeze.

Let students register for courses directly from their unique plans, reducing potential errors and making registration a non-event.

Know the finish line.

Tell students exactly when they will finish and how any changes could alter that date and the cost of their education.



Questions Answered by Smart Plan

- What courses fit my work schedule?
- When will I graduate if I take/don't take this course?
- What courses will speed up graduation and minimize cost?
- What if I changed my major? Dropped this course? Took a semester off to work?
- What course section should I prioritize to stay on track?
- What courses should be offered each term to ensure we're meeting the curricular needs of students?

Successes Unlocked by Smart Plan

- ✓ Students and advisors regularly revisit academic plans.
- ✓ Students are focused on the courses that count to their goals.
- ✓ Advisors have the time to facilitate advice-first conversation.
- ✓ Registration is a natural extension of academic planning.

60% reduction of advising time spent planning and scheduling

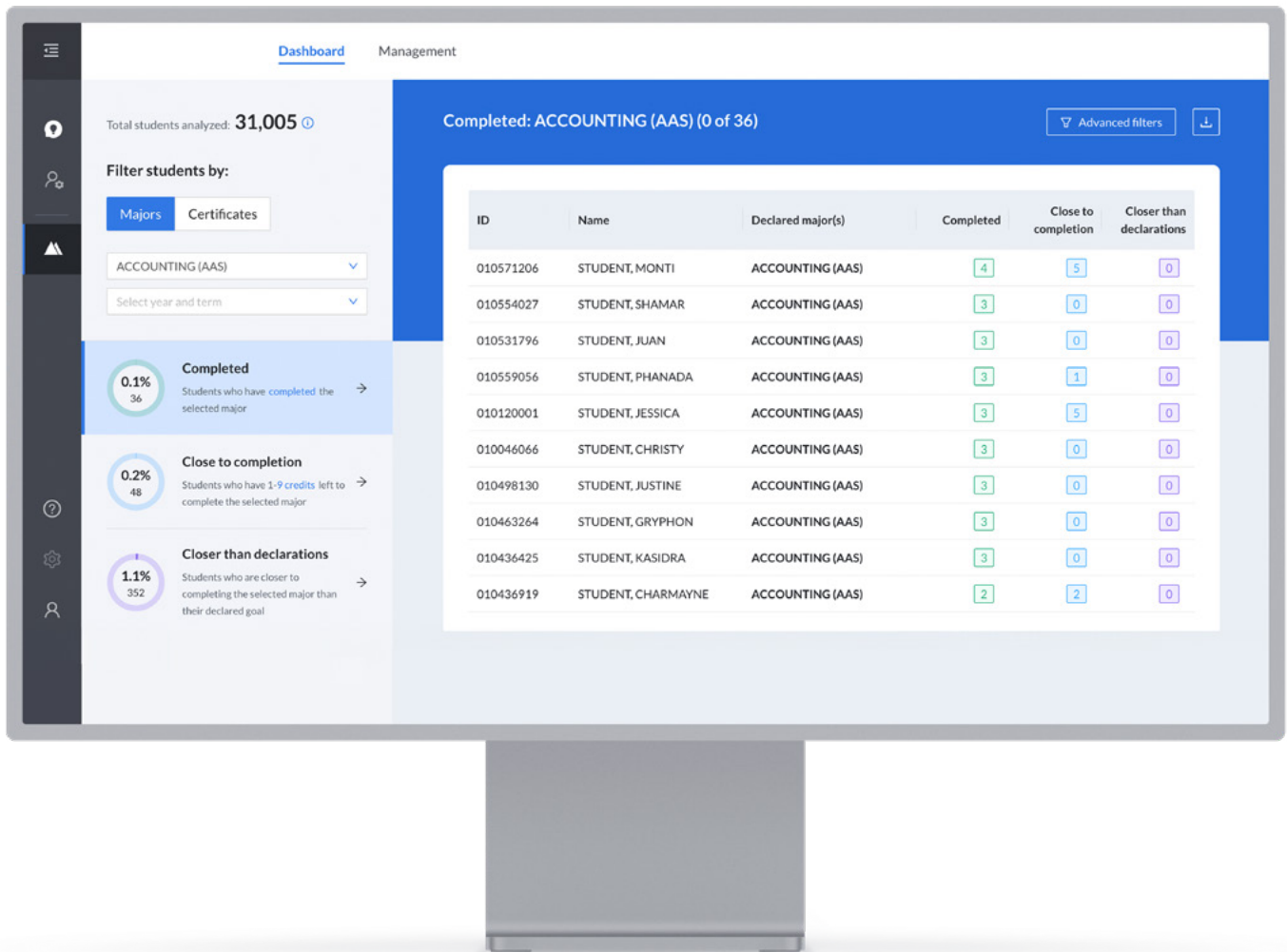
Norco College

Award What's Been Earned: Your Credential Discovery

Imagine redoing your kitchen, only to earn zero return on investment. In hindsight, maybe you would have reconsidered the project.

Students spend so much time, passion, and money on their education. It's not just about getting to the finish line; it's about earning raising that trophy overhead with pride and joy.

Ellucian Award



Award analyzes each student's completed courses and compares them to all available degree/credential requirements, declared or not

Finally, you'll never miss an opportunity to award credentials to deserving students.

Find students more credentials.

Enhance student resumes by surfacing completed degrees and credentials outside of their declaration(s).

Re-enroll more stop-outs.

Support outreach strategies with personalized paths to credentials, including the exact classes that must be completed.

Turn almost into complete.

Display student progress toward undeclared programs, like someone three credits away from an undeclared minor in biology.

Generate more funding.

Boost performance-based funding by awarding more degrees and credentials to the students who have earned them.

Questions Answered by Award

- Which students have already met all requirements for a degree or credential, even if it is not their declared goal?
- How close are students to completing any program, credential, or major, whether or not it is their declared goal?
- For each student, which degrees and credentials are they closest to completing?

Successes Unlocked by Award

- ✓ Students are notified of and awarded the credentials they earned.

**2,408 degrees earned
by 1,926 individual non-
applicant students*
in first academic year
after implementation**

Dallas College

*Earned credential but did not petition/apply for it

Are you ready to personalize planning to help students succeed faster? Contact an Ellucian Sales Team Member or your Customer Success Manager.

