

# Students petition for increased academic progress reporting from university faculty

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LAYOUT EDITOR

With 170 out of 200 signatures currently, freshman Sarah Hamilton's ipetitions.com plea for more academic progress report accountability is gaining attention among Illinois Tech students. The petition, that went live on January 23, asks that professors routinely update student grades on online platforms such as Blackboard. The reason being that students should always have an accurate and up-to-date understanding of

their academic standing.

According to Hamilton, the idea to have a policy change started when she kept hearing her friends complain about how they didn't know how to study for classes because they did not have a current understanding of their grade. The petition explains that if students know what grade they have earlier in the semester, then they will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of their study habits.

Along with promptly entering grades, another important aspect of the policy is to make the grade shown on Blackboard

weighted so it reflects the correct percentage. If exams are weighted disproportionately to homework on the syllabus but weighted equally when entered into Blackboard, it might be hard to decipher the true grade.

Before the petition went online, Hamilton contacted Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Christopher White, who advised her to create the online site to have a physical representation of the student support for this policy change. After there are two hundred signatures, the petition will be brought to the committee of academic advisors who will

ultimately decide whether the policy will be put into action.

If professors don't feel comfortable using the program, they can attend Blackboard training classes to get them more comfortable using the interface.

Hamilton points out that many people don't trust the efficacy of online petitions because often there is little follow-through, but she believes that with the backing of an administrator and large student support, it will be successful.

# Career Services shares tips for upcoming Career Fair

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With over 120 companies registered, this semester's career fair will offer students of all majors at Illinois Tech the opportunity to meet company representatives interested in hiring IIT students. The Winter 2016 Career Fair will be held this Thursday, February 4 in Illinois Tech's Hermann Hall. Hosted by Career Services, students and alumni who attend this semester's career fair will be met with a variety of internship and career opportunities.

Career Services is offering several

ways that students can prepare early for the career fair. Students will have the option to register early for the career fair as well as borrow professional clothing to use on the day of the fair. Career Services staff have also been offering additional opportunities for students to have their resumes, cover letters, and LinkedIn profiles reviewed.

Illinois Tech's Career Services office recommends that students do several things prior to attending a career fair, including reviewing the companies that will be in attendance, updating their resume, and practicing an elevator pitch. The office also

suggests that students practice responses to common interview questions such as "Tell me about yourself," "Why do you want to work for our organization?" and "Why do you want to work in this industry?"

The office also recommends that, on the day of the fair, students review information about different employers before approaching them and ask for a business card from representatives they speak to. The office also notes that some employer's tables may become very crowded with other students and recommends moving on to another employer instead of standing in a long line.

Career Services also recommends that students follow up after meeting company representatives at the fair and suggests that students organize records of the companies and contacts that were met.

Students can pre-register for the Winter 2016 Career Fair through Wednesday on the MTCC bridge. Professional attire will be required for entry to Thursday's career fair. For more information, visit Career Services' website at [web.iit.edu/career-services](http://web.iit.edu/career-services)



Photos of Spring 2015 Career Fair by Katy Banks