GRADS 05/04/2016 R. ODEEN

When it comes time to finally graduate from college, students may run into many roadblocks, whether it be the job hunt or dealing with debt. But what if after all that hard work, it was like you never graduated in the first place? Here’s Ryan Odeen with more.

MP3 R/T: 1:12 O/C: "...NEWS SERVICE, I’M RYAN ODEEN."

RYAN ODEEN: STUDENTS WHO HAVE FINISHED THEIR TIME AT U-W-RIVER FALLS WALK ACROSS THE STAGE AT ONE OF TWO COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES EVERY YEAR. MOST RECEIVE THEIR DEGREE. HOWEVER, OTHERS WILL FIND THEMSELVES ENROLLED IN CLASSES IN ONE LAST TERM AFTER WALKING IN COMMENCEMENT. THEY COMPLETED THE MINIMUM 120 CREDITS, HOWEVER, THEY FAILED TO COMPLETE ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOUND ON THEIR DEGREE AUDIT REPORTS. THEY NEVER ACTUALLY GRADUATED, THEY SIMPLY WALKED ACROSS THE STAGE. TECHNICALLY GRADUATION WILL COME WHEN THEIR DEGREE IS FINALLY COMPLETE. ASSISTANT REGISTRAR KELLY BROWNING SAYS WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD DO IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS SCENARIO.

KELLY BROWNING: “WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO WORK WITH THEIR ADVISORS... THE CONSTANT LOOKING, CHECKING OF THE DEGREE AUDIT WHEN THEY COME IN HERE. BUT IT'S ULTIMATELY UP TO THE STUDENT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE THEIR DEGREE PROGRAM.”

RYAN ODEEN: COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ASSOCIATE DEAN TRICIA DAVIS LENDS SOME HELPFUL ADVICE ON THE ISSUE AS WELL.

TRICIA DAVIS: “AFTER YOU REGISTER FOR CLASSES IN WHAT YOU THINK IS YOUR FINAL SEMESTER HERE, RUN YOUR DEGREE AUDIT. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PLUSES AND O-K’S IN FRONT OF EVERYTHING THAT IS REQUIRED”

RYAN ODEEN: ASSISTANT REGISTRAR BROWNING SUGGESTS STUDENTS BEGIN THEIR GRADUATION APPLICATIONS RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TERM THEY PLAN TO GRADUATE IN. FOR THE FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M RYAN ODEEN.

Students do eventually receive their degree, but only if they complete the missing requirements.

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