What is a predicted risk level?
A predicted risk level suggests the likelihood of a student graduating in their current major (for undecided students the risk predicts the likelihood of them graduating from any major). It is used to help prioritize advisor and staff interactions with students based on their likelihood to graduate and support advisors in quickly identify at-risk students.

Predicted risk level is located in the “Overview” table on a student’s profile page in lower right hand corner of the top gray rectangle.

Low (or green) means a student is at low risk for NOT graduating from NDSU.
Moderate (or yellow) means a student is at moderate risk for NOT graduating from NDSU.
High (or red) means a student is at high risk for NOT graduating from NDSU.

Hovering the cursor over the risk level will provide a more thorough description of the factors used to calculate risk. This explanation will help guide exploration of the student’s profile to determine what specifically puts this student at risk to guide the interaction.

How can advisors use predicted risk level?
Advisors can use the predicted risk level in several ways.
- Uncover hidden risk that may not have originally been visible. (e.g. A student with a 2.75 GPA may be in good academic standing, but be at risk due to low credit completion or a high number of withdrawn courses.)
- Intervene early with students deemed at-risk. Using the advanced search filter, search for all moderate or high-risk students in a particular major and invite them to a meeting prior to advising week.
- Guide conversations with students using the student profile to understand the causes of their performance.
- Direct students to services to supplement their skills (e.g. tutoring or writing assistance).
- Use the major explore tab to engage in conversations about the student’s choice of major and whether or it aligns with their skills and interests.

How is the risk level derived?
The predicted risk level is derived from historical NDSU student academic and demographic data. Multivariate statistical and machine learning techniques perform variable selection and conduct hypothesis testing to highlight impactful trends in student data. The data points used in the NDSU model include courses students took and grades earned, majors declared, the way students earned credit over time, in addition to more static facts such as transfer student status and high school GPA.

REMEMBER: THE PREDICTED RISK LEVEL IS A PREDICTION, BUT DOES NOT GUARANTEE SUCCESS OR FAILURE.