A Comprehensive Program for College Student Retention

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The Retention Issue

- 63% of 4-year college students earn a bachelor’s degree by age 30 (within 11 years of high school graduation)
- 6-year graduation rate is about 50%
- Mean “time-to-completion” of bachelor’s degree is about 5 years

Factors Affecting Retention

- Household Income
- Parental Education/Occupation
- Quality of Prior Schooling
- Prior Levels of Achievement
- College “Climate”/ “Fit”
- Campus support and resources
How can we bolster academic achievement and social adaptation among college students so as to promote their retention and graduation?
A Related Issue

- There are many students with outstanding potential for college success, but who do not have the advantages of affluence that are known to be related to graduation.
- These students are often highly motivated to succeed and will make significant contributions to society if afforded access to college and early support.
A Comprehensive Model

- Summer Bridge Program
- Summer Orientation
- Developmental Academic Advising
- Intensive Course Instruction
- Tutoring
- Study Groups
- Mentoring Program
Summer Bridge Program

- Intensive Academic Development
  (English, Math, Computer & Study Skills)
- Developmental Advising
  (Decision-making, Conflict Management)
- Establishment of Support Network
  (Faculty, Staff, Students)
- Build Confidence in Realistic Setting
  (honesty, commitment, achievement)
Summer Orientation

- Placement Testing
- Course Selection
- Academic Advising
- Introduction to Support Network
Intensive Course Instruction

• Extended Meeting Time
• Smaller class size
• Collaborative Learning
• Active Learning
• Focus on Effectiveness Strategies
• Departmental Testing/Grading
Academic Advising

- Developmental Advising
- Academic Progress Monitoring System (Mid-term Estimate, Student Progress Report)
- Problem-Solving Strategies (Roommate, finances, peer expectations)
- Academic-Career Explorations (freshmen interest groups)
- Personal Adjustment Issues (existential crises)
Additional Programs

- Tutoring
- Mentoring Program
- Study Groups
- CSP 100 - Academic Socialization
- Summer Scholarship Program
- Campaign Excel
CSP Performance Measures

- Graduation Rate: 6-yr: 70%; overall: 76%
- Overall GPA: 2.6
- New Freshmen: 505
- Seniors: 523
- All CSP Students: 1,790
- Advising Contacts: 7,016
- Intensive Course Enrollment: 1,102
- Students in Good Academic Standing: 96%
Conclusion

- A comprehensive program of intensive instruction, systematic advising and student development can bolster academic achievement, retention, and graduation in college students.
Status of (Blk) Students who "Dropped"

Cum. Credits/Standing (N=471)

- Senior: 20
- Junior: 17
- Soph: 34
- Frosh: 29

Cum. Credits/Standing (N=471)
CGPA of students who "Dropped"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CGPA Range</th>
<th>At-Large</th>
<th>SB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.0+</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.0-2.99</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>&lt;1.7</td>
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</table>

**Group**
- At-Large
- SB
Black Retention (1991-96)

Retention
Dropped Enrolled Graduated
Percent
60 50 40 30 20 10 0

Group
At-Large SB

Graduated Enrolled Dropped
50 44 30
36 26 26
14 14 14
30 30 30

Group

At-Large
SB

Retention