



A Comprehensive Program  
for  
College Student Retention

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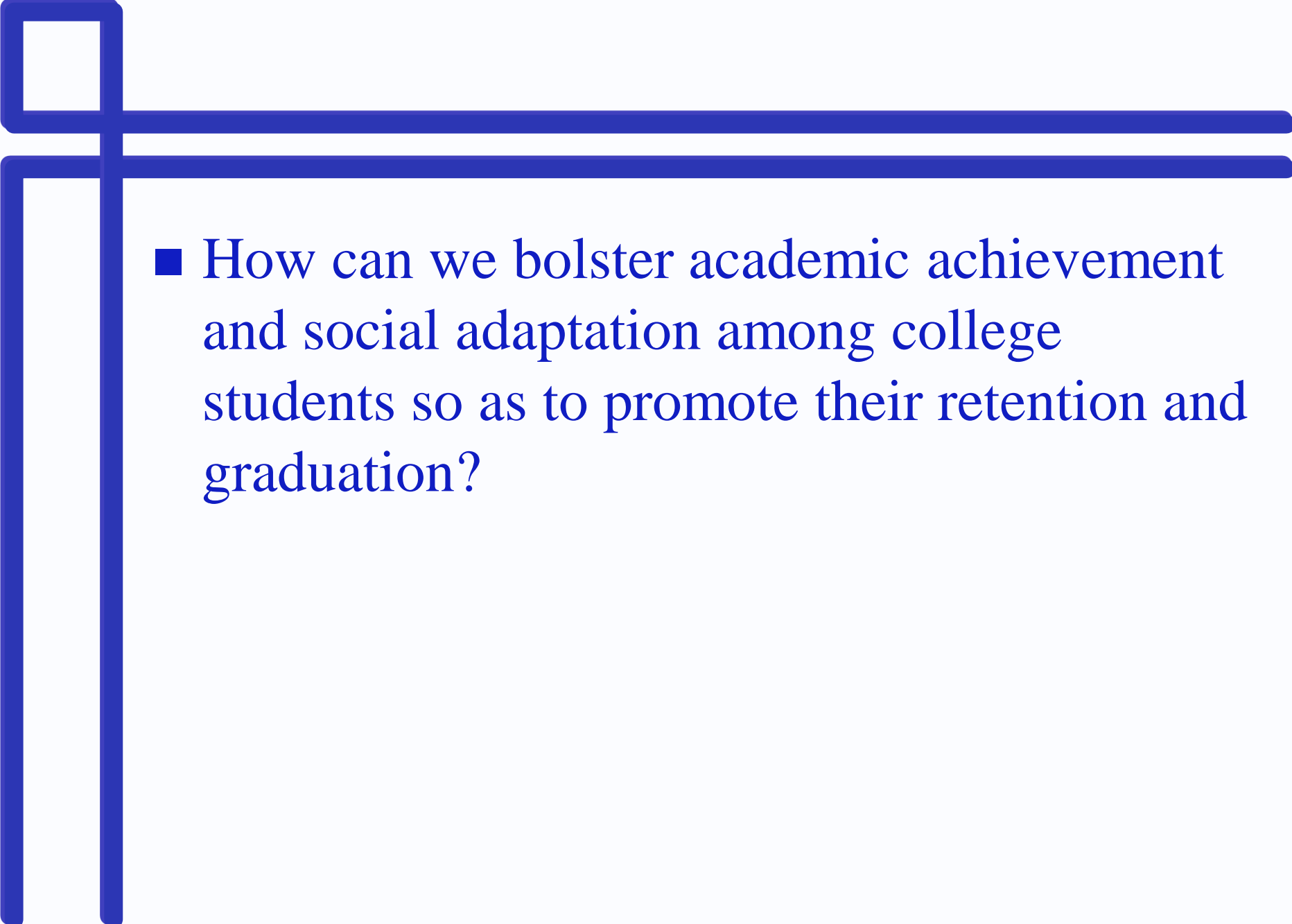
# The Retention Issue

- 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

source: C Adelman, (1999) *Answers in the Toolbox*, US Department of Education

# Factors Affecting Retention

- Household Income
- Parental Education/Occupation
- Quality of Prior Schooling
- Prior Levels of Achievement
- College “Climate”/ “Fit”
- Campus support and resources

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- 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.