What Works in Student Retention?

Fourth National Survey

Community Colleges with Twenty Percent or More Black Students Enrolled

ACT, 2010

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This report is the culmination of a two-year project directed by a four-member planning team. Inquiries may be directed to any member of the team.

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ACT's What Works in Student Retention 2010 Study

Community Colleges with Twenty Percent or More Black Students Enrolled

This report presents the findings for community colleges with twenty percent or more Black students enrolled that participated in ACT's 2010 *What Works in Student Retention* survey. The report contains information pertinent to only these institutions. For more information concerning the history of ACT's involvement in retention research; various aspects of the study's methodology (e.g., database, administration, etc.); response rates by type of institution; findings for background information; and retention and degree-completion rates for other types of institutions, the reader is directed to the *Report for All Colleges and Universities*. In that report, the reader will find data for community colleges, private four-year colleges and universities, and public four-year colleges and universities. More in-depth information can be found for each of these types of institutions in their respective executive summaries.

A copy of the survey instrument to which all colleges and universities in this study responded can be found in Appendix B of this report. The survey was mailed to the Chief Academic Affairs Officers at 3,360 colleges and universities. A total of 1,104 responses were received of which 83 were from community colleges enrolling \geq 20% Black students. Findings for those 83 community colleges are presented in this report.

Section I: Background Information

In Section I, the full base of respondents and computed percentages were based on the number of individuals responding to each item unless otherwise noted with the inclusion of the word "blank," in which case blanks were included in the total number of respondents for the item.

- About half (52%) of the respondents for these community colleges indicated there was a person
 on their campus responsible for retention efforts, while 46% indicated there was not. Very few
 picked any one of the 13 titles listed for these individuals; the highest percentage, 10%, selected
 either Chief Academic Affairs Officer/Dean or Chief Student Affairs Officer.
- About three-quarters (73%) of the colleges offered at least some undergraduate credit hours though online instruction. Of the total group offering online instruction, about half (46%) offered 15% or more of their total undergraduate hours online.
- Articulation agreements were most frequently reported as the transfer enhancement programs in which the colleges participated with 66% having such agreements with selected colleges, 36% having such agreements statewide, and 35% having such agreements system-wide.

Next most commonly reported were transfer enhancement programs through course applicability systems. These colleges reported 33% statewide, 28% with a selected group or consortium of colleges, and 24% system-wide.

Less commonly selected was the common course numbering system with 36% selecting system-wide and 34% selecting statewide.

Q1. Is there a person on your campus who is responsible for the coordination of retention programs?

yes	51.8%
no	45.8%
no response	2.4%

Q2. What title most closely approximates that of the individual?

Chief Acad Aff Officer/Dean	9.6%
Chief Student Affairs Officer	9.6%

Q3. Approximately what percentage of your undergraduate credit hours is offered through online instruction?

0%	6.0%
1% - 5%	16.9%
6% - 14%	22.9%
15% - 29%	15.7%
30% - 100%	18.1%
don't know/	
unavailable/	
blank	20.5%

Q4. Check all* of the transfer enhancement programs below in which your institution participates.

A. Common course numbering system...

with selected colleges	7.2%
with a selected group or	
consortium of colleges	8.4%
system-wide	36.1%
statewide	33.7%
none of the above	22.9%
* Multiple responses are possible.	
Percentages do not sum to 100%.	

B. Articulation agreements...

with selected colleges	66.3%
with selected group or	
consortium of colleges	16.9%
system-wide	34.9%
statewide	36.1%
none of the above	1.2%
*Multiple responses possible.	
Percentages do not sum to 100%.	

C. Course applicability system...

with selected group or	
consortium of colleges	27.7%
system-wide	24.1%
statewide	32.5%
multi-state system	2.4%
none of the above	27.7%
*Multiple responses possible.	
Percentages do not sum to 100%.	

Section II: Retention and Degree-Completion Rates

In Section II, the full base of respondents and computed percentages were based on the number of individuals responding to each item unless otherwise noted with the inclusion of the word "blank," in which case blanks were included in the total number of respondents for the item.

- Of the 64 colleges providing a response concerning their school's current first-year to second-year retention rate, the median was 53 and the mean was 56.
- Forty-five percent of 79 schools responding reported not having a goal for first-year to second-year retention rate, while 40% did. The mean and median retention rates were quite similar at 66% and 65%, respectively. The timeframes most frequently selected for achieving the retention goals were three years (11%) and one year (10%).
- Using a three-year timeframe for community colleges, the mean degree completion rate was 32%, while the median was 25%. Fifty-one percent of the 77 schools responding to this item did not have a specific goal for their student degree-completion rate, while 25% did. For those that did have a goal, the mean was 43% and the median was 34%. The most frequently selected timeframe was three years, selected by only 6% of the respondents; all other timeframes were selected by 5% or fewer of the respondents.

Q1. What is your institution's current first-year to second-year retention rate for first-time, full-time students?

N	64
Mean	56.4
25 th percentile	48.0
Median	53.1
75 th percentile	65.0

don't know/unavailable/ blank

N 19 % 22.9%

Q2. Does your institution have a specific goal for its first-year to second-year retention rate?

a. no	44.6%
b. don't know/unavailable/	
blank	15.7%

c. yes 39.8%
If yes: The goal for the student retention rate (% of

students who will be retained – <u>not</u> percent increase) and the schedule for achieving that goal are:

d. Retention rate goal

N	32
Mean	66.2
25 th percentile	60.0
Median	65.0
75 th percentile	75.0

e. Timeframe for achieving that goal

no specific timeframe	1.2%
one year	9.6%
two years	2.4%
three years	10.8%
four years	4.8%
five years	8.4%
more than five years	0.0%
no response	62.7%

Q3. Assuming a three-year timeframe for two-year institutions, what is your institution's current student degree-completion rate?

N	61
Mean	31.7
25 th percentile	13.0
Median	25.0
75 th percentile	45.0

don't know/unavailable/ blank

> N 22 % 26.5%

Q4. Does your institution have a specific goal for its student degree-completion rate (three-year graduation timeframe for two-year institutions)?

a. no	50.6%
b. don't know/unavailable/	
blank	24.1%
c ves	25.3%

If yes, the goal for the student degree completion rate (% of students who complete degrees-<u>not</u> percent increase) and the schedule for achieving that goal are:

d. Degree-completion goal

N	20
Mean	42.8
25 th percentile	24.5
Median	34.0
75 th percentile	62.5

e. Timeframe for achieving that goal

no specific timeframe	2.4%
one year	3.6%
two years	4.8%
three years	6.0%
four years	3.6%
five years	4.8%
more than five years	0.0%
no response	74.7%

Section III: Factors Affecting Student Attrition at Your School

Section III contained a list of 42 student and institutional characteristics or factors that can affect student attrition. Respondents were asked to rate the degree to which these factors affected attrition at their school on a five-point scale where 5=major effect, 3=moderate effect, and 1=little or no effect. All 42 items are listed, in numeric order, along with means for each in Appendix A, Table A1 following this report. Observation of the mean distribution was used to determine where reporting breaks were to be made.

Tables I and II contain the attrition factors with the highest and lowest means, respectively, for community colleges enrolling ≥ 20% Black students.

Table I: Attrition Factors with Highest Means (≥ 20% Black two-year)

Item #	Item	Mean
20	adequacy of personal financial resources	4.22
2	level of student preparation for college-level work	4.09
31	student study skills	4.00
9	student low socio-economic status	3.98
10	amount of financial aid available to students	3.91
36	student family responsibilities	3.88
27	level of job demands on students	3.82
13	level of student commitment to earning a degree	3.81
21	level of student motivation to succeed	3.71

Table II: Attrition Factors with Lowest Means (≥ 20% Black two-year)

Item #	Item	Mean
22	student physical health issues	2.22
35	rules and regulations governing student behavior	2.19
39	cultural activities	2.11
16	extracurricular programs	2.10
37	campus safety and security	2.00
40	distance from students' permanent homes	1.99
25	residence hall facilities	1.31
26	programs to support students' transition to residence hall living	1.23

Section IV: On-Campus Retention Practices

A list of 94 programs, services, curricular offerings, and interventions, each of which may make a contribution to student retention, was presented in Section IV. For this report, these will be referred to as "practices." Observation of the mean distribution was used to determine where reporting breaks were to be made. The incidence rate is the percent of campuses offering or providing a given practice.

Respondents were first asked to indicate if the practice was offered at their college. If the practice was offered, they were asked to then indicate the degree of contribution the practice made to retention on their campus using a five-point scale where 5=major contribution, 3=moderate contribution, and 1=little or no contribution. All 94 items are listed, in numeric order, along with incidence rates and means for each in Appendix A, Table A2.

Tables III and IV contain results on the institution practices with the highest and lowest incidence rates reported by respondents from community colleges with ≥ 20% Black students.

Table III: Practices with Highest Incidence Rates (≥ 20% Black two-year)

		Incidence
Item #	Item	Rates
24	mandated placement of students in courses based on test scores	93%
64	faculty use of technology in teaching	90%
41	remedial/developmental coursework (required)	89%
48	tutoring	88%
85	college-sponsored social activities	87%
65	faculty use of technology in communicating with students	82%
36	individual career counseling	80%
69	pre-enrollment financial aid advising	80%
63	assessing student performance	78%
87	student leadership development	78%
57	library orientation, workshop, and/or course	77%
9	training for faculty academic advisors	73%
49	study skills course, program, or center	73%
62	instructional (teaching) techniques	70%

Table IV: Practices with Lowest Incidence Rates (≥ 20% Black two-year)

Item #	Item	Incidence Rates
82	programs for other student sub-populations	8%
93	fraternities/sororities	6%
94	required on-campus housing for freshmen	4%
6	living/learning communities (residential)	4%
84	freshman interest groups (FIGS)	2%

Listed in Tables V and VI are the retention practices with the highest and lowest means, respectively.

Table V: Practices with Highest Means (≥ 20% Black two-year)

Item #	Item	Mean
46	reading center/lab	4.15
43	comprehensive learning assistance center/lab	4.13
25	recommended placement of students in courses based on test scores	4.11
24	mandated placement of students in courses based on test scores	4.11
48	tutoring	4.06
45	writing center/lab	4.02
4	freshman seminar/university 101 (non-credit)	4.00
41	remedial/developmental coursework (required)	4.00
47	foreign language center/lab	3.96
44	mathematics center/lab	3.95
14	academic advising center	3.95
39	supplemental instruction	3.92
79	programs for international students	3.89
58	peer mentoring	3.88
17	assessment of non-faculty academic advisors	3.87
49	study skills course, program, or center	3.85
13	integration of advising with first-year transition programs	3.83
52	performance contracts for students in academic difficulty	3.83
10	training for non-faculty academic advisors	3.83
69	pre-enrollment financial aid advising	3.81
26	diagnostic academic skills assessment	3.81
76	programs for first-generation students	3.80
78	programs for honor students	3.80
34	internships	3.79

Table VI: Practices with Lowest Means (≥ 20% Black two-year)

Item #	Item	Mean
6	living/learning communities (residential)	3.00
82	programs for other student sub-populations	3.00
93	fraternities/sororities	3.00
70	workshops in money management	2.92
92	residence hall programs	2.91
77	programs for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender students	2.83
83	degree guarantee program	2.79
84	freshman interest groups (FIGS)	2.50

Tables VII-IX contain the combination of practices that were highly rated by colleges with \geq 20% enrolled Black students along with the incidence rates of those practices. Table VII contains the percentages of those colleges that reported highly rated practices with incidence rates \geq 80%. Table VIII contains the percentage of community colleges reporting highly rated practices with incidence rates between 30% and 66%. Table IX contains the percentage of institutions reporting practices with incidence rates between 10% and 22%.

Table VII: Highly Rated Practices with High Incidence Rates (≥ 20% Black two-year)

Item #	Item	Incidence Rate	Mean
24	mandated placement of students in courses based on test scores	93%	4.11
48	tutoring	88%	4.06
41	remedial/developmental coursework (required)	89%	4.00
49	study skills course, program, or center	73%	3.85
69	pre-enrollment financial aid advising	80%	3.81

Table VIII: Highly Rated Practices with Moderate Incidence Rates (≥ 20% Black two-year)

		Incidence	
Item #	Item	Rate	Mean
46	reading center/lab	49%	4.15
43	comprehensive learning assistance center/lab	66%	4.13
25	recommended placement of students in courses based on test scores	45%	4.11
45	writing center/lab	55%	4.02
44	mathematics center/lab	55%	3.95
14	academic advising center	52%	3.95
39	supplemental instruction	59%	3.92
79	programs for international students	36%	3.89
58	peer mentoring	31%	3.88
13	integration of advising with first-year transition programs	30%	3.83
52	performance contracts for students in academic difficulty	30%	3.83
10	training for non-faculty academic advisors	49%	3.83
26	diagnostic academic skills assessment	65%	3.81
76	programs for first-generation students	30%	3.80
78	programs for honor students	55%	3.80

Table IX: Highly Rated Practices with Low Incidence Rates (≥ 20% Black two-year)

		Incidence	
Item #	Item	Rate	Mean
4	freshman seminar/university 101 (non-credit)	10%	4.00
17	assessment of non-faculty academic advisors	22%	3.87

Section V: Top Three Retention Practices

In Section V, community colleges were asked to review the pool of 94 practices presented in Section IV and identify the three that made the greatest contribution to retention on their campus. Only seven specified practices were chosen by 10% or more of the institutions as among the top three; those seven practices are shown in Table X. Those practices selected by fewer than 10% of colleges are presented in Appendix A, Table A3.

Table X: Three Practices Making the Greatest Contribution to Retention (≥ 20% Black two-year)

Item #	Item	Percent in Top Three
24	mandated placement of students in courses based on test scores	40%
41	remedial/developmental coursework (required)	27%
48	tutoring	17%
9	training for faculty academic advisors	14%
50	early warning system	13%
69	pre-enrollment financial aid advising	11%
5	freshman seminar/university 101 (credit)	10%
14	academic advising center	10%
43	comprehensive learning assistance center/lab	10%

Appendix A

Data for Two-Year Community Colleges with ≥ 20% Black Student Enrollment

- Table A1: Means for All Attrition Factors; All Items in Item Number Order
- Table A2: Contribution Means and Percentages Using for all Programs, Services, Curricular Offerings, and Interventions; All Items in Item Number Order
- Table A3: Programs, Services, Curricular Offerings, and Interventions; Top Three Selected by Fewer than Ten Percent of Colleges; Listed by Percentage from Highest to Lowest

Table A1

Means for All Attrition Factors

All Items in Item Number Order Community Colleges with ≥ 20% Black Student Enrollment

Item #	Item	Mean
1	student employment opportunities	3.47
2	level of student preparation for college-level work	4.09
3	relevancy of curricula	2.54
4	student access to needed courses in the appropriate sequence	2.53
5	student first-generation status	3.39
6	accuracy of information provided by academic advisors	2.81
7	availability of academic advisors	2.65
8	level of academic advisors' concern for students	2.94
9	student low socio-economic status	3.98
10	amount of financial aid available to students	3.91
11	student access to financial aid advising and information	3.26
12	ratio of loans to other forms of financial aid	2.53
13	level of student commitment to earning a degree	3.81
14	student-institution "fit"	2.69
15	level of certainty about career goals	3.29
16	extracurricular programs	2.10
17	student educational aspirations and goals	3.31
18	commuting/living off-campus	2.38
19	level of certainty about educational major	3.05
20	adequacy of personal financial resources	4.22
21	level of student motivation to succeed	3.71
22	student physical health issues	2.22
23	adequate academic/learning support services	2.93
24	level of emotional support from family, friends, and significant others	3.38
25	residence hall facilities	1.31
26	programs to support students' transition to residence hall living	1.23
27	level of job demands on students	3.82
28	quality of interaction between faculty and students	3.06
29	consistency of instructional quality	2.96
30	out-of-class interaction between students and faculty	2.76
31	student study skills	4.00
32	student engagement opportunities in the classroom (active learning)	3.36
33	quality of interaction between staff and students	3.05
34	student mental and emotional health issues	2.84
35	rules and regulations governing student behavior	2.19
36	student family responsibilities	3.88
37	campus safety and security	2.00
38	student peer group interaction	2.51
39	cultural activities	2.11
40	distance from students' permanent homes	1.99
41	level of intellectual stimulation or challenge for students	2.63
42	student personal coping skills	3.33

Table A2

Programs, Services, Curricular Offerings, Interventions Percent Using and Contribution Mean

All Items in Item Number Order Community Colleges with ≥ 20% Black Student Enrollment

		Incidence	
Item #	Item	Rate	Mean
1	summer orientation	64%	3.2
2	extended freshman orientation (non-credit)	14%	3.5
3	extended freshman orientation (credit)	36%	3.6
4	freshman seminar/university 101 (non-credit)	10%	4.0
5	freshman seminar/university 101 (credit)	48%	3.6
6	living/learning communities (residential)	4%	3.0
7	learning communities (non-residential)	35%	3.6
8	parent/family orientation	27%	3.5
9	training for faculty academic advisors	73%	3.7
10	training for non-faculty academic advisors	49%	3.8
11	advising interventions with selected student populations	64%	3.8
12	increased number of academic advisors	41%	3.8
13	integration of advising with first-year transition programs	30%	3.8
14	academic advising center	52%	4.0
15	center(s) that integrates academic advising with career/life planning	36%	3.7
16	assessment of faculty academic advisors	28%	3.4
17	assessment of non-faculty academic advisors	22%	3.9
18	application of technology to advising	61%	3.5
19	recognition/rewards for faculty academic advisors	17%	3.3
20	recognition/rewards for non-faculty academic advisors	11%	3.3
21	specified student learning outcomes (syllabus) for advising	25%	3.8
22	online advising system	29%	3.7
23	campus-wide assessment/audit of advising	24%	3.4
24	mandated placement of students in courses based on test scores	93%	4.1
25	recommended placement of students in courses based on test scores	45%	4.1
26	diagnostic academic skills assessment	65%	3.8
27	outcomes assessment	66%	3.5
28	learning styles assessment	36%	3.3
29	values assessment	25%	3.6
30	interest assessment	46%	3.3
31	vocational aptitude assessment	36%	3.1
32	personality assessment	30%	3.2
33	career exploration workshops or courses	69%	3.4
34	internships	65%	3.8
35	cooperative education	49%	3.8

Item #	Item	Incidence Rate	Mean
36	individual career counseling	80%	3.5
37	computer-assisted career guidance	60%	3.1
38	job shadowing	22%	3.6
39	supplemental instruction	59%	3.9
40	summer bridge program	27%	3.6
41	remedial/developmental coursework (required)	89%	4.0
42	remedial/developmental coursework (recommended)	42%	3.7
43	comprehensive learning assistance center/lab	66%	4.1
44	mathematics center/lab	55%	4.0
45	writing center/lab	55%	4.0
46	reading center/lab	49%	4.2
47	foreign language center/lab	29%	4.0
48	tutoring	88%	4.1
49	study skills course, program, or center	73%	3.9
50	early warning system	59%	3.7
51	mid-term progress reports	52%	3.6
52	performance contracts for students in academic difficulty	30%	3.8
53	organized student study groups	29%	3.6
54	service learning program	41%	3.2
55	ESL program	53%	3.6
56	online learning support	54%	3.5
57	library orientation, workshop, and/or course	77%	3.3
58	peer mentoring	31%	3.9
59	faculty mentoring	42%	3.4
60	staff mentoring	23%	3.3
61	community member mentoring	12%	3.7
62	instructional (teaching) techniques	70%	3.7
63	assessing student performance	78%	3.6
64	faculty use of technology in teaching	90%	3.5
65	faculty use of technology in communicating with students	82%	3.7
66	writing across the curriculum	43%	3.4
67	interdisciplinary courses	39%	3.4
68	enhanced/modified faculty reward system	20%	3.1
69	pre-enrollment financial aid advising	80%	3.8
70	workshops in money management	46%	2.9
71	short-term loans	36%	3.5
72	programs for adult students	29%	3.5
73	programs for commuter students	22%	3.5
74	programs for ESL students	34%	3.6
75	programs for female students	25%	3.6
76	programs for first-generation students	30%	3.8
77	programs for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender students	16%	2.8
78	programs for honor students	55%	3.8
79	programs for international students	36%	3.9
80	programs for racial/ethnic minority students	49%	3.7
81	programs for veterans	53%	3.5
82	programs for other student sub-populations	8%	3.0
83	degree guarantee program	17%	2.8

		Incidence	
Item #	Item	Rate	Mean
84	freshman interest groups (FIGS)	2%	2.5
85	college-sponsored social activities	87%	3.1
86	diversity information/training	78%	3.4
87	student leadership development	47%	3.4
88	time management course/program	52%	3.1
89	health and wellness course/program	33%	3.6
90	personal coping skills course/program	42%	3.6
91	motivation and goal setting workshop/program	13%	2.9
92	residence hall programs	6%	3.0
93	fraternities/sororities	4%	3.3
94	required on-campus housing for freshmen	4%	3.2

Table A3

Programs, Services, Curricular Offerings, and Interventions Top Three Selected by Fewer than Ten Percent of Colleges

Listed by Percentage from Highest to Lowest Community Colleges with ≥ 20% Black Student Enrollment

		% Selecting as
		One of Top
14 44	lka va	Three
Item #	Item	Practices
1	summer orientation	8%
11	advising interventions with selected student populations	6%
36	individual career counseling	6%
44	mathematics center/lab	6%
49	study skills course, program, or center	6%
64	faculty use of technology in teaching	6%
95	other	6%
2	extended freshman orientation (non-credit)	5%
3	extended freshman orientation (credit)	5%
10	training for non-faculty academic advisors	5%
59	faculty mentoring	5%
62	instructional (teaching) techniques	5%
71	short-term loans	5%
13	integration of advising with first-year transition programs	3%
21	specified student learning outcomes (syllabus) for advising	3%
25	recommended placement of students in courses based on test scores	3%
34	internships	3%
35	cooperative education	3%
58	peer mentoring	3%
85	college-sponsored social activities	3%
96	other	3%
7	learning communities (non-residential)	2%
8	parent/family orientation	2%
12	increased number of academic advisors	2%
15	center(s) that integrates academic advising with career/life planning	2%
19	recognition/rewards for faculty academic advisors	2%
26	diagnostic academic skills assessment	2%
27	outcomes assessment	2%
30	interest assessment	2%
32	personality assessment	2%
33	career exploration workshops or courses	2%
39	supplemental instruction	2%
45	writing center/lab	2%
52	performance contracts for students in academic difficulty	2%
54	service learning program	2%
56	online learning support	2%
63	assessing student performance	2%
65	faculty use of technology in communicating with students	2%

76 programs for first-generation students 2% 80 programs for first-generation students 2% 81 programs for reacial/ethnic minority students 2% 87 student leadership development 2% 90 personal coping skills course/program 2% 91 motivation and goal setting workshop/program 2% 4 freshman seminar/university 101 (non-credit) 6 living/learning communities (residential) 16 assessment of faculty academic advisors 17 assessment of faculty academic advisors 18 application of technology to advising 20 recognition/rewards for non-faculty academic advisors 21 online advising system 22 online advising system 23 campus-wide assessment/audit of advising 24 learning styles assessment 25 vocational aptitude assessment 26 vocational aptitude assessment 27 computer-assisted career guidance 28 jub shadowing 29 values assessment 30 computer-assisted career guidance 31 vocational aptitude assessment 32 remedial/developmental coursework (recommended) 33 jub shadowing 40 summer bridge program 41 foreign language center/lab 42 foreign language center/lab 43 foreign language center/lab 44 foreign language center/lab 55 est. program 56 est. program 57 library orientation, workshop, and/or course 58 community member mentoring 59 community member mentoring 50 community member mentoring 50 regards for adult students 51 programs for adult students 52 programs for adult students 53 programs for adult students 54 programs for female students 55 programs for female students 56 programs for forenale students 57 programs for forenale students 58 programs for honor students 59 programs for honor students 50 degree guarantee program 50 de	67	interdisciplinary courses	2%
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89 health and wellness course/program 0%			
92 residence hall programs 0%			
93 fraternities/sororities 0%			
94 required on-campus housing for freshmen 0%			

Appendix B

What Works in Student Retention

Instrument

What Works in Student Retention?

Fourth National Survey

This study reiterates ACT's on-going commitment to help colleges and universities better understand the impact of campus practices on college student retention and persistence to degree attainment. Throughout the last three decades, ACT has conducted a number of research studies relevant to college student success. Postsecondary educators use the results from these research efforts to enhance the quality of programs leading to student success. These projects include, among others, the following.

- Three National Surveys on Retention: What Works in Student Retention?
- Six National Surveys on Academic Advising Practices
- Annual Report on National Retention and Persistence to Degree Rates

Your participation in this effort, the 4th National Survey on Retention, will make a significant contribution to a better understanding of retention practices.

Directions: Please complete each set of items on this survey, and then return your completed survey in the envelope provided or mail it to: ACT, Inc.; Survey Research Services 47; PO Box 168; Iowa City, IA 52243.



SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.	Is there a person on your car coordination of retention pro	npus who is responsible for the grams?	Check all of the transfer-enhancement programs below which your institution participates.							
☐ Yes 2. What title most closely appr (Check only one.)		title most closely approximates that of the individual?		☐ With seld ☐ With seld ☐ System-			n of colleges			
	☐ Chief Executive/President ☐ Provost	☐ Chief Enrollment Management Officer ☐ Associate/Assistant Enrollment		☐ Statewic	de the above					
	□ P10V0St	Management Officer	B.	Articulation	agreements					
	☐ Associate/Assistant Provost	Director		_	ected college(s) ected group or col	nsortiur	n of colleges			
	☐ Chief Academic Affairs Officer/Campus Dean	☐ Associate/Assistant Director		☐ System-☐ Statewic	wide	as of someoficini or com				
	Associate/Assistant Academic Affairs Officer	☐ Coordinator		☐ None of	the above					
	☐ Chief Student Affairs Officer ☐ Associate/Assistant	☐ Specialist	C.		oplicability system the applicability o					
	Student Affairs Officer				ected group or co	nsortiur	n of colleges			
3.	Approximately what percent hours is offered through onli	age of your undergraduate credit ne instruction?		☐ System-☐ Statewic	de					
	%	☐ Don't know/Unavailable		☐ Multi-sta☐ None of	the above					
	SEC	TION II: RETENTION AND I	DEGREE	-COMPLE	ETION RATE	S				
1.	What is your institution's <i>cui</i> retention rate (for first-time	rrent first-year to second-year, full-time students)?	3-y€	ear timeframe	ar timeframe for for for two-year instit	utions,	what is your			
	% (percent retaine	d) Don't know/Unavailable	IIISU	tution's curre	ent student degre	e-com	pietion rate?			
2.	Does your institution have a second-year retention rate	specific goal for its first-year to		% (deg	ree-completion rate)		on't now/Unavailable			
	□ No (Skip to Question 3.)	☐ Don't know/Unavailable (Skip to Question 3.)	deg	ree-completi	tion have a specif i on rate (6-year gr ons or 3-year grad	raduatio	on timeframe for			
	☐ Yes→ If yes: The goal fo	r the student retention rate ents who will be retained – not	yea	r institutions)?	?					
	percent inc	rease) and the schedule for nat goal are:		No (Skip to Sec	ction III.)		on't now/Unavailable			
	a% (perce	ent retained goal)		Yes→ If ves:	The goal for the stu	•	Skip to Section III.) aree completion			
	b. Timeframe for achieving that goal			,	rate (% of students not percent increas achieving that goal	who corse) and the	mplete degrees –			
	☐ No specific timef☐ One year☐ Two years	rame ☐ Five years ☐ More than five years		a	% (degree-comp		ite goal)			
	☐ Three years ☐ Four years	youro		b. Timefram	ne for achieving th	at goal				
	55. }64.6			☐ One y ☐ Two y	ears years		Five years More than five years			

SECTION III: FACTORS AFFECTING STUDENT ATTRITION AT YOUR SCHOOL

This section contains a list of student and institutional characteristics or factors that can affect attrition.

To what degree does each factor affect attrition at your school?

Major Effect on attrition at your school Major Effect on attrition at your school							
Moderate Effect on attrition at your school	Moderate Effect on attrition at your school						
Little or No Effect on attrition at your school 5 4 3 2 1 Factors	Little or No Effect on attrition at your school Factors						
□ □ □ □ 1. student employment opportunities	□ □ □ □ 22. student physical health issues						
□ □ □ □ □ 2. level of student preparation for college-level work	□ □ □ □ □ 23. adequate academic/learning support services						
□ □ □ □ 3. relevancy of curricula	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 24. level of emotional support from family, friends, and significant others						
4. student access to needed courses in the appropriate sequence	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 25. residence hall facilities						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 5. student first-generation status	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 26. programs to support students' transition to residence hall living						
□ □ □ □ □ 6. accuracy of information provided by academic advisors	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 27. level of job demands on students						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 7. availability of academic advisors	□ □ □ □ □ 28. quality of interaction between faculty and students						
□ □ □ □ □ 8. level of academic advisors' concern for students	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 29. consistency of instructional quality						
□ □ □ □ 9. student low socio-economic status	□ □ □ □ □ 30. out-of-class interaction between students and faculty						
□ □ □ □ □ 10. amount of financial aid available to students	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 31. student study skills						
□ □ □ □ □ 11. student access to financial aid advising and information	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 32. student engagement opportunities in the classroom (active learning)						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 12. ratio of loans to other forms of financial aid	□ □ □ □ □ 33. quality of interaction between staff and students						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 13. level of student commitment to earning a degree	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 34. student mental or emotional health issues						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 14. student-institution "fit"	□ □ □ □ □ 35. rules and regulations governing student behavior						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 15. level of certainty about career goals	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 36. student family responsibilities						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 16. extracurricular programs	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 37. campus safety and security						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 17. student educational aspirations and goals	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 38. student peer group interaction						
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 18. commuting/living off-campus	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 39. cultural activities						
□ □ □ □ 19. level of certainty about educational major	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 40. distance from students' permanent homes						
□ □ □ □ □ 20. adequacy of personal financial resources	□ □ □ □ □ 41. level of intellectual stimulation or challenge for students						
□ □ □ □ 21. level of student motivation to succeed	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 42. student personal coping skills						

SECTION IV: ON-CAMPUS RETENTION PRACTICES

Listed below is a series of programs, services, curricular offerings, and interventions that may make a contribution to retention on your campus. First indicate if the practice is or is not offered at your school.

Then, if a practice is offered, indicate the degree to which you think it contributes to retention at your school.

			d at Your aution?					ibution to retention	
		<u>No</u>	Yes					Mode	erate Contribution to retention
Prograi	ms, Services, Curricular Offerings, Interventions		(Then, what degree of contribution to campus retention?)		5	4	V 3	2	TLittle or no Contribution to retention
First-Y	ear Transition								
1.	summer orientation			\rightarrow					
2.	extended freshman orientation (non-credit)			\rightarrow					
3.	extended freshman orientation (credit)			\rightarrow					
4.	freshman seminar/university 101 (non-credit)			\rightarrow					
5.	freshman seminar/university 101 (credit)			\rightarrow					
6.	living/learning communities (residential)			\rightarrow					
7.	learning communities (non-residential)			\rightarrow					
8.	parent/family orientation			\rightarrow					
Acade	mic Advising								
9.	training for faculty academic advisors			\rightarrow					
10.	training for non-faculty academic advisors			\rightarrow					
11.	advising interventions with selected student populations			\rightarrow					
12.	increased number of academic advisors	Ш		\rightarrow	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	
13.	integration of advising with first-year transition programs			\rightarrow					
	academic advising center			\rightarrow					
15.	center(s) that integrates academic advising with career/life planning			\rightarrow					
16.	assessment of faculty academic advisors			\rightarrow	Ш		Ш	Ш	
17.	assessment of non-faculty academic advisors			\rightarrow					
18.	application of technology to advising			\rightarrow					
19.	recognition/rewards for faculty academic advisors			\rightarrow					
	recognition/rewards for non-faculty academic advisors			\rightarrow					
21.	specified student learning outcomes (syllabus) for advising			\rightarrow					
22.	online advising system			\rightarrow					
23.	campus-wide assessment/audit of advising			\rightarrow					
Assess									
	mandated placement of students in courses based on test scores			\rightarrow					
	recommended placement of students in courses based on test scores			\rightarrow					
	diagnostic academic skills assessment			\rightarrow					
	outcomes assessment			\rightarrow	Ш		Ц		
28.	learning styles assessment			\rightarrow					
29.	values assessment			\rightarrow					
30.	interest assessment			\rightarrow					
31.	vocational aptitude assessment			\rightarrow					
32.	personality assessment			\rightarrow					

			d at Your tution?		Major Contribution to retentio				
		<u>No</u>	Yes				Г	Mode	erate Contribution to retention
			(Then, what degree of						Little or no Contribution to retention
			contribution to campus						to retention
Progra	ms, Services, Curricular Offerings, Interventions		retention?)		♦	4	♦ 3	2	♦ 1
Caree	r Planning and Placement								
33.	career exploration workshops or courses			\rightarrow					
34.	internships			\rightarrow					
35.	cooperative education			\rightarrow					
36.	individual career counseling			\rightarrow					
37.	computer-assisted career guidance			\rightarrow					
	job shadowing			\rightarrow					
	ng Assistance/Academic Support	_			_	_	_	_	
	supplemental instruction	Ш		\rightarrow	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	
40.	summer bridge program			\rightarrow					
41.	remedial/developmental coursework (required)			\rightarrow					
42.	remedial/developmental coursework (recommended)			\rightarrow					
43.	comprehensive learning assistance center/lab			\rightarrow					
44.	mathematics center/lab			\rightarrow					
45.	writing center/lab			\rightarrow					
46.	reading center/lab			\rightarrow					
47.	foreign language center/lab			\rightarrow					
48.	tutoring			\rightarrow					
49.	study skills course, program, or center	П	Ιп	\rightarrow	П	П	П	П	П
50.	early warning system			\rightarrow				П	П
51.	mid-term progress reports			\rightarrow	— П				П
52.	performance contracts for students in academic			,	_				Ш
52.	difficulty			\rightarrow					
53.	organized student study groups			\rightarrow					
54.	service learning program	Ц		\rightarrow					
55.	ESL program			\rightarrow					
56.	online learning support			\rightarrow		Н			
	library orientation, workshop, and/or course			\rightarrow	Ш		Ш	Ш	Ш
Mento	peer mentoring				П	П	П	П	П
	faculty mentoring			→ —		H			
60.	staff mentoring			\rightarrow					
	community member mentoring	П		\rightarrow	<u> </u>	\Box	\Box	\Box	
	y Development								
	instructional (teaching) techniques			\rightarrow					
63.	assessing student performance			\rightarrow					
64.	faculty use of technology in teaching			\rightarrow					
65.	faculty use of technology in communicating with students			\rightarrow					
66.	writing across the curriculum			\rightarrow					
67.	interdisciplinary courses			\rightarrow					
68.	enhanced/modified faculty reward system			\rightarrow					

	Offered at Your Institution?			Major Contribution to retention				
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>			Moderate Contribu			rate Contribution to retention
Programs, Services, Curricular Offerings, Interventions	-	(Then, what degree of contribution to campus retention?)		V 5	4	▼ 3	2	Little or no Contribution to retention
Financial Aid]							
69. pre-enrollment financial aid advising			\rightarrow					
70. workshops in money management			\rightarrow	Ц		Ц	Ц	
71. short-term loans			\rightarrow	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	
Co-curricular Services/Programs for Specific Student Sub-populations								
72. adult students			\rightarrow					
73. commuter students			\rightarrow					
74. ESL students			\rightarrow					
75. female students			\rightarrow					
76. first-generation students			\rightarrow					
77. gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender students			\rightarrow					
78. honor students			\rightarrow					
79. international students			\rightarrow					
80. racial/ethnic minority students			\rightarrow					
81. veterans			\rightarrow					
82. other (Specify.)								
Other Activities/Programs								
83. degree guarantee program			\rightarrow					
84. freshman interest groups (FIGS)			\rightarrow					
85. college-sponsored social activities			\rightarrow					
86. diversity information/training			\rightarrow	Ц	Ц	Ц	Ц	
87. student leadership development			\rightarrow		Ц	Ц	Ц	
88. time management course/program			\rightarrow			Ш	Ш	
89. health and wellness course/program			\rightarrow		Ц	Ц	Ц	
90. personal coping skills course/program			\rightarrow	Ц				
91. motivation and goal setting workshop/program			\rightarrow				Ц	
92. residence hall programs			\rightarrow		Ц	Ц	Ц	
93. fraternities/sororities			\rightarrow			Ц		
94. required on-campus housing for freshmen			\rightarrow	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш
Other Programs, Services, Curricular Offerings, Interventions that contribute to retention at your school (Please specify.)								
95	→							
96								

SECTION V SECTION VI From the 96 items in Section IV (beginning on page We will prepare a report containing the results 3), write the item number and text for the 1 to 3 of this survey. Would you agree to a brief items among the 96 that have the greatest positive follow-up survey or phone call should we impact on retention at your school. identify your retention program for inclusion? ☐ Yes ☐ No Item #_____ Text If yes, please provide the following information. Job Title _____ Item #_____ Text _____ Mailing Address _____ Item #_____ Text _____

SECTION VII: COMMENTS

If you would like to share information or comments that would enlighten our understanding of retention problems and/or solutions at your school, please write them in the space below.

Thank you!

(Please return your completed survey in the enclosed envelope. If you no longer have the envelope, please mail your completed survey to ACT, Inc.; Survey Research Services 47; PO Box 168; Iowa City, IA 52243.)

