



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Opportunities to Improve First-Year
Retention and Enhance Student Success:
Lessons Learned from a Campus
Workgroup



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Key Questions We Will Answer

- What is retention? What do we know?
- Who is at risk at Ohio State?
- What is happening nationally?
- What is Ohio State doing?
- What can you do to improve first-year retention?



Definitions

- Retention rate: The percentage of a school's first-time, first-year undergraduate students who continue at that school the next year. For example, a student who studies full-time in the fall semester and keeps on studying in the program in the next fall semester is counted in this rate.



Definitions

- Graduation rate: The percentage of a school's first-time, first-year undergraduate students who complete their program within 150% of the published time for the program. For example, for a four-year degree program, entering students who complete within six years are counted as graduates



First-Year Retention

“The words “persistence” and “retention” are often used interchangeably. The National Center for Education Statistics, however, differentiates the terms by using “retention” as an institutional measure and “persistence” as a student measure. In other words, institutions retain and students persist. Another term commonly used with retention is “attrition”. Attrition is the diminution in numbers of students resulting from lower student retention.” (Hagedorn, 2005)



Literature: 75 Years of Research

- Tinto
- Braxton
- Astin
- Gardner





Astin's Theory of Involvement

- Factors contributing to persistence were associated with students' involvement in college life
- Factors contributing to departure from college were associated with students' noninvolvement



First-Year Retention

Dr. John Braxton

- Academic and social **integration** are key factors in first to-second year persistence
- Effective intervention at the **first indication** of academic difficulty can play a role in reducing student attrition
- A student's ability to pay and the student's **perceptions of the costs** of his or her education influence persistence
- “**Nine imperatives**” for institutional policy and practice.

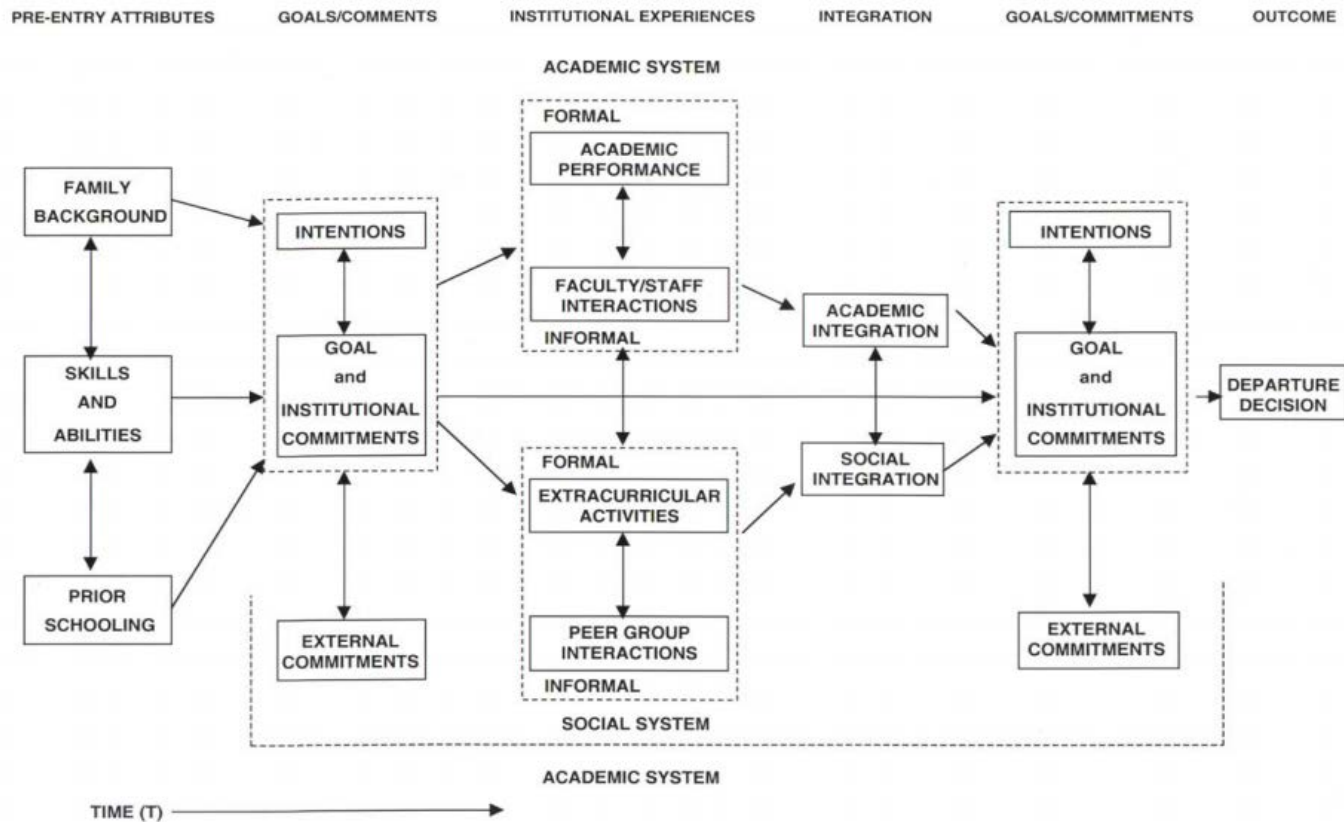


Tinto's Model of Student Departure

- What students “brings with them”, including external commitments, matters
- An emphasis must be placed on both the social and academic systems (formal/informal)
- Students must integrate into both
- The university must create and ensure opportunities for connectivity



*Tinto's Model of Student Departure





Tinto's Model of Student Departure

“...while the effects of social integration are more significant at the start of the students' experience, in most cases, **academic integration** seemed to be the more important form of involvement.”



First-Year Retention

Retention at Ohio State

Retention Rate	
All Students	93.7%

Columbus campus, 2013 cohort

Source: oesar.osu.edu/grad_rates.html



First-Year Retention

	Retention Rate
Male	93.1%
Female	94.3%



First-Year Retention

	Retention Rate
<i>American Indian/ Alaskan Native*</i>	90.9%
Asian	94.9%
Black or African American	89.3%
Hispanic	89.2%
Two or More Races	90.8%
White	94.2%



First-Year Retention

	Retention Rate Male	Retention Rate Female
<i>American Indian/ Alaskan Native*</i>	100.0%	85.7%
Asian	94.1%	95.7%
Black or African American	86.7%	91.6%
Hispanic	92.5%	85.8%
Two or More Races	92.3%	89.6%
White	93.6%	94.7%



First-Year Retention

	Retention Rate
First Generation Students	89.7%



First-Year Retention

	Retention Rate
Ohio Resident	94.2%
Domestic, Non-Ohio Resident	92.2%
International	92.8%

Columbus campus, 2013 cohort

Source: oesar.osu.edu/grad_rates.html



First-Year Retention

	Retention Rate
Dorm	93.5%
No Dorm	81.9%

-35.2% of commuter students are first generation

-18.0% of non-commuter students are first generation

Columbus campus, 2012 cohort

Source: oesar.osu.edu/grad_rates.html



Who is at risk at Ohio State?

- Men
- African American and Hispanic/Latino students
- Non-Ohio residents
- Students not living in the residence halls
- First generation students



Additional retention risk factors

- Academic risk factors
 - Withdrawing from course
 - Receiving an E
 - Not scheduling courses when window opens
- Stumbling block courses
 - Math, Chemistry and Physics



State and National Conversations

Retention and Completion

- 60% by 2025
- Complete College America
- Complete College Ohio
 - College Credit Plus
 - Credit When It's Due
 - Plan with a Purpose

Agency Initiatives

- 3-Year Degrees
- Campus Tobacco Ban
- ▶ Choose Ohio First
- College Credit Plus
- Commercialization
- ▶ Complete College Ohio
- Credit When It's Due
- ▶ Education for Veterans
- Efficiency
- Forever Buckeyes
- ▶ Internships & Co-ops
- Ohio Energy Pathways
- ▶ Ohio Mathematics Initiative
- ▶ One-Year Option
- PLA with a Purpose
- Quality & Value in Higher Education



**What is Ohio
State doing
about
retention?**



Student Retention Workgroup

Executive Sponsors: Vice Presidents Dolan Evanovich, Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Dean of Undergraduate Education Dr. Wayne Carlson

Charge: Develop an action plan to improve the first to second year retention rate at the university from 92% to 95% over the next few years. This plan should include strategies and tactics related to programs, policies and services to improve student retention and enhance student success.



Student Retention Committee Process

- Review of Ohio State data
- Examination of research literature
- Scan of best practices at other universities
- Discussions with experts at Ohio State



Student Retention Committee Progress

- **Shaping our recommendations**
- **A few examples (short-term):**
 - Commuter students
 - Bridge programs
- **A few examples (long-term):**
 - Student Success Intervention Team
 - Formalized Supplemental Instruction Program



Retention Efforts on Campus

- Ohio State Completion Plan
- University Innovation Alliance (UIA)
- 2017 Re-affirmation of Accreditation
- Course Re-design Funding
- Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)
- Colleges, Student Support Offices, etc.
- The Executive Committee on Integrated Institutional Business Intelligence and Data Governance



**What can you
do about
retention?**



Know the Data

- There are data sources you might not know about!
 - Office of Enrollment Services Analysis and Reporting (oesar.osu.edu)
 - Institutional Research and Planning (oaa.osu.edu/irp)
 - Center for the Study of Student Life (cssl.osu.edu)

Enrollment Services – Analysis and Reporting



See what's new	View our reports	See our presentations	Initiate a data request	Query the data	Related websites
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Enrollment and graduation rates

[How to read the enrollment and graduation rate tables](#)

First-year students

- [Retention and graduation rates for new first-year students](#)
- [New first-year students - all campuses](#)
- [New first-year students by gender - all campuses](#)
- [New first-year students by ethnicity](#)
- [New first-year students by gender/ethnicity](#)
- [New first-year students by residency](#)
- [New first year students that are first generation – all campuses](#)
- [New first-year students with Federal Pell Grant - all campuses](#)
- [New first-year students with Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan but no Federal Pell Grant - all campuses](#)
- [New first-year students with no Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan or Federal Pell Grant - all campuses](#)
- [Associate/Baccalaureate recipient report](#)



INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & PLANNING

Reports

Survey Reports

- [Culture Survey](#)
- [National Survey of Student Engagement](#)
- [Graduate and Professional Student Survey](#)

[Collegiate Learning Assessment](#)

IPEDS Data Feedback Reports

2008	Columbus					
2009	Columbus	Lima	Mansfield	Marion	Newark	ATI
2010	Columbus	Lima	Mansfield	Marion	Newark	ATI
2011	Columbus	Lima	Mansfield	Marion	Newark	ATI
2012	Columbus	Lima	Mansfield	Marion	Newark	ATI
2013	Columbus	Lima	Mansfield	Marion	Newark	ATI

Home

- [About IRP](#)
- [Institutional Data](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Resources](#)

Featured Links

- [Statistical Summary](#)
- [Common Data Set](#)
- [Academic Analytics](#)





Home

Student Affairs Assessment
& Research Conference

National Student Financial
Wellness Study

Graduation Survey

CSSL Reports

▶ Reports by Year

▶ Reports by Topic Area

▶ Internal Reports and Documents

Resources

Conference Presentations

Training Webinars

Student Life Reporting

Reports by Year

The reports below examine data from recent research projects conducted by the Center for the Study of Student Life. They may be based on a small sub-set of information from a large survey or national data set, or they may summarize a research project undertaken at The Ohio State University. Reports are organized chronologically, according to the date of publication, beginning with the most recent.

2014

[Co-Curricular Involvement Among First- and Fourth-Year Students](#)

[Trends in Alcohol Use Among Ohio State Students: A Comparison of the 2009 and 2014 NCHA](#)

[Institutional Data Report: Findings from the 2014 National College Health Assessment II](#)

[Development Study: Why do Alumni Support Student Life?](#)

2013

[Mental Health](#)

[Students and Philanthropy: An Exploration of Undergraduate Fundraising Patterns and Outcomes at BuckeyeThon](#)

[Philanthropic Motivation: Undergraduate Participation Motivations at BuckeyeThon](#)

[International Undergraduate Student Experience: Inside and Outside the Classroom](#)

[Health Literacy: Report of Survey Results](#)

[Student Athletes: A Profile of Ohio State Student Athletes](#)



Targeted and Proactive Intervention

- Why?
- Models:
 - Georgia State University
 - Arizona State University
- Challenges: current culture/systems
- Opportunities



Discussion

- How can you use this information?
- How can you reach students?



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

