What Works in Student Retention?

Fourth National Survey

Community Colleges with Twenty Percent or More Black Students Enrolled

ACT, 2010

Table of Contents

Section I: Background Information	1
Section II: Retention and Degree-Completion Rates	2
Section III: Factors Affecting Student Attrition at Your School	4
Section IV: On-Campus Retention Practices	4
Section V: Top Three Retention Practices	8

Appendix A

Appendix B

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.

For more information on this survey please contact:

Wes Habley, Principal Associate in Educational Services (chair) wes.habley@act.org

Michael Valiga, Director of Survey Research Services

mike.valiga@act.org

Randy McClanahan, Senior Research Associate in Survey Research Services randy.mcclanahan@act.org

Kurt Burkum, Senior Research Associate in Statistical Research kurt.burkum@act.org

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% ves 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

	4 00/
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. yes 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 #	ltem	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 #	ltem	Rate 64%	Mean 3.2
1	summer orientation	14%	3.5
2	extended freshman orientation (non-credit)	36%	
3	extended freshman orientation (credit)	10%	3.6
4	freshman seminar/university 101 (non-credit)		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
		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%

67	interdisciplinary courses	2%
76	programs for first-generation students	2%
80	programs for racial/ethnic minority students	2%
81	programs for veterans	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)	0%
6	living/learning communities (residential)	0%
16	assessment of faculty academic advisors	0%
17	assessment of non-faculty academic advisors	0%
18	application of technology to advising	0%
20	recognition/rewards for non-faculty academic advisors	0%
22	online advising system	0%
23	campus-wide assessment/audit of advising	0%
28	learning styles assessment	0%
29	values assessment	0%
31	vocational aptitude assessment	0%
37	computer-assisted career guidance	0%
38	job shadowing	0%
40	summer bridge program	0%
42	remedial/developmental coursework (recommended)	0%
46	reading center/lab	0%
47	foreign language center/lab	0%
51	mid-term progress reports	0%
53	organized student study groups	0%
55	ESL program	0%
57	library orientation, workshop, and/or course	0%
60	staff mentoring	0%
61	community member mentoring	0%
66	writing across the curriculum	0%
68	enhanced/modified faculty reward system	0%
70	workshops in money management	0%
72	programs for adult students	0%
73	programs for commuter students	0%
74	programs for ESL students	0%
75	programs for female students	0%
77	programs for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender students	0%
78	programs for honor students	0%
79	programs for international students	0%
82	programs for other student sub-populations	0%
83	degree guarantee program	0%
84	freshman interest groups (FIGS)	0%
86	diversity information/training	0%
88	time management course/program	0%
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?	4.		ck all of the transfer- h your institution par		orograms below in
2.	(Check only one.)	No (Skip to Question 3.) oximates that of the individual?		A.	Common course not with selected course with selected good System-wide Statewide	ollege(s)	
	☐ Chief Executive/President ☐ Provost	☐ Chief Enrollment Management Officer ☐ Associate/Assistant Enrollment		Б	☐ None of the abo		
	 ☐ Associate/Assistant Provost ☐ Chief Academic Affairs Officer/Campus Dean ☐ Associate/Assistant Academic Affairs Officer 	Management Officer ☐ Director ☐ Associate/Assistant Director ☐ Coordinator		В.	Articulation agreem With selected c With selected g System-wide Statewide None of the abo	ollege(s) roup or consort	ium of colleges
	☐ Chief Student Affairs Officer ☐ Associate/Assistant Student Affairs Officer	☐ Specialist		C.	A course applicabil students on the applications) With selected g	plicability of cre	dits earned at other
3.	Approximately what percent hours is offered through onli	age of your undergraduate credit ne instruction?			☐ System-wide ☐ Statewide ☐ Multi-state	•	J
	%	☐ Don't know/Unavailable			☐ None of the abo		
	SEC	TION II: RETENTION AND I	DEG	REE	-COMPLETION	N RATES	
1.	retention rate (for first-time		3.	3-ye	uming a 6-year timef ar timeframe for two aution's <i>current</i> stuc	-year institution	is, what is your
2.	% (percent retained Does your institution have a second-year retention rate.	specific goal for its first-year to			% (degree-com	ppletion rate)	Don't know/Unavailable
	percent inc	Don't know/Unavailable (Skip to Question 3.) r the student retention rate ints who will be retained – not rease) and the schedule for nat goal are:	4.	deg four- year	s your institution have ree-completion rate year institutions or 3 institutions)?	e (6-year gradu 3-year graduatio	ation timeframe for on timeframe for two Don't know/Unavailable
	a% (percentb. Timeframe for achie☐ No specific timef				<u>not</u> per	of students who	(Skip to Section III.) degree completion complete degrees – d the schedule for
	☐ One year ☐ Two years ☐ Three years ☐ Four years	☐ More than five years			a% (d	legree-completion	
	□ i oui yeais				☐ No specific til ☐ One year ☐ Two years ☐ Three years ☐ Four years	meframe	☐ 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 5 4 3 2 1 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								
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 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 goal	s 🗌 🗎 🗎 🗎 38. student peer group interaction							
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 18. commuting/living off-campus	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 39. cultural activities							
☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ 19. level of certainty about educational majo	r 🔲 🖂 🖂 40. distance from students' permanent homes							
□ □ □ □ □ 20. adequacy of personal financial resources	s \square \square \square \square 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?	Major Contribution to retention					
		<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>					Mode	erate Contribution to retention
	ms, Services, Curricular Offerings, Interventions		(Then, what degree of contribution to campus retention?)		▼ 5	4	V 3	2	to retention
	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			\rightarrow					
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.	•			\rightarrow	Ш	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					
20.	recognition/rewards for non-faculty academic advisors			\rightarrow					
21.	specified student learning outcomes (syllabus) for advising			\rightarrow					
22.	online advising system			\rightarrow					
23.	1 0			\rightarrow					
Asses									
	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					
27.		Ц		\rightarrow					
28.	learning styles assessment			\rightarrow					
29.				\rightarrow					
30.	interest assessment			\rightarrow					
31.	vocational aptitude assessment			\rightarrow					
32.	personality assessment			\rightarrow					

			d at Your tution?		Major Contribution to retent				
		<u>No</u>	Yes				Г	Mode	erate Contribution to retention
			(Then, what degree of						Little or no Contribution to retention
			contribution to campus						
Progra	ms, Services, Curricular Offerings, Interventions		retention?)		♥ 5	4	♥ 3	2	† 1
	r Planning and Placement								
	career exploration workshops or courses			\rightarrow		Ц			
34.	'			\rightarrow					
35.	cooperative education			\rightarrow					
36.	individual career counseling			\rightarrow					
37.	computer-assisted career guidance			→					
	job shadowing ng Assistance/Academic Support	Ш		\rightarrow					Ц
	supplemental instruction	П	Ιп	\rightarrow	П	П	П	П	П
	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					П
46.	reading center/lab								
	-								
47.	foreign language center/lab		_	$\overline{}$					
48.	tutoring			→					
49.	study skills course, program, or center			<i>→</i>					
50.	early warning system			\rightarrow					
51.	mid-term progress reports	Ш		\rightarrow	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш
52.	performance contracts for students in academic difficulty			\rightarrow					
53.	organized student study groups			\rightarrow					
54.	service learning program			\rightarrow		Ц	Ц		
55.	ESL program			\rightarrow					
56.	online learning support			\rightarrow					
Mento	library orientation, workshop, and/or course			\rightarrow	<u> Ц</u>			<u> </u>	Ц
	peer mentoring	П	Ιп	\rightarrow	П	П	П	П	П
	faculty mentoring			\rightarrow					
60.	staff mentoring			\rightarrow					
61.	community member mentoring			\rightarrow					
Facult	y Development								
62.	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.				\rightarrow					

	Offered at Your Institution?			Major Contribution to retention				
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>					Mode	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	∐ !			Ц	
70. workshops in money management			\rightarrow					
71. short-term loans	Ш		\rightarrow			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			Ц	Ц	
84. freshman interest groups (FIGS)			\rightarrow	∐ !			Ц	
85. college-sponsored social activities			\rightarrow					
86. diversity information/training			\rightarrow					
87. student leadership development			\rightarrow	<u></u> Ц				
88. time management course/program			\rightarrow			Ц		
89. health and wellness course/program			\rightarrow			Ц	Ц	
90. personal coping skills course/program			\rightarrow					
91. motivation and goal setting workshop/program			\rightarrow					
92. residence hall programs			\rightarrow			Н	Н	
93. fraternities/sororities			\rightarrow					
94. required on-campus housing for freshmen	Ш	Ш	\rightarrow	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш	Ш
Other Programs, Services, Curricular Offerings, Interventions that contribute to retention at your school (Please specify.)								
95								
96								

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 VI

SECTION V

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.)

