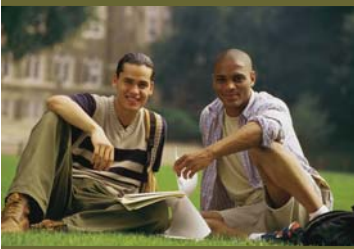


College Board Pilot Study on student retention



Overview

The College Board Pilot Study on Student Retention, now in its second year, is an initiative with two foci. The first of these is to develop a **student survey** that will help four-year colleges and universities determine which campus policies and practices have the greatest positive impact on student experiences related to persistence. The second focus is to develop an **institutional survey** to enhance institutions' understanding of the link between their own practices and student retention. Originally envisioned as a complement to the student survey, the institutional survey has now expanded to focus on the documentation and measurement of institutional practices related to retention at institutions across the country. The College Board Pilot Study on Student Retention, funded by the College Board, is a project conducted by the Indiana University Project on Academic Success.

The Student Survey

The basic design of the student survey component works as follows. We administer a survey to first-year students in the early spring. The survey includes questions on the depth and quality of respondents' experiences with peers, faculty, and campus programs meant to support student success. Incorporating data provided by participating institutions during the following fall semester, we then learn which students returned and which did not. With this information we conduct individual campus analyses of the predictors of student persistence.

The Institutional Survey

Last spring we surveyed four-year colleges and universities in five states regarding retention, graduation rates, and how they organize and structure efforts to support student success. In light of the recent call for a better understanding of student success at the 2006 National Symposium on Postsecondary Student Success and in the Spellings Report, we have broadened the focus of the institutional survey this year to encompass the national-scope description and benchmarking of retention practices and policies at colleges and universities. The revised instruments for four-year and two-year institutions will be ready for use by late fall 2007.

College Board Pilot Study

on student retention



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The **College Board Pilot Study on Student Retention**, funded by the College Board, is part of the Project on Academic Success (PAS), which engages in practice- and policy-oriented research on student academic success, with particular emphasis on factors that influence persistence in and access to higher education. PAS is a project of the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research and receives technical assistance in survey administration from the Indiana University Center for Survey Research.