Scaling Academic Student Success

Over 4.5 million first-generation students were enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the United States (1998-2008).

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Statistics on Enrollment

Over 4.5 million first-generation students were enrolled in postsecondary institutions in the United States. (1998-2008)

First-generation students were nearly four times more likely to leave higher education institutions without obtaining a degree when compared to their counterparts. (2008)

PrepSTEP® can help first-year college students develop the soft-skills needed to scale student success. Learn More.

Five factors to help students succeed

1. Secondary-level programs for college preparedness and life-learning
2. Mentorships to help build students' self-confidence and self-efficacy
3. Guaranteed financial support for the program length
4. Peer and academic support
5. Smaller class sizes

3 categories of resources essential to student success

Institutional Factors

• Library spending positively impacts student graduation rates
• Reduce class sizes to improve retention rates
• Create bridge programs to link secondary education to college attainment
• Sponsor academic success workshops for entry-level students

Student Attributes

• Involvement and engagement
• Individual attributes and soft skills for success
• Participate in bridge programs that link higher education to secondary education

Financial Considerations

• Resources to pay for college
• Students' ability to secure finances will improve student success

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41% of college students leave higher education without obtaining their degree. Of these students, 75% leave within the first two years and freshman attrition rates are commonly as high as 20-30%. (2004-2007)

In a longitudinal study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) from 1992 through 2000, 43% of first-generation students enrolled in postsecondary institutions left college without obtaining a degree in the United States.

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