

Student Success

Proposed Concept #1: *Examine best practices in advising*

Research on student success best practices shows that many programs and practices are effective, but there is no single, best practice approach to achieving greater levels of student success: **“Collectively, researchers have determined that student attrition is a complex phenomenon that cannot be understood or predicted with single variables”** (Summers, 2003, p. 69).

According to the 2013 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) survey data, **students within MnSCU are aligned with students across the nation in reporting that academic advising and planning is the most important campus service** of the 11 included in the survey.



Further, according to a report by Academic Impressions (2011), student success can be improved by:

- **Managing faculty involvement in advising by reducing teaching load for faculty with heavy advising loads and ensuring performance criteria for faculty evaluation reflect value of advising**
- **Hiring full-time professional advisors**
- **Empowering students to take ownership over their own advising and providing tools so that they can monitor their own progress to degree**

2013 CCSSE Survey	
Rank	How important are the following services to you at your college?
1	Academic advising/planning
2	Career counseling
3	Job placement assistance
4	Peer or other tutoring
5	Skill labs (writing, math, etc.)
6	Child care
7	Financial aid advising
8	Computer lab
9	Student organizations
10	Transfer and credit assistance

In a broad study of student retention, Hanover Research (2011) states that **“the integration of advising with first year transition programs has the strongest effect on retention rates at public institutions”** (p. 7).

What do YOU think?

- **How is advising affecting student success at the present time?**
- **What changes to advising could help more students succeed?**

References:

- Hanover Research (2011). *Improving Student Retention and Graduation Rates*.
- Community College Survey of Student Engagement, (2013)
- Summers, M. D. (2003). *ERIC review: Attrition research at community colleges. Community College Review, 30(4), 64-84.*



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