

Student Success

Proposed Concept #3:

Review policies including drop for non-payment, withdrawal, satisfactory academic progress (SAP) and transfer.



Policies can create barriers to student success, both at the institutional and system levels. Examining existing policies and implementing smart, student-focused policy changes can positively affect student success and help our colleges and universities retain and graduate more students.

The College Board (2009) identifies the following policy areas for review with regard to student success policy issues:

- Requiring student participation in high quality orientation programs
- Collecting midterm grades for early warning
- Incenting faculty to teach first-year courses by offering small class sizes
- Requiring advising and offering faculty incentives for advising
- Seeking comparative benchmarking data from peer institutions to measure effectiveness of student success efforts



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According to Fusch (2011), policy areas to review include grade recalculation (repeat) policies, declaring/adding a major or minor, course scheduling, registration holds, and financial aid procedures. The findings also indicate that although a growing number of institutions are collecting early-warning data on at-risk students, most do not design effective intervention systems to make use of the data they are collecting:

- **58% of institutions surveyed indicated having policies in place for reporting midterm grades**
- **Only 47% of institutions reported the practice of flagging courses with a high DFW (drop/fail/withdraw) rate**
- **70% of institutions reported having minimal or no incentives for full-time faculty to serve as academic advisers**

What do YOU think?

- **How are current policies (placement, drop for nonpayment, satisfactory academic progress, withdrawal, transfer, etc.) affecting student success?**
- **What policy changes would help more students succeed?**

References:

- Fusch, D. (2011). "Delivering on the promise: Removing barriers to student success." *Academic Impressions*. Retrieved from <http://www.academicimpressions.com/news/delivering-promise-removing-barriers-student-success>.
- College Board (2009). "How colleges organize themselves to increase student persistence: Four-year institutions." *College Board Study on Student Retention*.