

The Persistence & Completion Council (PCC) is a small, cross-functional team responsible for examining, disseminating and integrating persistence data to increase student success at IU Southeast. Its goal is to provide a focused, data-driven and proactive approach to retention and completion.

### College Student Inventory: What it is and why use it?

Soon after forming the Persistence & Completion Council (PCC), its members began planning for the rollout of the College Student Inventory (CSI), one part of the Retention Management System Plus, a product of Ruffalo Noel-Levitz (<https://www.ruffalonl.com>). The campus committed to its administration in their application to the HLC Academy for Student Persistence and Completion.

The CSI identifies non-cognitive indicators of first-year student success and was administered to 450 students, or approximately half of all First-Year Seminar (FYS) students the first few weeks of the Fall 2015 semester. An additional 18 students in an adult-learner section of FYS were given an alternate survey measuring similar predictors of student success.

Upon receiving survey results, FYS instructors scheduled meetings with their students to discuss the reports, identify strengths and areas of opportunity, and promote campus support services that their students might find helpful.

#### Data Point

90% of still-enrolled, CSI-eligible FYS students completed the survey

To build on the success of the CSI interventions, the same FYS students will take the Mid-Year Student Assessment (MYSA) starting just before Thanksgiving. The data will identify changes in academic and social needs, determine gaps between receptivity to support services and actual service usage, and identify student plans to return to IU Southeast or transfer.

At the beginning of Spring semester, the PCC will begin to examine if the CSI and MYSA are aiding retention efforts. The CSI and MYSA are planned annual administrations, with hopes to survey all FYS students in Fall 2016. Budget requests are being made to also participate in the Second-Year Student Assessment (SYSA).

### Campus units: Getting involved with retention

As suggested by the top priorities identified by FYS respondents to the Noel-Levitz survey, the next step was to contact campus units to implement some solutions for these students. On September 23, the PCC met with representatives from Academic Advising, Campus Life, Career Development, Financial Aid, Math Lab, Student Development, and the Writing Center to discuss some best practices for working with students that 1) demonstrate concern in these areas and 2) show some responsiveness to institutional assistance. In addition, the PCC asked these units to develop some strategies for working with these students as well as students who suggested non-responsiveness to institutional intervention. These strategies will be shared in the next PCC Campus Brief.

### How faculty can influence retention

Gallup finds the 'big six' college experiences that had a significant effect on becoming an engaged employee. How many do we offer our students?

1. Professor made them excited to learn
2. Professor cared about them as individuals
3. Mentor who pushed them to reach their goals
4. Working on a long-term project
5. Completing a job or internship related to classroom lessons
6. Being engaged in extracurricular activities and groups

(Retrieved from <https://www.eab.com/daily-briefing/2015/09/25/the-big-six-experiences-that-turn-successful-students-into-successful-employees>)

Have a question about recent activities of the PCC? Feedback? Ideas? Feel free to email us at [PersComp@ius.edu](mailto:PersComp@ius.edu)

We will discuss your email at our next meeting and contact you.

#### PCC Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Nov 5 • Nov 19 • Dec 1 • Dec 8

**CSI top 10 student-indicated priorities: How can I help?**

The CSI uses student responses to create a 'Priority Score', indicating the strength of campus recommendations based on student data. The Top 10 recommendations are listed below and categorized by theme. These recommendations are not limited to FYS students or their instructors, but instead should be viewed as campus priorities to aid all students.

- Top 10 Priorities of IUSEA FYS Students**
1. Help with exam skills (AC)
  2. Discuss qualifications for occupations (CI)
  3. Help selecting an academic program (CI)
  4. Help with study habits (AC)
  5. Discuss job market for college graduates (CI)
  6. Help with writing skills (AC)
  7. Help with basic math skills (AC)
  8. Help in meeting new friends (SS)
  9. Information about clubs/social organizations (SS)
  10. Help selecting an occupation (CI)

