

The Student-Success Challenges Ahead

The outbreak of Covid-19 has hurt many colleges' efforts to retain students. Here are key areas higher education needs to focus on to ensure that undergraduates can persist and earn their degree.

RETENTION IS A PROBLEM

75% of students who started in fall 2020 returned for their second year, slightly lower than the pre-pandemic level.

21% of administrators say their college doesn't have a 'good plan' to retain students.

Sources: [National Student Clearinghouse](#); [Chronicle](#) survey.

MENTAL HEALTH

22% of college students describe their mental health as "poor." It's an issue that will likely grow in the future.

37% of high-school students report that their mental health was not good during most or all of the time of the pandemic.

Sources: [Inside Higher Ed](#) and [College Pulse](#); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BASIC NEEDS

Nearly 3 out of 5 college students experienced basic-needs insecurity since the start of the pandemic.

48% of students reported housing insecurity.

39% of students at two-year colleges reported food insecurity.

28% of students at four-year colleges reported food insecurity.

Source: [The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#).

GOING FORWARD

Experts say colleges need to develop a holistic view of student needs, one that focuses on student well-being and goes beyond academic markers of progress.

With Covid-19 upending so many students' lives, campuses must develop approaches that involve academic advisers, student-affairs officials, faculty members, financial-aid officers, and others.

To learn more visit our [Different Voices of Student Success](#) resource center.