

Survey of Student Retention Policies in Higher Education

31% of dropouts from public colleges did so primarily for economic reasons, but this is the case for only 17.43% of dropouts from private colleges.

Expectations of College Administrators for Changes in Retention Rates

We asked the colleges in the sample whether they expected retention rates to increase, decrease or remain the same. More than 58% expected retention rates to increase, and 35.5% expected retention rates to stay about the same. Only 6.45% of those sampled expected retention rates to decline. Given the current economic environment in the United States, we suspect that this includes a dose of wishful thinking. PhD-granting or research universities were the most pessimistic, with a third of those expecting declines in retention rates; these universities accounted for all of those in the sample that expected retention rates to decline.

Percentage of Colleges that Have Developed Learning Communities

We asked the colleges in the sample whether they had ever developed a learning community or group of students who take more than one class together and form a faculty assistant academic support group for one another. 40% of the colleges in the sample said they have used this tactic often; another 36.7% say they have used this tactic but not with great success. 22.33% say they have never used this tactic. It was the largest colleges that used this tactic the most and with the most success.

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Chapter One: Spending On Student Retention

Table 1.1: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum College Spending On Consulting Services To Aid In Student Retention In The Past Year, In US\$

	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Entire Sample	25,527.03	0.00	0.00	500,000.00

Table 1.2: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum College Spending On Consulting Services To Aid In Student Retention In The Past Year, In US\$, Broken Out By Public/Private Status

Public/Private	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Public College	41,357.14	0.00	0.00	500,000.00
Private College	6,909.09	0.00	0.00	75,000.00

Table 1.3: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum College Spending On Consulting Services To Aid In Student Retention In The Past Year, In US\$, Broken Out By FTE Enrollment

FTE Enrollment	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Under 2,000 FTE Enrollment	6,818.18	0.00	0.00	75,000.00
2,000 To 10,000 FTE Enrollment	44,961.54	0.00	0.00	500,000.00
10,000+ FTE Enrollment	35,625.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00

Table 1.4: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum College Spending On Consulting Services To Aid In Student Retention In The Past Year, In US\$, Broken Out By Type Of College

Type Of College	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Community College	3,916.67	0.00	0.00	17,500.00
4-Year Or MA Degree Granting Institution	32,190.48	0.00	0.00	500,000.00
PhD Granting Institution Or Research University	49,000.00	0.00	0.00	200,000.00

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Table 1.5: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum Projected Spending On Consulting Services To Aid In Student Retention In The Next Year

	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Entire Sample	14,027.78	0.00	0.00	275,000.00

Table 1.6: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum Projected Spending On Consulting Services To Aid In Student Retention In The Next Year, Broken Out By Public/Private Status

Public/Private	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Public College	24,375.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00
Private College	1,590.91	0.00	0.00	10,000.00

Table 1.7: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum Projected Spending On Consulting Services To Aid In Student Retention In The Next Year, Broken Out By FTE Enrollment

FTE Enrollment	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Under 2,000 FTE Enrollment	227.27	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
2,000 To 10,000 FTE Enrollment	14,791.67	7,000.00	0.00	100,000.00
10,000+ FTE Enrollment	40,625.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00

Table 1.8: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum Projected Spending On Consulting Services To Aid In Student Retention In The Next Year, Broken Out By Type Of College

Type Of College	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Community College	3,583.33	0.00	0.00	12,500.00
4-Year Or MA Degree Granting Institution	9,425.00	0.00	0.00	100,000.00
PhD Granting Institution Or Research University	59,000.00	0.00	0.00	275,000.00

Table 1.9: Mean, Median, Minimum And Maximum Approximate College Spending On Conferences, Webcasts, Research Reports And Other Specialized Publications About Student Retention In The Past Year

	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Entire Sample	9,696.15	2,000.00	0.00	100,000.00