

Questions for Colleges



Even ONE Semester

Full-Time Enrollment and Student Success



2017
NATIONAL
REPORT

THE FULL-TIME EDGE

Questions for Colleges

Students gain advantages by attending college full-time for at least one semester—the full-time edge. How can colleges use this fact to improve student outcomes?

Some colleges and programs encourage more students to attend full-time. However, without considerable financial support, that option is unrealistic for every student. Nevertheless, colleges may be able to better serve the majority of their students by designing a part-time experience that more closely mirrors the experience of full-time students.

Colleges can conduct focus groups to capture students' and faculty members' ideas on how best to improve the part-time student experience. To download focus group guides to use with your students and faculty, visit www.ccsse.org/nr2017.

Colleges also can make sure students have the information they need to effectively plan for and approach their education. Below are questions colleges can use to spur internal conversations about how to dive into this work.

- Are there systematic processes built into our college that unintentionally encourage students to attend part-time?
- How is the part-time student experience qualitatively different from the full-time experience at our college—and what disparities do these differences create?
 - ▶ What do we require full-time students to do (such as orientation) that we do not require part-time students to do?
 - ▶ Do part-time students have the same advising experience as full-time students?
- Do part-time students have fewer opportunities to engage with faculty and other students?
- How can our college help more students attend full-time for at least one term?
 - ▶ Can we make sure every student is informed about the benefits of attending college full-time, even for one semester?
 - ▶ Can our college begin advising students earlier—perhaps when they enroll in the college rather than when they register for classes—so students have more time to explore the possibility of attending full-time?
 - ▶ Can we work with community organizations to provide funds (scholarships) for one term of full-time attendance?
 - ▶ Can we provide more student jobs for students who are interested in attending full-time for one term?
- If more students at our college could attend full-time, what steps would we need to take to ensure that we are able to meet the increased demand?
- For students who cannot attend full-time (at all), what can our college do to help part-time students have an experience that is more like that of full-time students?
 - ▶ How can we help students take the right sequence of courses so they are using their time wisely?
 - ▶ Can we require students to take advantage of support services?
 - ▶ Are we ensuring that support services are available when part-time students are on campus?
 - ▶ Are we providing professional development to make sure all full-time and part-time faculty know how to direct students to support services?

