Retention is measured by comparing student return rates from one term to the next. This measurement is a metric of success for both students and educational institutions.

Identifying at-risk students: collecting data about why students leave your college, helps to identify strategies for making improvements.
Building Student Cohort Database for Success

Exploring questions beyond interactive dashboards

Indicators of Enrollment Retention
- Graduation
- Resignations/Withdrawals
- Change of Major (within and outside of the College)

The Food and Agricultural Education Information System (FAEIS) is a national repository and online database of comprehensive information collected from institutes of higher education focused on agriculture and related life sciences.
- Data include student enrollment, degrees awarded, graduate placements, and faculty count and salaries.
- Disaggregated by CIP codes, gender, ethnicity, and major.
Building Student Cohort Database for Success

Withdrawals/Resignations

Understanding some of the common reasons students drop out or transfer can help you determine where to begin focusing your efforts to address some of the problems. Students decide to leave their institution for many reasons, including:

- Time restraints
- Responsibilities
- Financial strains
- Challenging expectations

Withdrawals/Resignations

First Generation

Medical Resignation | Student Resigned | Withdrawn
---|---|---
1.51% | 3.59% | 21.40%
5.14% | 5.63% | 20.68%
7.51% | 5.63% | 20.68%

First Generation

Medical Resignation | Student Resigned | Withdrawn
---|---|---
8.14% | 5.63% | 20.68%
5.63% | 20.68% | 21.40%
5.63% | 20.68% | 21.40%

First Generation

Medical Resignation | Student Resigned | Withdrawn
---|---|---
5.63% | 20.68% | 21.40%
5.63% | 20.68% | 21.40%
5.63% | 20.68% | 21.40%

First Generation

Medical Resignation | Student Resigned | Withdrawn
---|---|---
20.68% | 21.40% | 5.63%
20.68% | 21.40% | 5.63%
20.68% | 21.40% | 5.63%
Change of Major (within and outside of the College)

About 80% of students in the United States end up changing their major at least once, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. On average, college students change their major at least three times over the course of their college career.

Change of Major (into the college)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/Arts</th>
<th>Agriculture &amp; Life Sciences</th>
<th>Architecture &amp; Urban Studies</th>
<th>Arts and Humanities</th>
<th>Business Studies</th>
<th>College of Sciences and Engineering</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>R.B. Pamplin College of Business</th>
<th>Virginia-Maryland Regional College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change of Major (out of the college)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/Arts</th>
<th>Agriculture &amp; Life Sciences</th>
<th>Architecture &amp; Urban Studies</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To understand how to increase student retention, you must begin by conducting research and analyzing your disaggregated data.

Students don't return to school for many reasons, but retention statistics don't reflect their reasons for leaving.

The Quantitative data can help start conversations around areas to best to collect student and faculty feedback to identify specific challenges.