

Council on Postsecondary Education

2019 Board-Identified Priorities

At the 2019 board retreat the board identified five possible strategies to help close the gap between the state's current educational attainment trajectory and the needed trajectory to achieve the state's 60x30 goal. The board asked that staff review each of the proposals and bring back information and data to the board responding to the following questions:

- Will this strategy help Kentucky accelerate progress on the 60x30 attainment goal?
- Is it feasible to implement the strategy given budget and other resource constraints?
- How should the various strategies be prioritized in terms of their return-on-investment and impact?


The information was pulled together by CPE staff and is intended to serve as background information to help stimulate conversation and ideas.

The 5 priorities identified by the board were:

1. Free tuition program for one or two years of college
2. Developing incentives for out-of-state students
3. Retaining students and understanding why students are dropping out
4. Developing tools and programs to facilitate the pathways between K-12 and postsecondary education.
5. Developing strategies to improve access and success of adult students

The following is research related to No. 3:

Retaining students and understanding why students are dropping out



Why do some KY students not complete a postsecondary credential?

April 18, 2019

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Why do some KY students not complete a postsecondary credential?

1. Completion rates of KY students
2. Why KY students do not complete: What the data tell us
3. Summary of student success research from 1970 & best practices on campus
4. Student success initiatives and ideas for consideration
5. Can improving student success numbers lead us to reaching 60x30 goal?
6. Conclusions

Internal working group

- Aaron Thompson
- David Mahan
- Melissa Bell
- Travis Muncie
- Cody Davidson



KY Six-year Completion Rate vs Nat'l Average

The KY 4-Year public institution completion rate remains lower than national average, yet gap is closing

- KY 62% of students complete in 6 years
- Nat'l 66% of students complete in 6 years

(2013 gap -6.4 pps, 2017 gap -4.0 pps, 2018 gap -5.2 pps, 2019 gap -3.5 pps)

The KY 2-Year Public Institution completion rate is higher than national average

- KY 42% of students complete in 6 years
- Nat'l 39% of students complete in 6 years

(2013 KY +1.3 pps, 2017 KY +0.3 pps, 2018 gap -0.3 pps, 2019 KY +2.8 pps)



Source: The Signature Report on Student Completion – National Student Clearinghouse

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KY Six-year Completion Rate vs Nat'l Average Race/Ethnicity Gaps

4-Year Public Institutions: A larger proportion of white students complete vs. black students in KY and in nat'l averages

| Race & Ethnicity | KY Completion Rate | Nat'l Completion Rate |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Asian | 70.56 | 76.74 |
| Black | 40.51 | 47.56 |
| Hispanic | 62.22 | 57.42 |
| White | 66.97 | 72.06 |

26.46 24.50



Source: The Signature Report on Student Completion – National Student Clearinghouse

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Why KY students do not complete: What the data tell us

Lower grades in 1st year, high costs after grant aid, low family income, lower high school grades, not registering for 15 hours in first semester

| Variable | Model Contribution | Relationship |
|--|--------------------|--------------|
| GPA Freshman Year | 51.47% | (+) |
| Remaining Student Costs Grant Aid | 15.97% | (-) |
| Fed Loan Amount | 10.63% | (-) |
| Low Income Status | 7.54% | (-) |
| High School GPA | 4.73% | (+) |
| Completed FAFSA | 3.81% | (+) |
| Registered 15 hours 1 st semester | 3.16% | (+) |
| Underprepared Student | 2.69% | (-) |

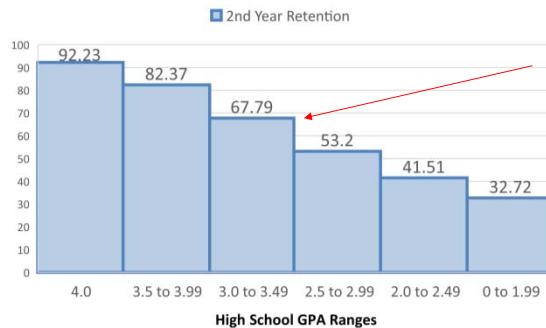
Tech Notes

- LOGIT Regression: Binary 2nd Year Retention
- 61 variables considered
- 137,407 records considered
- (KY 4-year public first-time, full-time students)
- 80% Concordant
- Cox & Snell Pseudo R²=0.24



Why KY students do not complete: What the data tell us

High School GPA is strongly associated with student retention

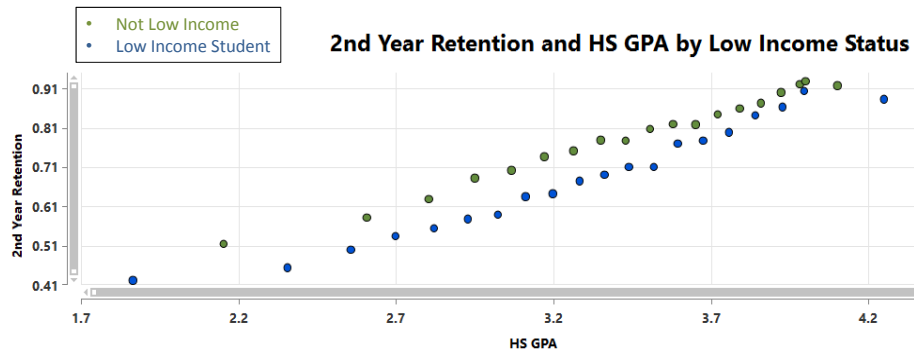


KY Admission Regulation for 4-Year Publics: 2.5 GPA, associated with a 50% probability of being retained in the 2nd year



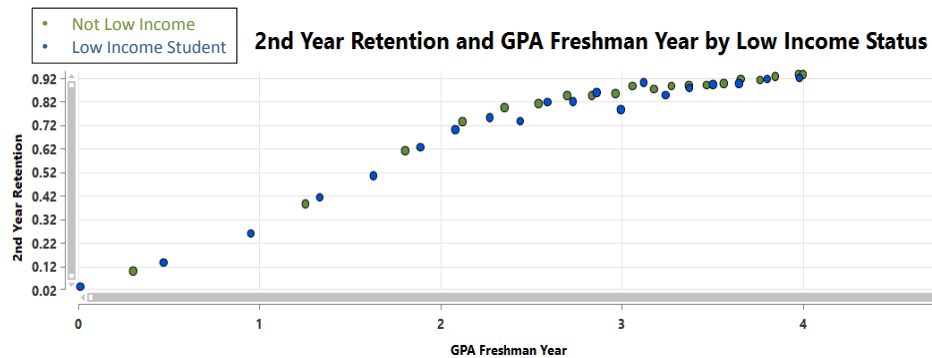
Why KY students do not complete: What the data tell us

Family income influences academic performance in high school and thus retention in college



Why KY students do not complete: What the data tell us

Family income has less of an impact on academic performance in 1st year of college, but remains a significant factor



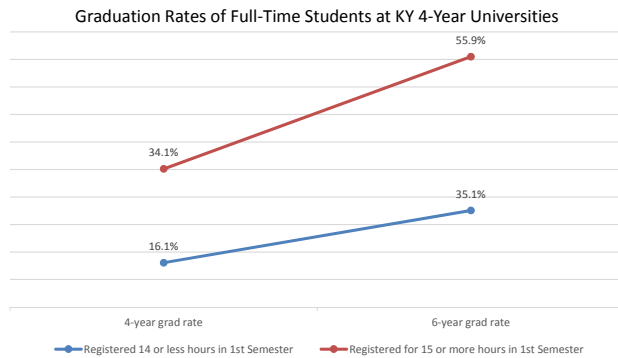
'15 to Finish': Students are more likely to graduate by registering for 15 or more credits in their 1st Semester

12 credits hours per semester is considered full-time

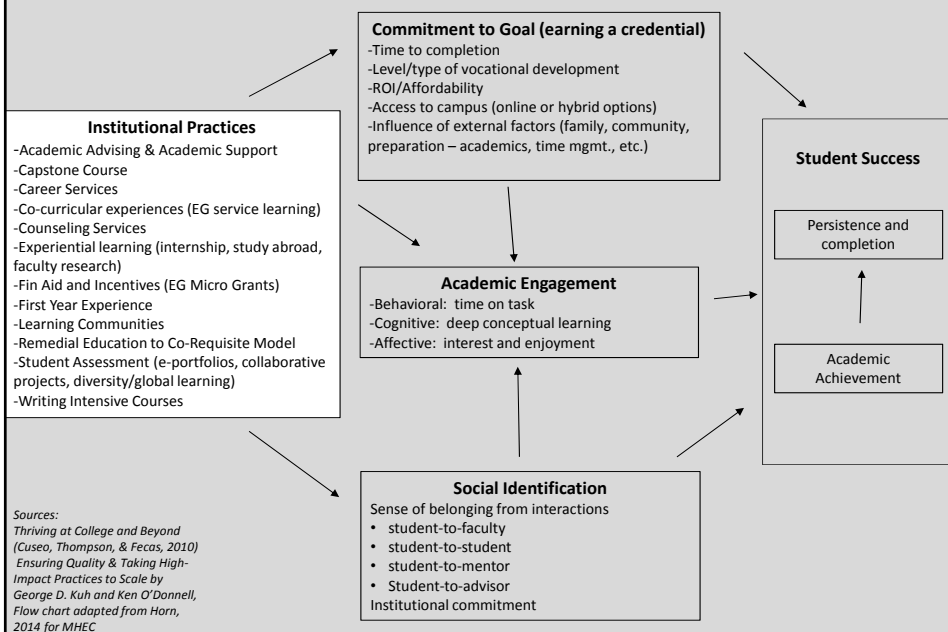
- Yet it is impossible to finish on-time (120 hours in 4 years)
- And it reduces likelihood of finishing at all

Regardless of student factors, enrollment intensity is a positive predictor of degree completion.

- 2-Year or 4-Year Institution
- Race/Ethnicity
- Income level
- Academic preparedness



Review of the literature: Institutional Practices with Student Success



Best indicators to Completion

4 Year Institution

Traditional Age

Persistence Factors

high school GPA, college GPA, Low-Income, URM, 'grit', costs, changing majors

Best Practices

register 15+ hrs., simplify pathways, experiential learning, faculty engagement, 1st year seminar

2 Year Institution

Traditional Age

commitment to major for employment (technical), commitment to transfer (gen ed.), college GPA, Low-Income, URM, 'grit'

faculty engagement, academic counseling, simple transfer pathway, online, complete 30 hrs. in year, tech students: employer sponsor or career opportunity, experiential learning

Adults

Costs, work life balance, college GPA, commitment to major for employment

Online, competency based, prior learning credit, complete 30 hrs. in year, employer sponsor or career opportunity, experiential learning, flexible programming, year long enrollment, accelerated courses, flexibility billing



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What we are doing to support more student completions in KY

Career Pathways from high school to postsecondary to the workforce

CPE (KCTCS, 4-year publics, AIKCU), KHEAA continue working with KDE (K-12)

Area of Technology Center (ATC), internships/apprenticeships, immediate career opportunities

Simplified curricular pathways in postsecondary

Degree pathways

Meta majors

Reduce curricular complexity in academic departments

Financial incentive to complete 30 credit hours in an academic year

For example, KCTCS currently offers a free course for those completing 15 credit hours in a term and registering for an additional 15 hours in the subsequent term

Change financial aid definition of a full-time undergraduate student

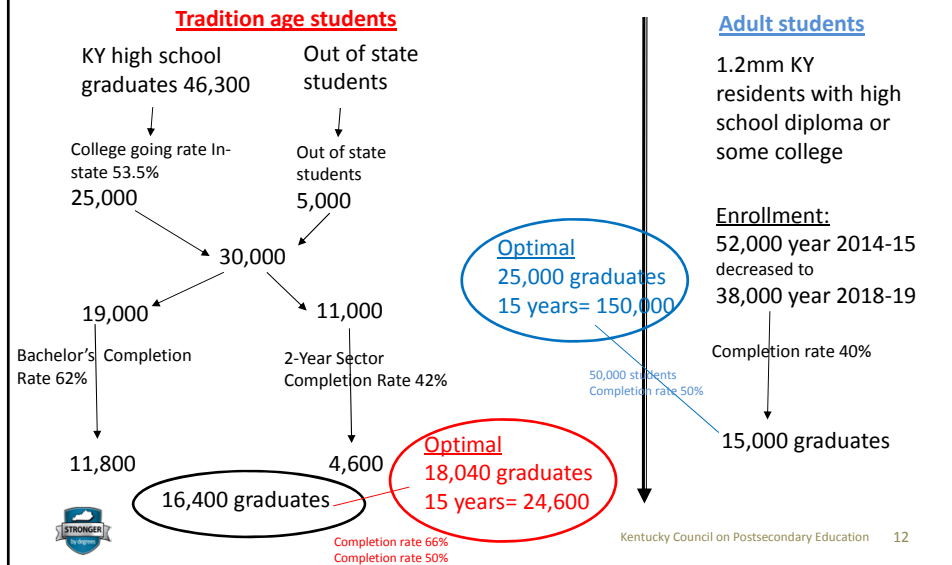
Student registered for 15 credit hours in a term rather than 12.



Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System

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Kentucky 60x30 goal: Will our efforts make a difference? Comparing traditional age vs adult students



Conclusions

KY Completion Rates

- The KY 4-Year public institution completion rate remains lower than national average, yet the achievement gap is closing. A larger proportion of white students complete vs. black students in KY and in nat'l averages
- The KY 2-Year Public Institution completion rate is higher than national average

Why do some KY students not complete?

- Lower grades in 1st year, high costs after grant aid, low family income, lower high school grades, not registering for 15 hours in first semester

Effect on KY 60x30?

- Much promising work is being done to improve student success. Only by enrolling more adults can we reach the KY 60x30 attainment goal



Source: Kentucky Postsecondary Education Data System

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