

Who Stays? Who leaves? Why?

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SPARC Presentation

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Ferris State Student Success Rates

First to Second Year Retention (Combined)

Currently: 71%

5 Year Goal: 75%

Six-Year Graduation Rate (BA/BS)

Currently: 60%

5 Year Goal: 65%

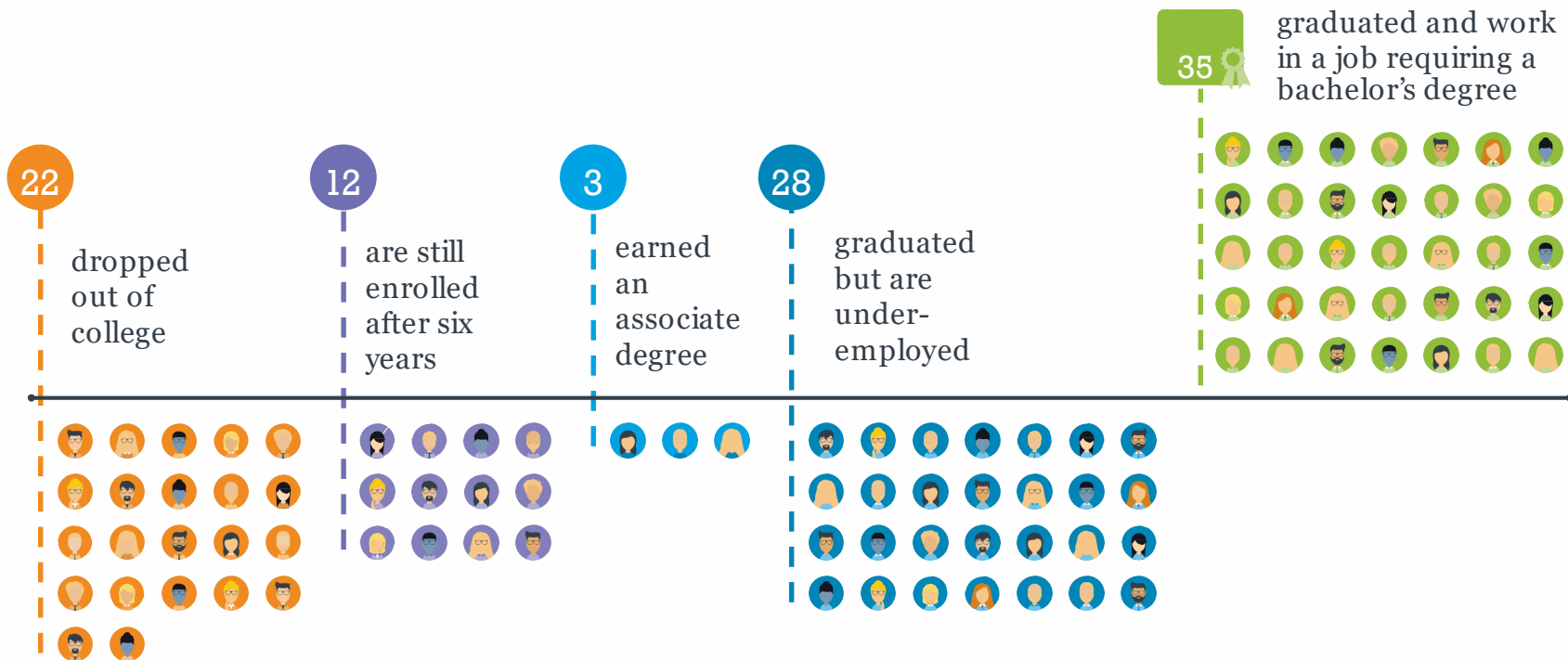
<https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/testing/factbook/FactBook18-19-2.pdf>

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We are not alone.

For every 100 students who start a Bachelor's degree nationwide...



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Source: National Student Clearinghouse

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What do we know about these groups?

22

dropped
out of
college

14 are first generation students
11 are students of color
4 will default on their student loans

12

are still
enrolled
after six
years

\$9,000
more in loans than if they had
graduated in four years

28

graduated
but are
under-
employed

+\$31,000
average student loan
balance per recent graduate

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Why students choose us & stay:

- Ability to complete 2-3 years at Community College (statewide students)
- Ability to use TIP funding
- Affordability
- Associates degrees that lead to Bachelors degrees
- Campus visit experience
- Connections with faculty & staff

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Why students choose us & stay:

- Jobs on-campus
- Location
- Proud to be a Bulldog
- Preparation for out of school work (professional preparation)
- Reputation of and experience within Program
- Size and feel of community (welcoming and supportive)
- Start early in your program

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Three Most Common reasons given for leaving/stopping out:

- Acting on original intent to transfer
- Personal obligations/challenges (family/work)
- Financial barriers

Other reasons given for leaving/stopping out:

- College preparedness
- Academic or disciplinary suspension or dismissal
- Not achieving academic success
- Not convinced of value of degree
- Not making satisfactory academic progress
- Unhappy at school/not feeling at home (fit)
- Size and feel of community (welcoming and supportive)
- Start early in your program

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Predictive Factors for Attrition

Year 1 to 2:

- Attending August Orientation
- Coming from Osceola county
- HS GPA below 2.8
- No transfer in credits

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Predictive Factors for Attrition

Years 2-3 & 3-4:

- Year 2-3:
 - Commuting
 - GPA 2.5 or below at start of year 2
 - Fewer than 22 credits at start of year 2
 - From out of state
 - In developmental curriculum
 - Living on-campus in a single
 - Withdrew from 3 or more credits in year 1
- Year 3-4:
 - Low GPA previous term
 - Retaking MATH115
 - Twenty-three or older or 6 years or more since HS

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Student Success Work Group – Strategic Planning:

With students at the center of everything we do, Ferris will continue to demonstrate our commitment to their success through recruitment in targeted markets, integrated support services, and intentional career development experiences.

- Expand access through targeted recruitment efforts (recruitment) – 3 action items
- Champion degree completion and ensure a clear path to success (retention) – 4 action items
 - **Write a University-wide retention plan focused on eliminating barriers to success, increasing student involvement, and cultivating a sense of belonging (Handout of strategies from our parking lot)**
 - Advising task force recommendations are updated and key components implemented by Fall 2021
 - Sustain and strengthen our identity-based centers to provide academic and retention-based support
 - Apply for student success grants that provide resources for further retention efforts
- Position experienceships at the center of a Ferris State education (recruitment & retention) – 4 action items

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Discussion Question

Of the Retention Strategies listed on your handout, which one do you believe will have the biggest impact on improving retention (in the next 5 years)?

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