

A Guide to Increasing Institutional Support for the New Majority in College: **Non-Traditional Students**

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Agenda

- ▶ Traditional vs. Non Traditional Students
- ▶ Significance of Topic
- ▶ Barriers to Student Success & Solutions
- ▶ How will this research shape our practice?

Traditional vs. Non-Traditional

Traditional Student Characteristics*

- ▶ Earns a HS Diploma and enrolls full-time immediately after HS.
- ▶ Depends on parents financial support
- ▶ Does not work during the school year or works part-time

(NCES, 2002)

Non-Traditional Student Characteristics*

- ▶ Earned a GED
- ▶ Delays enrollment to college
- ▶ Attends college part time
- ▶ Works full-time while in college
- ▶ Financially considered independent
- ▶ Single parents

(NCES, 2002)

Significance of Topic

During the 2011-2012 academic year, **74%** of undergraduate students could be considered non-traditional (NCES, 2015).

Non-Traditional Student Graduation Rate: **33.7%**

Traditional Student Graduate Rate: **54.1%**

(Inside Track, 2014)

Significance of Topic continued...

Although non-traditional students are the majority enrolled in college, they are not granted the institutional support they require to succeed.

Barriers to Non-Traditional Student Success:

- ▶ Lack of Flexibility
- ▶ Non-Inclusive Campus Life
- ▶ Financial Aid Policies
- ▶ Methods of Instruction
- ▶ Technology Gap
- ▶ Difficulty Navigating College

Barriers to Non-Traditional Student Success - Lack of Flexibility

BE FLEXIBLE



Barriers to Non-Traditional Student Success - Non-inclusive Campus Life



Barriers to Non-Traditional Student Success - Financial Aid Policies



Barriers to Non-Traditional Student Success - *Methods of Instruction*



Barriers to Non-Traditional Student Success - Technology Gap



Barriers to Non-Traditional Student Success - Difficulty Navigating College



How will this shape our practice?

- ▶ How do we create an inclusive institution?
- ▶ Non-Traditional Students benefit from:
 - ▶ Flexibility in & out of the classroom
 - ▶ Inclusive university policies and student life opportunities
 - ▶ Diverse method of instruction
 - ▶ Patience and understanding - while learning new technology and navigating an unfamiliar environment of college

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Thank You!

Questions?