

Noel-Levitz' College Student Inventory (CSI) as a Retention Tool

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Overview

“[The CSI) is designed to record a student's thoughts and feelings related to college life and to foster communication between the student and his/her academic advisor...The CSI results indicate specific recommendations for students in the areas of academic assistance, personal counseling, social enrichment, and career counseling. ”

--Appalachian State Univ. website

Reasons ASU Adopted the CSI

- Advisor interest in using the CSI
- Renewed focus on 1st-2nd yr retention
- Introduction of learning communities and need to understand their effectiveness

CSI Forms

- Both Form A and Form B include scales on academic motivation, general coping ability, and receptivity to support services
- Form A: 194 items require about an hour to complete; includes social motivation scale
- Form B: 100 items require about 30 minutes to complete

Administration: the ASU way (no longer offered by N-L)

- Administered during day one of summer orientation using op scan sheets
- Sheets scanned and reports printed overnight for advisors to use the following day when they meet with advisees in small groups to discuss schedules

Administration: the N-L way

- Administered on op scan sheets that are mailed to N-L for processing; reports are available on line after forms are processed
- Administered on line through N-L site; reports are available immediately on line

Type of Reports Offered

- Advisor/Counselor Report: Summary of Academic Motivation (e.g., dropout proneness) and other information on student's strengths and needs
- Student Report: Excludes the Summary of Academic Motivation and adds interpretations of scores
- Summary Report: Multiple contact lists that group students with like scores on various scales

Benefits to ASU

- On the second day of summer orientation, advisors hold small group sessions to interpret the CSI report as each student reviews her/his own report. This facilitates a meaningful and lively discussion of transition from high school to college issues and campus resources and support.
- Advisors also consult CSI reports during summer orientation for suggesting individual schedule adjustments.
- Reports are discussed individually with students during the advisor/freshman sessions in September and referrals made if appropriate.

Additional Benefits to ASU

- Advisors and students can consult website that links CSI recommendations with campus resources:
<http://www.fpext.appstate.edu/gstudies/advising/new.htm>
- Reports produced relating CSI with retention of students in learning communities:
http://www.appstate.edu/www_docs/depart/irp/assessment/reports/lcstudies.html
- Reports will be produced relating CSI and retention to graduation

Cost of CSI: Paper Administration

- \$2.00 per booklet (reusable)
- Answer sheets:
 - \$4.70 ea. 5000 or more
 - 5.20 ea. 3000-4999, reaching
 - 6.20 ea. 1-249
- \$49 for Coordinator's Guide (one free)
- \$10 for Advisor's Guide (one free)
- E.g., first use with 2500 freshmen = \$18,750

Cost of CSI: Online Administration

- \$7.25 per online survey
- \$49 for Coordinator's Guide (one free)
- \$10 for Advisor's Guide (one free)
- E.g., 2500 freshmen = \$18,125

Summary

- CSI contributes to more effective advising and referrals
- CSI helps assess the effectiveness of freshmen learning communities
- CSI contributes to retention of dropout prone students by focusing intervention efforts
- CSI is expensive

Contacts

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Noel-Levitz

http://www.noellevitz.com/solutions/retention/rms_csi/index.asp