



Survey Reveals Nearly All College Students Face Major Challenges in Achieving Their Goals

Survey Results Summary

How do you define student success? How do you measure it? What resources do you use and what barriers do you face? More than 1,100 college and university students answered these questions and more in a national survey collected in January 2024.

In a word or phrase, how do you define "student success?" (verbatim response samples)

- “Achieving your goals in a way that makes you feel comfortable and happy”
- “Learning content thoroughly and being able to apply it to the field of interest”
- “Being able to pass classes and get relevant experience and get a job”
- “Graduating with minimal debt and maximum job placement”
- “Managing time properly, learning as you go, developing new ideas”
- “Surpassing your own limits and doing your best”
- “Having a good balance of academics and social life”
- “Staying focused and accomplishing your goals”
- “Building relationships on campus that can benefit you in your career”
- “Excelling in academics and learning skills that will be fruitful in a future career and in life”

How will you measure your success in college? (Select all that apply)

GPA	59%
Greater knowledge/what you learned	54%
Graduating/completing your course of study	53%
Getting a desired job	46%
The starting salary of your job	23%
Upskilling in your current career	22%
The ability to pay off your student loans	18%
Other	1%

What challenges have you faced that have impacted your success in college? (Select all that apply)

Mental health	60%
Financial	43%
Physical health	37%
Academic	37%
Social/belonging	28%
Career readiness	20%
Basic needs insecurity (e.g., food, housing, transportation)	16%
I have not faced any challenges	5%
Other	1%

How aware are you of the student success resources your college or university offers?

Very aware	34%
Somewhat aware	54%
Not that aware	10%
Not aware at all	2%

Which campus resources do you regularly use to support your success in college?

(Select all that apply)

Academic advising	52%
Tutoring/learning assistance services	35%
Career services/workforce readiness	34%
Financial wellness resources	24%
Basic needs assistance (food, transportation, childcare)	20%
Mental health resources	19%
Disability services	12%
I have not used any student success services	9%
Other (please specify)	1%

What is the primary barrier that prevents you from using your college or university's student success resources?

Office hours are not convenient	28%
I do not know how or where to seek support	22%
Campus locations are not convenient	20%
I do not feel that I need additional support	14%
I would prefer a virtual option	14%
Other	2%