

A Proposal to Improve Educational Attainment Among Non-Completers at Open-Access Colleges in Florida

We propose a new project designed to foster re-enrollment and improve degree completion within the Florida College System (FCS). We will work directly with five high-enrollment FCS institutions to implement a directed email campaign to invite former students who earned at least 36 credit hours and a 2.0 GPA to re-enroll and complete their degree. In addition to the practical goal of improving educational attainment among non-completers, we also seek to evaluate the effectiveness of the low-cost, scalable intervention to be used in this study. To do so, former students who meet the previously identified criteria of at least 36 credit hours and a 2.0 GPA will be randomly assigned to one of three groups: 1) individuals who receive directed emails without a readmission fee waiver, 2) individuals who receive directed emails and a readmission fee waiver, and 3) individuals who receive neither directed emails nor a readmission fee waiver.

Our expectation is that many non-completers will respond positively, re-enroll in postsecondary coursework, and eventually complete their degree. The expected duration of this project is approximately two years, but our ultimate aim is to continue this work beyond the associated timeline to employ this low-cost initiative throughout the state of Florida.

This project will be directed by Justin Ortagus, Isaac McFarlin, and Dennis Kramer, all of whom serve as faculty in the Higher Education Administration & Policy program within UF's College of Education.