

Summer Melt & Post-Grad Support

NAACAC

What's Summer Melt?

- Usually refers to students who deposited at a college or university but decide to attend another school after May 1.
- Here, it means when so-called “college-intending” students fail to enroll in the fall. These students completed the application process, may have been accepted to a school, but somehow don't end up at a college or university.

Why?

- After a deposit is made, many additional steps have to be completed, including financial aid documents and appeals, health records, placement surveys, etc. **Some students and families don't have the resources or knowledge to complete these tasks.**
- <http://www.npr.org/2013/07/16/202566709/why-poor-students-college-plans-are-hijacked-over-the-summer>.

Barriers to Matriculation

1. College did not receive student SAT/ACT Scores.
2. College did not receive final student transcript.
3. Student/family cannot afford tuition/housing.
4. Student did not sign up for orientation
5. Student/family did not complete FAFSA
6. Student/family did not complete housing forms
7. Student cannot get parents to sign forms
8. Complicated family situations (e.g. guardianship issues, etc.)
9. Undocumented Students
10. Have questions but do not have staff members' contact information
11. Student needs mental health counseling support
12. Student needs help to develop a better post secondary plan
13. Student/family does not know where to go for support
14. Unanticipated costs (e.g. health insurance, housing, book cost, etc.) that effect students' college-going decisions
15. Difficulty interpreting tuition bill
16. Difficulty accessing/completing required paperwork
17. Lack of access to professional guidance

Types of Students Impacted

1. Students on Free and Reduced Lunch
2. Students who qualify for PELL
3. Undocumented Students
4. First Generation Students
5. Students with an **IEP and special needs**
6. Students with difficult family situations

Case Study: Barrie School

- Based on data from National Clearinghouse, six-year graduation rate was paltry 63%.
- Some students didn't go on to college; others attended community college; some went straight into the workforce.
- **How should we increase six-year graduation rate and college matriculation?**

Transition to College Presentation

- At “senior breakfast” each year in early June, the School Psychologist and I present on issues commonly encountered in the summer before college and in the freshman year.
- Goal is to reduce anxiety about attending college and to educate both parents and students about the transition.

Transition to College Presentation: Topics

1. Residence halls and roommates.
2. Difference between college and high school friends.
3. The truth about Greek life.
4. Academic Do's and Don'ts (e.g., sit near the front of the room, do class readings ahead of time, don't sleep or skip class).
5. Money management.
6. Social and emotional issues.
7. Identity development.
8. Substance Abuse.

Follow-Up from College Counseling Office

1. Monthly phone calls from Director of College Counseling to first semester freshmen.
2. Calls to recent alumni asking why they didn't stay in college or why they didn't attend.
3. Planned to administer surveys to alumni and parents from the past ten years.

Barrie Prep Mentorship Program

1. Identify alumni as mentors.
2. Pair alumni with like-minded graduating seniors.
3. Provide curriculum to mentors so they know how to reach out to seniors.
4. Considered using ShearWater International:
<https://www.shearwaterintl.com/>.

Another Model: Cristo Rey Jesuit

Consider hiring an Alumni Support Coordinator or designate a school counselor for the role.

- Office of Graduate Support also offers:
 1. “College Retention Emergency Fund” to assist alumni with college costs such as books, registration, and travel expenses.
 2. Student loan counseling and assistance completing the FAFSA for post-graduates.
 3. Resume and cover letter advice and support.
 4. Scholarship opportunities for college tuition assistance.
 5. Job listings for Cristo Rey alumni.
 6. College advising for transfer requirements and applications.

http://www.cristorey.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=241823&type=d&pREC_ID=866529

NACAC

Post-Graduate Support: Transfer Process

- Know and understand local “articulation” agreements between community colleges and four-year schools.
- There will always be a “Why are you transferring?” essay. Should be honest, authentic, and demonstrate clear reasons for wanting to leave previous school.
- Students should reach out to professors in specific departments.
- Transferring can be a “back door” in to a selective school.

How to Institute a Summer Melt/Post-Grad Support Program

Step 1:

1. Determine which of your graduating students intend to go to college in the fall after high school and which are in danger of dropping out.
2. Use senior exit surveys.
3. Use transcript request records.
4. Survey School Counselors.
5. Collaborate with colleges directly.

How to Institute a Summer Melt/Post-Grad Support Program

Step 2:

1. Determine how many of your students actually enroll in college in the fall after high school graduation.
2. Use individual postsecondary enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC).
3. Use school-level postsecondary enrollment records from the NSC.
4. Work with local institutions or higher education agencies.
5. Measure the summer melt rate.