Six Roles for Faculty in Student Success

How the academy can support institutional efforts to improve retention and completion

Faculty play a critical role in shaping the student experience but are surprisingly underleveraged as allies in student success strategy. Here are six key ways that academic units and individual faculty members can help students successfully navigate their academic careers.

1. Addressing Curricular Barriers to Completion
   Decisions about curricula are often made within departmental silos, underestimating or even ignoring their institution-wide impact on student success. How can we equip academic units to enact progression-based curricular reforms?

2. Redesigning Academic Policies
   Rules and regulations that govern degree planning, course registration, and advising can unintentionally force students off track. How can we identify and adjust these obstacles?

3. Evolving Academic Advising Models
   Helping students register for courses is only the tip of the iceberg—faculty and staff advisors are now expected to counsel, coach, and intervene with struggling students on a regular basis. How can we prepare our academic units and individual faculty members for student success?

4. Enhancing the Learning Experience
   It’s clear that great teachers have an outsized impact on students’ success in college and in their careers. How can we encourage more faculty to innovate in the classroom?

5. Flagging Signs of Student Risk
   By tracking student attendance, performance, and engagement in class, faculty can help inform your early intervention strategy. How can we build greater awareness and utilization of early warning systems?

6. Mentoring Rising-Risk Student Groups
   Talented, high-achieving students seek out mentorship opportunities on their own, but many don’t establish connections with faculty until it’s too late. How can we equip more students in meaningful interactions with faculty mentors?