How Colleges Help Students Succeed Beyond Graduation

Lessons from the $10M Beyond Completion Challenge

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From Access to Completion to Outcomes

*Source: Strada analysis of data from the US Census Bureau, 1940-2019.*

- **Access (at least one year of post-high school education)**
- **Completion (associate degree or higher)**
- **Outcomes (associate degree or higher plus family-sustaining earnings)**
A framework for measuring postsecondary success

- **Income over $40k**: 75% among those who chose to respond
- **Worth the cost**: 75%
- **Achieved goals**: 80%

Half of alumni achieve all three beyond completion outcomes

- Income over $40k
- Worth the cost
- Achieved goals

52%

There are vast disparities in outcomes beyond completion.

Share of alumni who meet all three measures of post-completion success

- Male:
  - White: 73%
  - Latino: 63%
  - Asian: 46%
  - Black: 50%

- Female:
  - White: 42%
  - Latino: 42%
  - Asian: 42%
  - Black: 25%

Strong education-to-career connections correspond with better outcomes

Estimated using logistic regression models with the following independent variables: academics, community, career connection, race, gender, first-generation status, graduation year, student loans. Source: 2021 Strada Outcomes Survey, bachelor's degree graduates 2001-2020, n=3,309.
Academics are highly rated; career connection is more scarce

- Classes: 82% very valuable/extremely valuable, 23% somewhat valuable, 7% not at all/not very valuable
- Professors: 77% very valuable/extremely valuable, 23% somewhat valuable, 6% not at all/not very valuable
- Project-based learning: 60% very valuable/extremely valuable, 23% somewhat valuable, 7% not at all/not very valuable
- Career advising: 50% very valuable/extremely valuable, 22% somewhat valuable, 15% not at all/not very valuable
- Career and job placement: 50% very valuable/extremely valuable, 19% somewhat valuable, 14% not at all/not very valuable
- Research experience: 54% very valuable/extremely valuable, 19% somewhat valuable, 8% not at all/not very valuable
- Mentoring: 47% very valuable/extremely valuable, 21% somewhat valuable, 11% not at all/not very valuable
- Internships: 50% very valuable/extremely valuable, 15% somewhat valuable, 8% not at all/not very valuable
- Work study: 49% very valuable/extremely valuable, 13% somewhat valuable, 7% not at all/not very valuable

Beyond Completion Challenge

$10 million grant challenge to improve equitable student outcomes beyond college completion.
Learn more at StradaInsights.org