

Student Success Centers and the SSC Network OVERVIEW

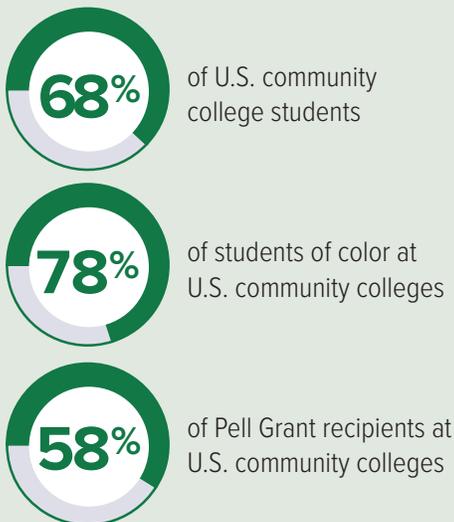


A Student Success Center is a statewide organization that supports community colleges' efforts to develop guided pathways and increase student completion rates. Sixteen Student Success Centers are part of the national Student Success Center Network.

THE REACH of Student Success Centers



Colleges served by Student Success Centers enroll:



Source: 2016–17 IPEDS data

WHY STUDENT SUCCESS CENTERS?

Community colleges working to improve completion rates can end up with a sea of initiatives, programs, and reforms that affect every aspect of their operations. But these efforts often are disjointed, and they typically are available to only some students.

While small-scale efforts and individual initiatives may help small numbers of students, they are not enough to move the needle on completion. Truly improving outcomes requires large-scale institution-wide change.

A Student Success Center creates a coherent, statewide framework for action, or a lens through which community colleges evaluate, align, and integrate their work in student success initiatives. The strategy, grounded in developing guided pathways, focuses on broad-scale change that affects the daily experience of every community college student.

Through the Center's work, colleges across the state can learn from—and build on—outstanding work at their neighboring and peer institutions. They have access to shared resources, opportunities to learn from one another, and support to scale effective practices statewide. The Center connects the dots between colleges across the state so they can collectively meet their state's completion goals.

WHAT IS THE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER NETWORK?

Sixteen states now have a Student Success Center. The national network, managed by JFF, provides opportunities for Center staff to learn from one another and from experts in the field. JFF provides guidance to Center staff, facilitates cross-state learning, and offers a broad range of services to build the capacity of Centers and support their work with colleges to implement guided pathways.

JFF partners with a cadre of national providers that offer expertise related to pathways implementation, strategic planning, state policy, and capacity building. All of these services are provided at no cost to the Centers, through funding to JFF from national and local foundations.

“Student Success Centers have helped launch guided pathways reforms in their states. Now they are building in-state learning networks so colleges are able to forge clearer paths to success for their students.”

—Davis Jenkins, Senior Research Associate, Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University; Co-Author of *Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success* (2015)

HOW DO CENTERS HELP COLLEGES AND STUDENTS?

Centers help colleges plan strategically and implement effectively so they can better serve their students.

The Role of Statewide Student Success Centers

