

Ruffalo Noel Levitz Retention Management System - College Student Inventory

The RNL Retention Management System is an early-intervention, early alert system based on students' self-reported information gathered through the College Student Inventory (CSI). The CSI is designed to allow institutions to:

- Assess students' individual academic and personal needs
- Recognize students' specific strengths, as well as coping mechanisms
- Identify students who are at risk for academic and/or personal difficulties and who may even drop out
- Recognize students' attitudes and motivational patterns, so that intervention is more successful
- Enable advisors to participate in effective and rewarding contact with students early in the first term

The CSI is designed especially for incoming first-year students. The inventory helps to identify students' needs, strengths, attitudes, motivational patterns, resources, coping mechanisms, and receptivity to intervention.

The CSI is comprised of 100 questions contained in 17 different scales, which are reported in two ways: as a percentile rank and as a bar graph. The questions are organized under three main categories:

1. **Academic Motivation**
2. **General Coping Skills**
3. **Receptivity to Support Services**

The CSI also contains several single items reporting such background characteristics as planned work hours, high school grades and family background. These characteristics can help an Academic Advisor or COR Instructor begin a fruitful conversation with a student.

Student responses to items in the inventory are analyzed and compiled into two interpretive reports:

1. **Advisor Report:** one page summary of the 17 different scales focused academic motivation, general coping skills and receptivity to support services.
2. **Student Report:** contains the same information as the advisor report with narrative interpretations, which explain a student's score on each scale. The interpretations use clear, non-technical language and are designed to give students encouragement and guidance.

If you have questions about the CSI, please reach out to Advisement and Transition at advisement@cortland.edu or 607-753-4726.

Thank you for your work with our students.

College Student Inventory (CSI) Definitions of Measures

Academic Motivation

Study Habits measure the amount of time and effort students put into their studies.

Reading Interests measures the degree to which students enjoy reading and discussing serious ideas.

Verbal and Writing Confidence measures the degree to which student's feel capable of doing well in courses that heavily emphasize reading, writing, and public speaking.

Math and Science Confidence measures the degree to which student's feel capable of doing well in math and science courses.

Commitment to College measures the strength of student's commitment to completing a degree.

Interactions with Previous Teachers measures the degree to which student see teachers and administrators as competent, reasonable, and caring.

General Coping

Socia Engagement measures student's desire for companionship and social entertainment.

Family Support measures the satisfaction student's feel with the communication that occurs in their family.

Capacity for Tolerance measures the degree to which student's feel they can accept people whose political and social opinions differ sharply from their own.

Career Plans measures the degree to which students have thought carefully about their career options and have made a firm decision to pursue a specific career.

Financial Security measures student's satisfaction with the amount of money available to them while at college.

Receptivity to Support Services

Academic Assistance measures student's interest in receiving help with academic skills.

Personal Counseling measures student's interest in receiving counseling for personal matters.

Social Enhancement measure the degree to which student would like some help getting involved in social activities on campus.

Career Guidance measures student's interest in receiving counseling for career/vocational matters.

Financial Guidance measures student's desire to discuss ways of increasing financial resources for college.