

Noel-Levitz Retention Management System - College Student Inventory

The Noel-Levitz 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 a number of single items reporting such background characteristics as planned work hours, high school grades and family background. These characteristics can help an advisor begin a fruitful conversation with a student.

Student responses to items in the inventory are analyzed and compiled into two interpretive reports, one for the advisor and one for the student.

The Advisor Report has a Summary of Academic Motivation, which includes:

- Dropout Proneness
- Predicted Academic Difficulty
- Educational Stress
- Receptivity to Institutional Help

A student with high scores in these areas is the student whom a counselor or advisor should make special efforts to contact. A high score indicates that the student has great needs and/or is highly receptive to assistance.

The Student Report contains the same information as the advisor report, with the exception of the Summary Observations about Academic Motivation. The Student Report contains narrative interpretations which explain a student's score on each scale. The interpretations are written in very clear, non-technical language and are designed to give students encouragement and guidance.