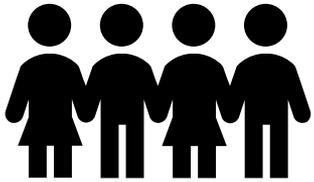


Academic Success & Gender

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Introduction

- NATIONALLY, MEN ARE RETAINED AND GRADUATE AT LOWER RATES THAN DO WOMEN.
- FOR EXAMPLE, AMONG ALL U.S. 4-YEAR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS REPORTING TO IPEDS, THE 6-YEAR GRADUATION RATE FOR MEN IS 52.4% WHEREAS FOR WOMEN, IT IS 58.1%.
- WITHIN NC, THE COMPARABLE 6-YEAR GRADUATION RATES FOR ALL 4-YEAR POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IS 57.4% AND 64.9%, RESPECTIVELY.

Within the UNC system

Persistence rate, first to second year (2016 full-time cohort)

INSTITUTION	MEN	WOMEN
System	84.0%	85.4%
ECU	81.2%	84.0%
UNCP	65.2%	71.3%

6-year graduation rate (2011 full-time cohort)

INSTITUTION	MEN	WOMEN
System	60.8%	67.7%
ECU	54.4%	68.0%
UNCP	35.4%	43.4%

Two Studies within UNC System of ♂ Gender & Academic Success ♀

2012-2013 UNC-Pembroke

- FUNDED BY A LUMINA FOUNDATION GRANT
- GENDER & RACE/ETHNICITY-SPECIFIC FOCUS GROUPS + ONLINE SURVEY FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO COULD NOT ATTEND FOCUS GROUPS
- TOTAL OF ~115 MALE PARTICIPANTS & 310 FEMALE PARTICIPANTS

2017-2018 East Carolina

- COLLABORATION BETWEEN IPAR & STUDENT AFFAIRS
- ONLINE SURVEY FOLLOWED BY FOCUS GROUPS FOR THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO PARTICIPATE
- RESPONSE RATE OF ~10% FOR ONLINE SURVEY; FOCUS GROUPS STILL ONGOING
- 291 WOMEN & 196 MEN
- OVER HALF SENIORS, 25% JR, 20% SOPH, 5% FR

UNCP focus group/survey topics

- PERSONAL DEFINITION OF SUCCESS
- FACTORS CONTRIBUTING OR HINDERING SUCCESS AT UNCP
- FACTORS UNIQUE TO RACE OR GENDER
- FACTORS RELATED TO RETENTION AND GRADUATION
- AWARENESS OF ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE STUDENT SUCCESS
- WHAT DOES UNCP DO BEST IN SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS?
- WHAT COULD BE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

ECU survey/focus group topics

- REASONS FOR ATTENDING COLLEGE
- REASONS FOR REMAINING AT ECU
- TOP 5 FACTORS THAT HAVE LED ME OR OTHERS I KNOW TO LEAVE OR CONSIDER LEAVING
- SOURCES OF FINANCIAL, SOCIAL, ACADEMIC, OR EMOTIONAL SUPPORT
- DEFINITION OF SUCCESS
- ENRICHMENT AND SUCCESS AT ECU
- PROPOSED CHANGES

Results: UNC-Pembroke

- DEFINITIONS OF SUCCESS
 - #1 FOR BOTH MEN & WOMEN: SETTING & ACHIEVING GOALS (ABOUT 1/3 OF EACH GENDER)
- SUCCESS-AIDING FACTORS
 - BOTH MEN & WOMEN: MOST FREQUENT RESPONSES WERE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS, UNIVERSITY PERSONNEL (MAINLY FACULTY), FAMILY & FRIENDS
 - WOMEN, BUT NOT MEN, FREQUENTLY MENTIONED CAMPUS RESOURCES & SERVICES (E.G., TUTORING, SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION) AS IMPORTANT

Results: UNC-Pembroke

- OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS
 - MOST FREQUENT RESPONSE FOR WOMEN: HAD NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY OBSTACLES TO SUCCESS; THIS RESPONSE PROVIDED BY NO MEN
 - MEN EMPHASIZED CHALLENGE OF CLASS AND MAJOR AVAILABILITY BUT WOMEN DID NOT
 - WOMEN, BUT NOT MEN, EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTY OF JUGGLING DEMANDS OF SCHOOL & FAMILY
 - BOTH MEN & WOMEN MENTIONED: FINANCES, FACULTY, PERSONAL ISSUES; GENDER DIFFERENCES IN TYPES OF PERSONAL ISSUES

Results: UNC-Pembroke

- FACTORS RELATED TO RETENTION & GRADUATION
 - BOTH MEN & WOMEN EMPHASIZED PERSONAL GOALS, FAMILY SUPPORT, AND CURRICULUM/FACULTY/ADVISING
 - COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION IN GENERAL AND TO UNCP IN PARTICULAR MORE FREQUENTLY CITED BY WOMEN THAN BY MEN
- WHAT UNCP DOES BEST IN PROMOTING STUDENT SUCCESS
 - BOTH MEN & WOMEN: GOOD ACADEMIC RESOURCES (E.G., TUTORING) & HIRING GOOD PEOPLE (ESPECIALLY FACULTY)
 - MEN MORE LIKELY THAN WOMEN TO MENTION SMALL CLASSES & GOOD FACULTY/STUDENT RATIO
 - WOMEN MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO COMMENT ON NON-ACADEMIC SERVICES (E.G., COMPUTER LABS) & OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT (E.G., ORGANIZATIONS)

Results: UNC-Pembroke

- WHAT STUDENTS WISH THEY COULD CHANGE ABOUT UNCP
 - WOMEN MORE LIKELY THAN MEN TO SAY NOTHING NEEDS CHANGING OR TO CITE A SPECIFIC SERVICE, PROGRAM, OR RESOURCE
 - GREATER VARIABILITY IN MEN'S RESPONSES; MOST FREQUENT (~10% OF MEN) WAS GREATER CLASS AVAILABILITY (MORE CLASSES OFFERED MORE OFTEN)

Results: ECU

- MEN WERE MORE HOMOGENEOUS IN THEIR RESPONSES THAN WERE WOMEN.
- WOMEN AND MEN DID NOT DIFFER IN THEIR TOP-RANKED RESPONSES; SUCCESSFUL MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS SEEM TO BE MORE ALIKE THAN THEY ARE DIFFERENT.
- SOME GENDER DIFFERENCES IN RESPONSE DETAILS

Results: ECU

- REASONS IMPORTANT IN CHOOSING TO ATTEND COLLEGE IN GENERAL
 - BOTH MEN & WOMEN RANKED *TO HAVE A BETTER JOB, TO MAKE MORE MONEY, & TO HAVE A GOOD EDUCATION* AS THEIR TOP THREE.
- REASONS IMPORTANT IN CHOOSING TO ATTEND COLLEGE IN GENERAL
 - BOTH WOMEN & MEN RANKED *TO HAVE A SPECIFIC CAREER, TO GET A GOOD EDUCATION, & TO LEARN ABOUT INTERESTING THINGS* AS THEIR TOP THREE.

Results: ECU

- REASONS REMAIN AT ECU
 - BOTH MEN & WOMEN RANKED *PURSUING EDUCATIONAL GOALS* & *PURSUING PERSONAL GOALS* AS TOP REASONS.
- FACTORS LEADING TO LEAVING OR THINKING OF LEAVING
 - BOTH WOMEN & MEN RANKED *BALANCING WORK & SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES, TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL, & FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS* AS THEIR TOP THREE.

Results: ECU

Some example differences in percentages of men and women choosing response options:



Factor	Men	Women
Balancing work & school responsibilities	57%	51%
Transfer to another school	46%	42%
Balancing family & school responsibilities	31%	24%
Dealing with academic difficulties	28%	24%
Lack of personal skills related to academic work	27%	22%
Dealing with personal illness	16%	19%

Results: ECU

Whom do you turn to for support?

	Academic		Financial		Social		Emotional	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
Female friend	1	4	3	5	2	2	1	2
Male friend	5	3	5	3	3	3	2	1
Female faculty	3	2	8	7	8	9	8	10
Male faculty	4	1	9	9	10	10	11	8
Female guardian	2	5	1	1	1	1	2	3
Male guardian	6	6	2	2	4	4	4	4
Other female family	7	8	4	6	5	5	5	6
Other male family	9	10	6	4	6	6	6	5

Preliminary Qualitative Results: ECU

- How do you define success for yourself as a student?
 - Future Preparedness
 - Academic Success
 - Persistence & Goal Completion
 - Interpersonal Skills
 - Intrapersonal Skills

Preliminary Qualitative Results: ECU

- What are the most important factors at ECU that have enriched your educational experience and made you a successful student?
 - Faculty & Staff
 - Academic Support
 - Personal Support
 - Program & Curriculum
 - Campus Environment & Community

Preliminary Qualitative Results: ECU

- If you could change anything about ECU that would enrich your educational experience here and help make you a more successful student, what would it be?
 - Improve Pedagogy & Course Curriculum
 - Marketing & Communication
 - Campus Facilities
 - Personal Development
 - Campus Environment

UNCP & ECU

Gender & Success Comparisons

Academic Success & Gender

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