

9 Elements for a Thriving Student Experience



Elements emphasize the foundational aspects of the student experience: fostering a sense of BELONGING in the community and ensuring holistic well-being (BE WELL, STAY SECURE). This foundation is vital for nurturing personal skills, forming deep connections (CONNECT DEEPLY), maintaining balance in college (KEEP PACE), and encouraging introspection (PRACTICE REFLECTION).

As students grow, they leverage their skills and relationships for broader impact. Personal growth aligns with professional development (EXPAND BOUNDARIES), resilience becomes determination (MAINTAIN DETERMINATION), and education empowers personal and societal change (INSPIRE CHANGE).

Each element is interconnected, influencing overall success. A misalignment, like poor community belonging or inadequate well-being, can affect everything else. But a holistic view can help correct imbalances, ensuring an ongoing evaluation of the right “formula” for student success.

Introducing A Student-Crafted Blueprint for Thriving in College

To uncover the facets of student success, we turned to the most knowledgeable experts: the students themselves. Engaging with over 750 students nationwide attending both community college and 4-year institutions we posed two critical questions: **“What does thriving mean within the college experience, and how do you recognize when you are?”**

Findings reveal that thriving is profoundly personal, varying widely in both definition and realization. Students acknowledge their own pivotal role in fostering success but also want and need their institutions to demonstrate a vested interest in their outcomes. For those who struggle to find their footing, the sensation is one of isolation. Burdened by mental and emotional strain, engagement with their education becomes a challenge.

Armed with an abundant collection of student insight, we've synthesized the research into nine critical elements that encapsulate a thriving student experience. While not meant to be exhaustive - the world that surrounds today's students is simply far too complex to capture - the elements call attention to the overall experience that must be intentionally designed and supported. A no-nonsense, well-rounded method for evaluating and fulfilling student success!



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BW

Be
Well

SS

Stay
Secure

CD

Conect
Deeply

PR

Practice
Reflection

KP

Keep
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Expand
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MD

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