What happens to 100 Students who start a bachelor’s degree?

Just 35 will get a “return on education”

Colleges and universities face seemingly constant scrutiny from external stakeholders questioning the value of a postsecondary education. Is this criticism warranted? The lack of centralized, longitudinal, industry-wide records makes it frustratingly difficult to understand what really happens to our students. In response, researchers at EAB have pulled together disparate national data sets to assemble a comprehensive picture of student outcomes. Given the nature of the data, this analysis should be interpreted as “directionally correct” rather as a precise measurement. Any institution that strives to elevate any of the numbers on this page can rightly be said to be working to improve their “return on education.”

- 22 dropped out of college
- 14 are first-generation students
- 11 are students of color
- 4 will default on their student loans
- 12 are still enrolled after six years
- $9,000 more in loans than if they had graduated in four years
- 3 earned an associate degree
- 28 graduated but are underemployed
- $30,100 average student loan balance per recent graduate

Our New Student Success Mandate

Graduate more students...
...in less time and at lower cost...
...with better post-grad outcomes...
...to ensure a positive return on education

For more information on how your institution can improve its return on education, please visit: eab.com/studentsuccess