Chapter 4B: Undergraduate Retention

The College of Engineering places a high priority on undergraduate student retention and has created a “Recruitment and Retention Committee” with responsibilities to coordinate activities, policies, and programs across the College to support student recruitment and retention. The College of Engineering’s primary objective for undergraduate retention is to:

Objectives and Goals

Objective: Improve retention and graduation rates for all engineering undergraduate students, especially those from groups traditionally underserved by higher education and the engineering profession.

Our three key goals related to undergraduate retention are:

Goal: Create an effective and sustainable retention program for the College of Engineering,

Goal: Conduct an undergraduate retention study, and

Goal: Increase retention rates for our overall student body and, in particular, high ability, transfer, diverse, first generation, international, and non-resident students.

Our retention objective supports Goals 2 and 12 within the University Strategic Plan by supporting a diverse student body and promoting a culture in which students can succeed.

Strategies:

Focusing our efforts through cooperation

- Form an active retention team that promotes departmental retention events and coordinates college-wide retention initiatives,
- Coordinate and strengthen retention activities with other campus units, e.g. Admissions Office, and Center for Advising and Student Achievement (CASA),
- Promote increased communication among college key advisers,

Planning, assessing, and improving our retention efforts

- Evaluate and regularly assess the effectiveness of our retention efforts and activities,
- Design survey and assessment tools for incoming freshmen and outgoing seniors to help provide profile information, feedback on programs, and information about student expectations and outcomes,
- Develop a standard method to collect information about why students depart the department/college,

Giving students tangible reasons to stay in engineering at CSU

- Increase the number of scholarships for continuing students,
- Increase the number of internships available to students,
- Increase contact between students and industry leaders,
Improve the student experience in the College of Engineering

- Provide information to students about all support services within the college and at the University level,
- Encourage student participation in college and university events and activities,
- Develop an awareness program that promotes the College of Engineering as an environment supportive of women and minorities,
- Foster community among our transfer students through events and communications, and
- Encourage student involvement in student organizations and extra-curricular activities.

Metrics:

- Freshman retention rates (by major, gender, race, ethnicity, residency, etc.),
- Six-year graduation rates (by major, gender, race, ethnicity, residency, etc.), and
- Data from senior surveys regarding the student experience in the College of Engineering.