Success Story: 33-year high in fall→spring retention

“We hit a more than three-decade-high retention rate of 95.7% of CU Boulder’s first-year students moving successfully from the fall to spring semester this year,” said CU Boulder Provost Russell Moore.

“In a time when college and university students—including ours—are still recovering from the pandemic, this number shows that our tight focus on student success is producing positive results.”

AY 22-23 deliverables

✓ A pilot in selected A&S departments to speed up the evaluation of transfer credits
✓ A design for a new advising experience for newly admitted ACO students
✓ A request for proposal for a new degree audit platform
✓ A centralized, published directory of affinity spaces campuswide
✓ A draft first-year student success dashboard created for review and comment
✓ Supporting the Boulder Faculty Assembly’s sponsorship of a vote by faculty governance groups on a campuswide Common Curriculum
✓ Centrally publicizing all campus tutoring centers
✓ Soliciting ideas from students on the newly launched student communications model
✓ Replacing defunct Minimum Academic Preparation Standards (MAPS) with new campus- and school/college-level recommendations for undergraduate admission

- Updating the campus eCommunications policy
- Streamlining review and approval process for late course withdrawals

Emerging priorities

Increased focus on metrics tied to BUS deliverables, including usage and ties to retention/graduation/DEI goals

BUS Charge

“Design and implement a process to analyze, prioritize, and make resource recommendations for undergraduate student success efforts. . . . Make it possible for CU Boulder to make and implement needed decisions surrounding student success efforts and priorities in a timely, effective, and transparent manner.”

12 Fall ’23 Commitments

1. Expand transfer credit evaluation efficiency prototype in A&S
2. Create a common framework for undergraduate advising across campus
3. Begin implementing new degree audit platform: review degree audit rules, encoding and exception practices
4. Align and support key campus traditions for all students and affinity-based communities
5. Create guidelines and training for using the new first-year student success dashboard
6. Begin implementation of the Common Curriculum
7. Create proposal for improving tutoring across campus
8. Create a campus network for call center staff
9. Establish plan to cover a larger portion of the cost of attendance for lower-income students
10. Create faculty framework for Canvas grading enhancements & best practices
11. Improve allocation of scholarships, creating consistent scholarship renewal criteria and coordination/utilization of scholarships
12. Begin the process of refocusing CU LEAD Alliance programs to provide consistent service to targeted populations

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