



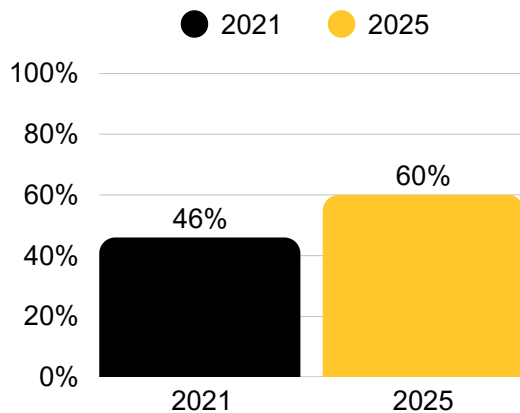
DATA SPOTLIGHT: BCSSE: 5 QUICK FACTS ABOUT FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



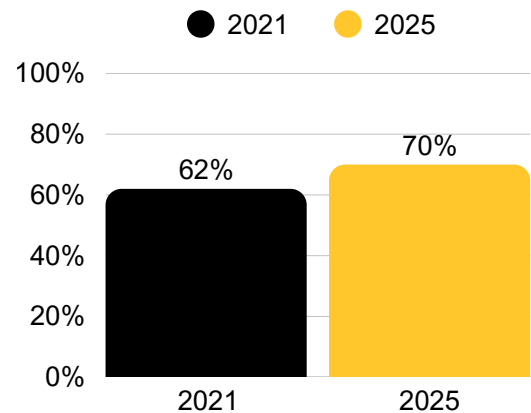
The BCSSE (Beginning College Survey on Student Engagement) is a national survey administered to first-year students prior to the start of their freshman year. BCSSE items include how first-year students expect to utilize their time, their expectations for interacting with faculty, staff and fellow students, as well as their perceptions of academic and campus support. Below are insights on items related to first-year retention and our incoming fall 2025 class.

1. First-Time freshmen expect higher engagement levels with faculty and students than in prior years.

Nearly 60% of fall 2025 freshmen expect to talk about career plans with faculty “Very often” or “Often” compared to only 46% of the fall 2021 incoming class. Furthermore, nearly 70% of first-year students expect to work with other students on assignments “Very often” or “Often” compared to 62% of the fall 2021 freshmen class.



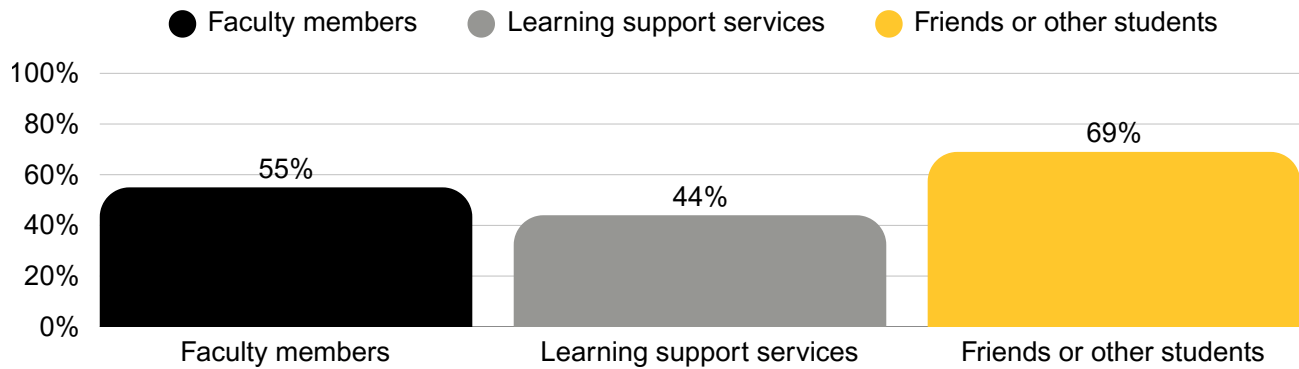
*Talk about career plans with a faculty member
("Very often" or "Often" selected)*



*Work with other students on course projects or
assignments ("Very often" or "Often" selected)*

2. Fall 2025 freshmen expect to seek help from friends instead of faculty.

Of the incoming fall 2025 class, 69% of respondents indicated that they would use friends and other students “Often” or “Very often” to seek help with coursework compared to just over half (55%) seeking help from faculty. Furthermore, 44% plan to seek coursework help from learning support services like tutoring or the writing center.



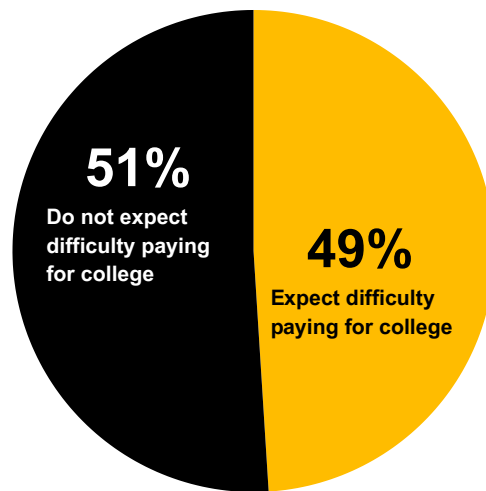
3. First-year students indicate needing help with developing time management skills.

First-year students’ perception of their ability to manage their time is known to be related to first-spring retention. Over half (55%) of students responded that time management would be “Somewhat difficult” or “Very difficult”.



4. First-year students are concerned about paying for college.

Nearly half of fall 2025 incoming freshmen indicated that it will be “Somewhat difficult” or “Very difficult” to pay for college expenses. This is a concern as research suggests that students’ perception of difficulty in paying for college is significantly related to first-year retention.

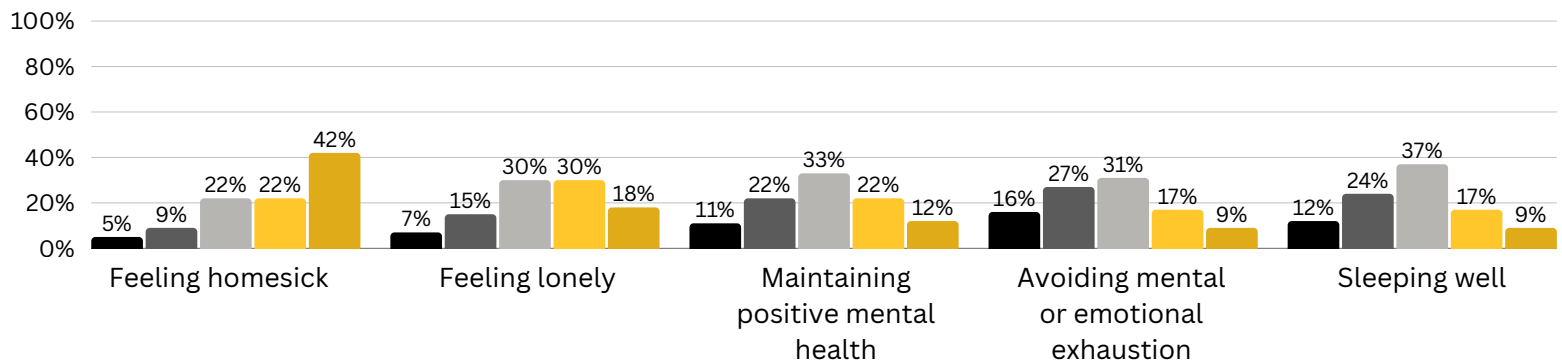


5. Mental exhaustion is a major concern for incoming first-year students.

Over 1 out of 3 freshmen are “Very much” or “Quite a bit” concerned with avoiding mental or emotional exhaustion. Additionally, 1 out of 3 first-year students are “Very much” or “Quite a bit” concerned with getting adequate sleep during the coming school year.

During the coming school year, how concerned are you about the following? (n=547)

● Very much ● Quite a bit ● Some ● Very little ● Not at all



The fall 2025 freshmen bring strong expectations for engagement but also face challenges with time management, finances, and mental health. Faculty and staff can support them by fostering connections, encouraging use of academic resources, and promoting wellness and financial support services to strengthen student success and retention.

You can view the full BCSSE report on the [PIR Website](#).

Special thanks to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience and Programming for collaborating with PIR on the BCSSE administration. We couldn't have done it without you!

PIR DATA UPDATES

Looking Forward with Forward Together

NKU's new strategic plan, Forward Together, has finalized the key performance indicators used to track our progress toward the plan's goals. Be on the lookout for an updated dashboard used to track these metrics coming mid-October.

OUR *STUDENTS*

Enhance access to higher education.

- Undergraduate Enrollment
- Graduate and Law Enrollment
- Second-Year Retention Rate
- Average Debt at Graduation

Promote student success and campus culture.

- Year-to-Year Persistence Rate
- Undergraduate Graduation Rate (FTF 6-year)
- Undergraduate Degrees Conferred
- Graduate and Law Degrees Conferred
- Quality of Campus Interactions & Supportive Environment

Prepare students for career and lifelong success

- High Impact Practices Participation
- Post-Grad Outcomes - Employment & Median Earnings

OUR *COLLEAGUES*

Enhance employee morale, well-being and professional growth.

- Voluntary Turnover Rate
- Job Satisfaction & Employee Well-being

Strengthen long-term institutional success.

- Cash and Investments
- Unrestricted and Auxiliary Net Surplus
- Net Tuition Revenue

OUR *COMMUNITY*

Bolster workforce readiness and regional growth.

- Internship/Co-Op Participation Rate
- Graduates Employed in Region

Drive community engagement and impact.

- Voter Registration and Participation
- Community Engage Course Enrollment Rate
- P-12 Engagement
- Dual Credit Enrollment

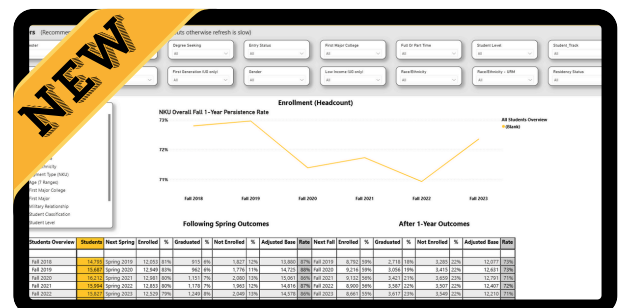
**FORWARD >>>
>>> TOGETHER**

LED BY PURPOSE. DRIVEN BY PEOPLE.

Persistence Dashboard Now Available

PIR has added a new dashboard to our PIR Data Center - the Multi-Year Persistence dashboard. This dashboard offers a look at persistence rates over time and includes fall to spring, fall to fall, spring to fall, and spring to spring. Also included are a number of filters and breakouts to help visualize these data in a variety of ways.

You can find a link to the [PIR Data Center](#) on the PIR website. An NKU login is required.





ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Reminder: 2025 Assessment Summit

Thank you to everyone who registered to attend the second annual Assessment Summit—we're excited to see you there! Together, we'll explore how meaningful measures drive insights, foster continuous improvement, and create lasting impact.



Date: Friday, September 26, 2025

Location: Student Union Ballroom

Check-in: 8:40 a.m.

Program begins: 8:50 a.m.

Coffee will be available to start the day.



Annual Assessment Reminder

Kicking off the 2025–26 Assessment Cycle!

Plans should be **in progress in WEAVE by October 15, 2025**. Each plan must include a **mission statement, goals, objectives/outcomes, supported initiatives, measures, and targets**.



Forward Together: Coordinated Care for Student Success

We're excited to invite you to the upcoming NKU Student Success Symposium!

This event will bring our campus community together to spotlight strategies and coordinated care efforts that support our students. Our coordinated care model at NKU is designed to create a more connected, intentional student experience. This approach ensures every student receives the right support at the right time. Together, we will explore how collaboration across campus helps our students thrive.

WHEN: Friday, October 3, 8:45 a.m. – noon

WHERE: SU Ballroom

Open to all faculty and staff.

A light breakfast will be provided.

Please let us know if you plan to attend by completing this [RSVP](#).

FORWARD >>>
>>> **TOGETHER**

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