Using Your BCSSE Student Advising Report

What is the BCSSE Student Advising Report?
The Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE) Student Advising Report is an individualized report designed to help you understand your students’ background and expectations about their first year of college. This report draws on information from your institution’s recently completed BCSSE survey.

How can the BCSSE Student Advising Report help?
The BCSSE Student Advising Report communicates the activities and experiences each student expects from his or her college experience. Reviewing these results with students can help focus advising discussions about activities that enhance students’ undergraduate experience.

How is the BCSSE Student Advising Report scored?
BCSSE includes a variety of questions eliciting information about students’ high school experience and their attitudes about and expectations for their first-year college experience. These questions cluster around a range of college activities related to academic engagement, learning, and academic success, as detailed in the graphic below.

Commitment to the institution. Look for results indicating the student’s level of commitment to having a successful experience at your institution. Was your campus the student’s first choice, or second, or third? Does the student anticipate graduating there? Responses to these questions can provide useful information regarding student commitment.

Expected academic difficulty during the first year of college. A high level of expected difficulty is an indicator that a student is more likely to struggle during the first year. Discuss with the student why he or she feels these areas will be difficult and how and where to get needed help.

Willingness to persist in the face of academic adversity. Each student deals with adversity differently. Discuss with students their strategies as well as other ways to cope with difficult academic circumstances.

Engagement in educationally relevant behaviors in high school. In discussions of these results, pay particular attention to students who reported spending low amounts of time in class preparation or reading while in high school. Make sure students understand the academic rigor required of them during their first year of college.

Self-perception of academic preparation for college. Academic success in college is strongly related to students’ own perception that they can do the work. Talk with students about their academic preparation and their confidence that they can succeed.

Valuation of the institution’s challenging and supportive environment. Campuses provide many resources to help their students be successful. Students who do not value these resources, however, are not as likely to seek help when they need it. Discuss with students the importance of seeking help and where at your institution they can find it.

High school academic experience and expectations for the first-year educational experience. Students’ high school experiences in quantitative reasoning and effective learning strategies provide an important foundation for their success in college. Likewise, expectations to be engaged in such experiences in college are strong predictors of success. Emphasize to students the importance of their attitudes and expectations in their success.