

NEWS

▼ POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

College dropouts often lack a clear education vision

Why do some students manage to make it through a college or university program while others drop out?

Many people think students drop out of college because they either fail or they run out of money.

Yet research on student retention says these are not the main reasons.

Many students drop out because they find themselves in the wrong

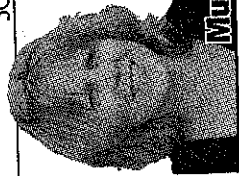
with no clear career goals, and then wonder why they are there in the first place.

Education advisors work with students like this every day.

Their goal is to help students figure out what they want to do and from there help them build an education path to meet their career goal.

Sounds simple, but for a young adult who has spent very little time in the work force, trying to

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program. This usually happens to high school students who go to college and university just because they think they have to.

They pick a program

and participate in events outside of the classroom. In turn, these programs foster a relationship between the student and the school.

Finally, the number one reason students drop out is they just aren't learning.

They may be attending class but are not engaged in the learning process.

Often, this situation occurs in faculty-led lectures where most students just sit and listen—very little active participation takes place.

This leads to an isolated learning experience making it difficult for students to make friends and connect with the school.

When a student is not engaged in the learning process they are less likely to stay in school as they are unable to ascertain the value of their education.

This is why many colleges and universities are providing support to faculty members to help them create learning environments which are engaging.

For example, Okanagan College has recent-

ly established the Institute for Leadership in Learning and Teaching.

The vision of the institute is to lead and support a vibrant peer-led culture at Okanagan College, one that encourages reflection, dialogue and exploration of learning and teaching.

It's an organization that will lead to better learning and teaching experiences, not just for students but for instructors and other staff members as well.

Celebrating best practices, encouraging and fostering innovation; the goal is to improve the educational experience at the college.

Although this is just a snapshot of why some students drop out, all colleges and universities want their students to stay in school and succeed so plenty of research goes into student retention and how to help students make it to graduation.

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