

*Listening to Students
Who Left College*

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Listening to Students Who Left College...

“Unfortunately due to Covid, it increased my depression as a high school grad whom lost the opportunity to walk traditionally with my class. I was excited to say well in 2024 is when I will feel that moment of feeling an accomplishment. At the end of my senior year 2020, I was struggling going about life with an ankle injury I had got during football practice. I was not able to afford to go to college at the time. No jobs were excepting me when I was applying. I asked my parents for help, but they had a separation, and lied about helping me. I still did my first semester of freshman year, thinking I was going to complete my spring semester and continue but everything went South. I voiced to whom I believe was my freshman counselor that I had some troubles at home, and I was planning to move. This cost me to not perform very well in school versus how I wanted to experience college.... Also, in my other classes, it was hard for me to comprehend the lessons.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) At this moment of my life, I’m homeless and struggling to know if I would get kicked out of hotels or if I would get to eat everyday.

If I felt stable on having a home arrangement and my mental health in the right place I would feel more at peace. I had no support when it came to my dreams and I guess that was a shock to me at the time being 18.

I would just like to feel heard by people more than anything. It’s hard when you have no one to talk to about real life problems.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) I don’t know.”

— Hello, I’m 21 years young, a black woman, who started school fall 2020. I was excited about reaching in higher education and getting excepted to sac state. I was looking to receive my degree to enhance my future careers. Open to learn more about being a young adult during this time of the pandemic.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Tuition was too expensive for me could not afford it.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Get financial help

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Providing me with financial support”

— I am 19 years old.

“I left Sac State because I felt stuck on campus and extremely helpless. I wasn't able to find a job that worked with my class schedule and lacked financial security. In addition, the Sac State campus feels very cut-off from everything and I wasn't comfortable taking public transportation after only being there for 4 months. In addition, my roommate at the time only lived in our dorm for a total of about one week a month. This made it harder for me to live on my own, in a new city, with fully online classes. The campus isn't in a very walkable area.

I stayed because I enjoyed Sacramento and the campus. In addition, I had starting going to group therapy and individual therapy. Also, I had made friends there and would hang out with them a couple times a week. I didn't really meet anyone in my dorm hall because I missed the first two weeks of living on campus. I am now attending a community college near my place of residence.

As an introverted person, I felt that there weren't many opportunities for me to meet people. Maybe I didn't put enough effort into it but I always felt disconnected from everyone else because for a majority of my time there I was alone. Out of the six and a half months that I was there, I think my roommate stayed and slept in our dorm for maybe a month in total. I do think if she was there more often I would've stayed and I understand the school can't force anyone to do anything. However, maybe Sac State could implement some kind of rule that says if someone isn't swiping into their dorm building for more than half the month then they forfeit that room or something. To me it felt like ‘what's the point of even paying for dorming if you aren't going to be living here more than half of the time.’ They are preventing the school from using that space for others and wasting their own money.”

— I am currently 19 years old, mexican american, pansexual. I attended Sac State and left at the start of the spring semester

“My employer was designated an ‘essential business’, during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the increased demand on my time severely impacted my ability to allow time for education,

AND

Access to funding became a major issue due to me becoming a probationary student because of poor scholarship via lack of focus on education due to inordinate increased employment demands upon my time.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) A positive change in finances.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) To be blunt : Fund a year's, or, minimally, semester's worth of tuition and fees.”

—Anonymous

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) COVID. I felt as though I was thrust into a unfamiliar situation (both with online learning as well as college in general) and was given little to no help. I found it difficult to manage my classes online and combined with the effects of missing out on what was supposed to be the most important years of my life, I just couldn’t do it anymore. I hung on as long as I could but there’s only so much you could do before you have to acknowledge you were just geared up to fail. I hoped that I could return to campus and show I do know how to learn but I couldn’t, my grades have suffered too much, and so I couldn’t.

I’m already in another college. I turned everything around and am currently a 4.0 student after a few semesters of hard work.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Make the re-entry requirements after academic suspension less strict.”

—21, White, Sophomore/Junior

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) I don't like the amount of people. I never felt like I got to learn because the professors always had to cater to large classes and even if you took advantage of the other resources such as office hours and TA hours it can still be packed with students.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) I don't need to. I didn't need university. I'm a Data Engineer and Application Engineer for a company. I taught myself and succeed when the education system failed me. I understand not everyone can do what I did, but university and the school system in general is not for everyone. I being first gen to university thought I needed to go or I would fail in life. I was fed lies and my parents being immigrants didn't have much answers other than study and that is enough. I went down that route and was met with nothing but anxiety and needless self hate.

It's not worth going back when I have found a different path that lead me to where I want to go at a fraction of the time I wasted at uni.”

— Mexican American male who is first generation university student.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Inaccurate information provided by Sac State counselors and advisors

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Able to enroll in my program of desire

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Have better advising and advisors”

—26 years old, Asian Indian, First generation

“I was working full time (40hrs a week) while also commuting and coaching Volleyball. Since I did not have time to dedicate towards my education I was academically dismissed from Sacramento state for failing 3 consecutive semesters (Fall, Winter, Spring).

I have reached out for professional help. I am in the process of being assessed for ADHD. I will be relocating to Sacramento to be closer and more involved with my education and community. I have also stepped down from being a volleyball coach to dedicate my full undivided attention to my education.

I think that sac state should share flyers about the resources we have on campus in regards to mental health. I wasn't on campus as often as I hoped for when I attended but I never knew where to go for support. It is a large campus. I think that if emails or flyers were shared I would have tried to reach out for support early on. I think that Sac state should promote Mental health awareness a bit more. Student who work or commute don't get to spend as much time on campus. I had night classes and by the time I made it to campus alot of things began to close down. I also think that on some days the bookstore should be open a little bit later.”

— I am a multiethnic woman that is returning to sac state for my second attempt as a "first semester junior." I am Mexican, White, Filipino, and Miwok. After my first semester I quickly realized that my practices throughout high school were not going to get me through college. After two semesters I took a break And began a fulltime job. Once I got back into community college I was a part time student and later finally received my AA. I transferred to Sac State in the Fall. I am a first generation college student and have struggled trying to make it through college while also supporting myself without any financial aid.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) I want to work for myself not for anyone else

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) To study something that will advance my business

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Be able to get a degree online”

—29, Latino Mexican American, on and off since 2012. From out of town, attended sac state during the pandemic

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Cannot work full time and attend mostly in-person daytime classes once asynchronous classes were largely ended post-COVID.

I did return to (another) college, where online asynchronous classes allow me to advance my degree progress around work.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Offer online classes or classes that are not during conventional working hours/days (enough to graduate, not just a few here and there). Thanks!”

—29 year-old white female

“When I started college, my family was suffering from severe poverty. We didn’t have enough food to feed ourselves. We went to food banks (I did use the school pantry help from sac state, was a huge help!).... I wanted to stay in school but it was really hard to go to school and be really hungry during your classes. I decided that I needed to get a job and was working 35 hours a week while going to school full time. At 19 years old, it’s really hard to find the balance between school and job. I saw my grades slipping and work became more demanding. I had a medical procedure that went terribly wrong where I was hospitalized and due to my grades being really bad plus what happened. I missed my final and was academically dismissed. It was a whole series of unfortunate events!”

What made me want to return to school is the need to get a higher education to make more money and have a better retirement plan.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Honestly, not charge an arm and a leg kind of fees. I don’t make a whole lot of money and live pay check to pay check. I’m trying to come back after spending years at city college to get my GPA up and get in a very good standing to start at Sac State again but it’s so expensive! I hate the idea of having to get into debt to just finish school. I don’t have parents that can help me with school, I’m someone who has DACA so I don’t qualify for FASFA and I’m paying my way through college, it’s hard when you’re on our own. I think more people would go to college and finish their degree if the school looked out for us who are have the dream just don’t have the means to get there.”

—27, Hispanic, Born in Guatemala , Junior, First generation college student in the US, Parent level of education: associates back in our country Language: Spanish and English

“I needed to concentrate on work and even though Sac State was only 30 min from where I lived it was too much driving.

I returned to college, but I’m attending CSU (elsewhere) because they have a fully online ... program.”

—41 year old single mother

“As for why I had to stop my studies unfortunately I wasn’t able to pay for college. I got kicked out of my apartment for being late in rent trying to do both. I’ve been struggling financially with everything. Being a full time student and a full time worker just wasn’t working for me and trying to survive I decided to drop school. I wasn’t even able to finish this year completely which really devastated me but to make sure I don’t get sad I just work a lot

(What can Sacramento State University do better for you?) Probably have better counseling. I tried to book an appointment but it was way too full and told me to go in person to make an appointment. I also tried to talk to an adviser but she ended up showing up late and I had to leave before I even was able to talk to her about anything. I needed help. I wish there was someone that would have reached out and communicated with me.”

— Age 20, Mexican, 2nd year at sac state, 1st generation in the USA. I grew up with a single mother raising 4 kids, Spanish speaker

“I left Sacramento State due to the lack of organization and professionalism of the professors. I already went to a different college and graduated in half the time it would have taken for me to graduate from Sacramento State.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Had I not already acquired my degree, Sacramento State would need to improve students access to needed courses, ensure professors are teaching accurate and unbiased information, create a consistent process between classes for completing course work, and improve overall organization of classes.”

—Anonymous

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) I got pregnant and the commute was too long. I was commuting from Napa to Sac three days a week.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) To move closer or to have more online Bachelors Degree options in (my) program.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Provide a full online degree in (my program).”

—31 years old female living in Napa Valley and a first time parent with a full-time job.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Rise in additional fees that are also tacked onto tuition fee. Serious burnout.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Options to opt out of some additional fees that may have been deemed unnecessary to student depending on their opinions. More job opportunities on campus or nearby.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Allow student to opt out of some ‘unnecessary’ additional fees like sport stuffs if student dont do sport classes or clubs or anything.”

—2nd generation, 25, Female, Hard of hearing asian, 2021 started sac state, Bilingual, but mainly English., Not a veteran, parent, not married or in any relationships.

“I strongly considered leaving school due to the demand of my family life.

I took the semester off to try to balance things. I will return in the fall because I only have two semesters left.

More online classes would be helpful. As well as increase the amount of students per class when possible. Leaving classes open instead of holding seats for specific students.”

— African American, Female, Parent, 39 years old.

“I work full time (close to 50 hours a week) and quickly burned out trying to keep up with school and work. Due to the pandemic and unmasking, as well as working full time far away, I am not willing or able to do onsite classes, and Sac State does not provide adequate options for completing a degree fully online. Many of the classes were synchronous during business hours and I was not able to attend. I also was not able to find sufficient support for my disabilities and quickly became frustrated and too anxious/depressed to keep up. Cost also had a significant impact and I was not able to afford school. With inflation and threat of recession, I was not willing to be on the hook for the cost of college or go into further debt to pay for it.

I would love to complete my degree because it was always a dream of mine. I’m frustrated at being 33 and unable to continue/complete it. I would need a flexible online option, for classes to be affordable, and better support for my disabilities.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Provide better online options, better assistance with paying for college (and access for disabled people), as well as overall better accessibility and assistance for disabled students. It is not possible for me to attend in-person due to work, location,”

— Age: 33, White, Junior, first generation college student,
disabled, employed full-time

“I left due to a tough time during a passing of a very cherished and loving family member. During that time was a big financial issue while trying to go to sac state and I ended up using over \$3000 of my own money which eventually led me to get a job to pay a debt. From there I decided to be more full time with a job then attend school.

Being financially stable and having personal life situated would’ve eventually led me back into school.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Really nothing besides handling my little fees.”

— I’m a 20 year old mien (of Asian decent) dropout

“I felt that CSUS was not the right school for me.

I am already enrolled at another 4-year school”

— Gay, white, male, low income, prior military member.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) International Student Tuition and less scholarship opportunities

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Lower cost of attendance and more scholarships

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Help me with tuition and guide me to complete the degree.”

—Anonymous

“I had so many battles with depression, and anxiety. I didn't feel like school always helped. I knew there were resources like SSWD, but I was scared to seek those services because my disability isn't as visible as others. I also left college because I found myself constantly failing classes, submitting endless appeals to financial aid, and still having under 50 units. I didn't know what I wanted to do in life, and school wasn't providing me with any answers. The pandemic gave myself and others time to re-evaluate and figure things out.

So I'm returning in the fall. I know about The Degrees Project, BSU, Major Academic Advising, and PARC. I feel like I knew about these resources before and didn't use them often. I'm really interested in help from EOP, Cooper Woodson, Degrees Project, and even finding groups around campus for (my) major. My biggest goal is making sure as soon as I arrive, I start setting up bi-weekly therapy appointments in The Well.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) I see y'all got a black president now so that's exciting. I don't think theres much that can happen. I took the time to find a career path I'm passionate about, and understand that I need to graduate from college to get there. I really need to register for SSWD too.”

— I'm Black, gay, and a first generation graduate on both sides.

“After the collapse of government in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021. I had to leave my studies because my funds were seized and I did not have access to my bank to support my studies. Furthermore, my wife and kids left Afghanistan on the same day due to security threats. Therefore, I had to leave my studies to work and support myself and my family.

After the collapse of government in Afghanistan and seizure of my funds, I didn't have any option other than to leave USA and enter Canada illegally. Now, I am living in Canada as a refugee, however, if there is any possibility to come back to USA and resume my studies.

I loved my college and really want to resume my studies. Currently I am living in Canada, however, I love to rejoin my college and complete my studies. I request to the college to support me financially as my funds are seized in Afghanistan.”

— I am from Afghanistan. I am 33 year old. I was first year student of the university. I was on F1 visa.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) The overt ableism of (my) department

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Conduct an investigation of (my) department for ableism and ADA violations

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Nothing. The bridge has been burned. Disabled people are not to feel welcome and are overtly discriminated against in (my) department.”

— European American, disabled/autistic

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) (My) Programs cutoff was a 3.0 and my gpa was a 2.8. I loved sac state and really wanted a degree from there but with the impacted major sac state rejected me.... I graduated from cal state east bay after 2 hour commutes to the Bay Area...a semester later then it would have been at sac state.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) It’s too late for me. However sac state needs to figure out it’s impaction issue because it cost me 1000’s extra because of the commute to cal state east bay. I know I am and was not the only one. We all love sac state but sac state has made us chose between choosing our dream major vs graduating at sac state. Get rid of impaction period.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Abolish impaction. Move classes online and invest in an online program. Sac state already has the infrastructure all it has to do is use it. Best school I ever went through and it broke my heart to have to leave. I still get depressed thinking about not being able to complete my degree at sac state. I lost the option of walking as a hornet. Thank you”

— First generation, veteran, Age 34, 3rd year

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) A mixture of funds and inability to get assistance for ADHD and depression

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) income enough to afford the tuition and books

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) lower tuition and cost of books”

—25 years old

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) I worked full-time my entire time in college. When COVID forced us into an online platform I found that many professors assigned 5x the busy work to ‘make up’ for our lack of in person class time. Most of the work didn’t make me feel like I was learning anything, more that it was just assigned to be assigned. This amount of work from multiple classes was unsustainable while also working 40-45 hours a week and still having to complete other non-work responsibilities. I also found that many Sac State professors were not flexible or very helpful compared to the professors I interacted at my community college. These issues combined with paying an obscene amount in tuition while not even setting foot on campus led me to leave.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) More cost effective, learning driven class work rather than busy work, and more free time.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Be more conscious of students having lives outside of school.”

— First generation college student

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) (They) messed up my paper work had to take out a loan and pay out of pocket couldn’t afford it got anxiety didn’t do good

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Get my grades up so I can get financial aid

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Even though it’s college should provide more help for students I tried to get counseling for my degree no one was helpful was taking classes not needed at one point, and then (staff) needs to be more responsible they had a paper for months claiming they never received till I was able to find the right office and person that had it”

— First generation, 24 at the time, transfer

“I did not take my studies seriously and fell behind. I was working a job in sales which compensated me very well and that led to me not finishing my degree.

I went back to college during the pandemic and got my AS. I would like to go back to Sac State and finish my Bachelors but it would need to work around my work schedule. I can’t afford to not work. It would also need to be affordable. I don’t want to be in debt 10’s of thousands when I graduate.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) A solid plan of how long it would take me to finish and would be doable around my work schedule. It would also need to be affordable.”

— I’m 29, Asian, considered a Junior and a first generation college student.

“Never would I return to Sac State. I am so grateful I got out as soon as I did. Sac State does not care about its students at all, it’s just a money hungry monstrosity. Instead of helping students get their desired degrees, they force kids to take unnecessary classes and pursue useless degrees. I wanted to be (one) major and they tried to convince me to become a (different) major. What a joke. I don’t know one person who got out of Sac State in under 5 years. The tuition is way overpriced, the classes are a joke. Every single aspect of this horrible school needs to be improved.”

— I have already graduated from Sonoma State

“Sac State is a very good college institution to be privileged to attend. When I first stopped attending was because I had to have my minicus removed surgically from one of my knees. The healing process took a while before I could get around without crutches. And along with that (good fortune) now I have been diagnosed with cancer. My treatments I am receiving will not be completed until late July. I have treatments Monday -Friday. The radiation keeps me weak; it’s one of the perks you have to contend with during radiation therapy. I am SO looking forward to graduating from Sac State so I can start my teaching career. Sac State is GREAT!!!”

—No student demographics provided

“The main obstacle I faced was that higher level classes that I needed for my bachelor degree were only available during my work hours. At times, I was able to use my lunch a breaks to take classes but my work hours are contracted and therefore, not flexible. I only need 5 more classes to graduate but have decided that it's not worth the amount of effort needed to juggle a work-school-life balance.

Another obstacle I faced was financial. I worked a second job on the weekends to afford my classes at Sac State. I was exhausted and my monthly installments were quite expensive. I now no longer need a second job.

The last obstacle I faced were with teachings that went against my beliefs..... I found myself in these situations many times while at Sac State.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) I would have to be able to afford college, I would have to find a new job or take a leave of absence to complete school, and I would need to afford child care now that I have an infant.

One thing that could help is affordability and offering higher level classes in the evenings rather than in the middle of the working day. I work 6 am to 2:30 pm.”

— White 30 year old female, completed associates degree at community College, parent, full time employee, religious.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Covid, depression, college is expensive

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) A little more financial stability

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) More online classes”

— First gen Pakistani immigrant, 25 yr old female, multilingual.

“I needed to leave college because of my financial situation & I cannot not afford tuition. As well as dealing with a domestic violence case & a financially abusive parent.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?)First, I would need to remove my status a dependent from the FAFSA/financial aid forms in order to receive any financial aid. Secondly, I need to get an on-campus job to help my goal of becoming a financially independent adult.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) If there were grant programs that could help domestic violence victims get back on their feet while they are recovering & escaping from these traumatic events. Having that type of support from your school, will help. Especially, when students are being forced to pick between escaping a potentially dangerous environment or receiving an education.”

— I transferred to CSU Sacramento as a senior after receiving my Associate’s degree from a community college. As for my background I am a bilingual, multi-ethnic, first generation college student (on my mom’s side of the family).

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Online entrepreneurship. There are ways to make money online.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Societal Pressure

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Better access to resources, mentorship, and guidance.”

— Vietnamese American first generation student

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Covid

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Better guidance

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Have advisors that have interest in doing their jobs”

—21, hispanic, 1st generation 2023 expected graduate

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Financial aid and family obligations.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Full paid college and more time/support.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) I no longer live in the area and go to a different university I work at.”

—25 year old, mixed race (Mexican and Korean), first generation, now non traditional undergrad student.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Lack of flexibility in class options

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Flexibility in classes offered and how they are offered. Time, hybrid, asynch, semester.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Offer certain classes more than just one semester and one option”

— Veteran, parent, employed

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) The high cost and congested classrooms

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Less students per class so we have more one on one with our professors.

Lower the cost of tuition and increase scholarship and grant options”

—Anonymous

“I left Sacramento State because I felt like I was being scammed. I had little to no help with getting courses. I was told by an advisor as an upper division transfer it would take me 5 years to complete my 30 units plus everything required of Sacramento state to graduate. Being forced to do the junior writing assessment was an absolute waste of my time as well. Being forced to take an extra class even though I transferred into the university with close to a 4.0 was a slap in the face after all the work I did. I hated the program I was in. My ... program was unnecessarily rigorous to the point I thought I had to quit my job at one point. Also when I transferred I was given 2 (program) classes max for my semester. Which means I took 3 upper division electives, by the time I finished I needed almost all (my program) classes

No balance. No help or advisory. I hated my experience and it left a sour taste in my mouth about education.

I liked a few of my professors from other departments but after getting into a highly competitive program I felt beyond disrespected and that I was paying someone to punish me. My professors didn't promote a fun learning environment. They gave so much work I was barely able to keep up and I am a high achieving student.

Since transferring (elsewhere) my education is better, my counselors are amazing, I have been aided into finishing and excelling in my degree. At Sacramento State all I had was negative answers and no motivation to help me finish and devise a plan.

Sacramento state university needs to reevaluate their counseling and requirements with the community College transfers. They don't have good ties with their requirements. I even transferred with the transfer for the CSU system and when I went to CSUS they were going back on their transfer agreement rules on certain classes. I felt robbed and taken for an idiot with every time I needed to contact the school. If I am going to spend tens of thousands of dollars every year then the quality and opportunities should be better. It lacked in every way possible which is sad because I had high hopes for this schooling and it was beyond disappointing.”

—I am a 24 year old female. I am a first generation Mexican living in Northern California and have gotten married since leaving Sacramento State University. I transferred to Sacramento State ... with the CC to CSU transfer degree in a junior standing. I am now a senior (elsewhere) finishing on December 1st. I studied abroad in Denmark for a year, I speak and write in Danish and English. I come from a family of highly educated Masters and Ph.D degrees.

“I loved my time at Sac State. I just couldn't continue with everything going on.

Someday I will return no matter how long or how old I am. :-)”

—Anonymous

“So what made me leave Sac State University is that there were no online classes available to me in what I needed to graduate. No housing was offered to me while I was homeless. I was not allowed to use my accommodations. I was treated differently than the younger students. The Clubs rejected me. I was not allowed to speak up in class because the younger students would be smarter than me and my answers would never be good enough. I was rejected by the students and everyone around me. Teachers would pick on me because I was poor. And out of all the younger students I was the only one to not get a non passing grade in the class.

The only way I plan on returning to Sac State University would be for me to be able to take online classes from home and the lecture would have to be available to me at all hours of the day and night. So I can attend the class online.

There is nothing that I want Sac State University to do for me to return to campus, because I don't ever want to return to campus. All I need Sac State University to do is provide all my classes to be performed online only and that is what Sac State University can do for me.”

—Anonymous

“I needed to leave college because of the pandemic. It became a financial burden on me and my husband. It was over priced and didn't enjoy doing online learning. I also didn't get financial help from anyone, so the prices for school were just too much to handle. I didn't want loans and didn't win any scholarships or grants when I applied through sac state.

For me to be able to come back the pricing of being a full time student would need to be lower. More affordable even a better payment plan, anything that can help to make it affordable and easier to pay off the debt.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Providing better help and guidance for financial aid, grants and services....”

— I am a 24 year old Mexican female. I'm married with no kids, and have an associates trying to get a bachelors one day.

“For the record, I didn't leave college. I'm currently pursuing a B.S. (elsewhere).

Under no circumstance is returning to Sacramento State an option.

By rejecting me twice for (a desired) Major, Sacramento State made it very clear that completing my education would occur at another school. I'm thankful to (the school attended now) for providing me the opportunity of a Degree that Sac State would not.”

— I find the demographic of age to be the most overlooked in the undergraduate college experience. For one reason or another, the reinvigorated decision of returning to college at more mature stage in life to obtain a Bachelor's degree can be forbidding. As a single male in his early 30's, I view the prospect of being a student attending on-campus classes impossible without profound amount of inadvertent student loan debt.

“I left college because I did not feel like I needed it. When I was attending I had no idea why I was there and what I even wanted from college. My goal has always been to pursue business and be an entrepreneur. In college I felt like I wasn't learning anything. I had two parents who were able to build incredible careers based on hard work alone. In school you have to work hard also so I figured why not work hard towards something else I want.

If I had no idea what I wanted to do, or wasn't on track, school would be a backup plan.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Nothing”

— Half asian, half mexican, hard working, ambitious, driven, strives for success, has great support system, parents who teach me

“I became a mom of twins in 2014/my last semester attending SacState. The main reason I couldn't keep attending school was that I don't drive on freeways, I used to ride with my sister while attending on campus but then my sister graduated and I had no one to ride with. Another important factor was the long driving distance and having to stay in school the entire day due to classes and traffic. As a mom, I can't stay away from home all day like I had to while attending on campus.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) To have them offer a complete online course access for student like me who live far away from SacSate campus, who aren't able to commute.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) To offer me all online classes so I can finish my degree. Completing my BA has always been my dream but unfortunately I won't be able to complete it unless I can do all my classes online.”

—42 years old, Hispanic, 2014, first generation college student, parent of 4 children, bilingual

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Personal hardship situation like financial, social & emotional.

I would like to get assistance in terms of which classes I should take so that I won't waste my time by taking unnecessary classes that would lengthen time to get diploma/degree. I have talked to so many counselors and advisors. I felt like I was thrown back & forth to different counselors/advisors and still not fully understood which way to go to achieve my goal of completing degree. I have already 107 units and I transferred to Sac State University. I have transferred all my transcripts from all colleges to Sac State.

I really wanted to come back and finish my degree that is why I applied and I am accepted but I didn't get one complete advisor that would help me all the way to finish my degree. It would be nice to stick with one advisor that would fully help student who is coming back and can finish without wasting time & money by taking unnecessary classes. It is time/money consuming situation. As it is already so late, it is not good to go to different advisors and explain the situation again and again & still not fully understood or reach to the point.”

—Anonymous

“I was burnt out. I was trying for (a program degree) for so long and even my perfect grades weren’t enough. I felt like needing to jump through a million hoops to even get into the program. When I was in school, once I did bad on one assignment I felt it would be a domino effect and started to give up. I felt like it was an A or nothing. I gave up so much of my free time, money and with no results it felt like. I decided to leave because I no longer wanted to pursue (that degree) but had trouble finding what it was I wanted to do.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Find something I’m passionate about enough to be willing to sacrifice my time and money. I see so many pursue degrees in which they can’t get jobs and get in tons of debt. They work in jobs that didn’t need degrees to begin with nor in their field. If I returned I’d do part-time and simply only to receive a degree but not necessarily pursue it. To simply have it as a back-up plan.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) I need a counseling appointment to see where I’m at and what I need to finish. Seek financial aid to help me pay for school as well as I’m paying it on my own.”

— First generation, child of immigrants, 25. Was in school for 6 years trying for (a degree) but struggling with the competitive aspects. Bilingual, full time worker and paying for school myself.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) I have always had major issues with staying in school since middle school, stemming mainly from depression and ADHD, so that doesn’t help this question much. Bottom line, I left because I could not keep my grades up. This inability to keep my grades up stemmed from working full time and classes not being very flexible in terms of due dates. Note, always had better much higher grades in online courses, which has their own level flexibility built in. Enjoying my job and not school combined with the start of COVID, it was an easy choice not to continue my education.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) More online courses...is a largest factor. This would allow me to still work while continuing my education. On a personal note, I started my own company recently, and as long as it continues to work out, I do not see any reason to return to finish my education.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Nothing at the moment.”

— White male, 28 years old, Married, No kids, 3 Generation College Educated, 5 years at Sierra College (part time <10 units), 2 years at CSUS

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) A combination of failing (a class) and just being in an easily discouraged mindset, and just feeling uninspired in general. The major I wanted...was also pretty impacted, so I felt kind of guilty about not being as committed as I should've been.

I am already returning for Fall. The main reason I am doing so is out of hope that being independent will alleviate how much of a burden I feel I am on my family, and I just want to make something of myself in general. After quitting college in 2015 and sort of oscillating between working retail and taking maybe one class at community college, I realized that wasn't going to lead to any sort of fulfillment.

One of my biggest fears is doing well in classes but still having difficulty finding gainful employment, so help with finding gainful employment would be nice. I have difficulty finding the courage to reach out to anyone, but I will make an effort to do so here.”

—28 years old male, half white and half Asian, having attended Sac State from Fall 2013 to Spring 2015 and then decided against going back in Fall 2015.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Cost

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) It would need to be cheaper

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Reduce costs”

— I'm 25, African and French, First generation

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Three big things:

- 1. Depression*
- 2. The value of my bachelors was not worth the stress, time, or tuition to study, fail, and repeat classes*
- 3. Not enough immediate value out of school with a degree. All of my friends are job searching and working service industry jobs*

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?)

- 1. Free tuition*
- 2. If my job demands a BS*

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?)

- 1. Lower tuition*
- 2. Make textbooks free/stop mandating new textbooks*
- 3. Make my degree more valuable for the job market”*

—24, Filipino/Ukrainian, Second generation American, Working class

“I had to go to school full time for it to be covered by a grant and that turned out to be impossible to balance with trying to work enough to pay rent. Rent wasn’t as much as it is now because was staying with my dad but had to move and now can barely make rent and feed myself working full time as it is. I also developed an eating disorder from stress so took a break and in that time life changes meant coming back was not doable. I also got a job in (my field) without finishing my degree in the subject so that also made me question the need for the degree.

Although my mental health is better I would need to be able to work part time or less to go to school full time. Id also need to still qualify for my grant which I don’t think I do. Classes are also never offered at good times, and online classes are often not offered for upper division classes. For example, if a class I need is at noon and another at five it’s hard to get a shift from one to four because most jobs don’t even let you pick shifts like that.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Just ways that are more understanding to people who have to support themselves on their own at a young age in a messed up economy. If attendance wasn’t mandatory all the time people who work could skip if they got an extra shift or not the one they wanted that would help. I’m good at just reading the material and if I don’t miss tests that was one thing I liked more at community college. Also having most classes have online versions would also help. I know that neither of those are good for profit and that’s what matters to universities but still.”

— I’m white, 21 years old, female, and lower middle class. I tested out of high school and went to community college to get an associates because of a lack of diploma. I liked community college a lot compared to high school and was flexible so I could work. My mom got a masters and does research and makes enough to live alright, my dad didn’t get anything but does skilled trade work. They are separated and neither can support me so started paying rent at 18 and moved out completely at 20.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Money. College was and is getting very expensive and almost impossible for a 17-20 year old to afford even with financial aid without getting into debt. Realizing you can’t afford financially and mentally to stay or be in college is what made me personally drop out

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) For college to be cheaper, college shouldn’t be so expensive if it’s for adults that are trying to better their education to in hope one day get a job in the future that are helpful to society.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Become cheaper, not be so expensive, and provide actual help from staff to students and not expect students to depend on other students by having to wait for others to make mistakes to learn from”

— I first entered college at 17 years old in 2021 I am a female first generation Mexican American, I left due to financial issues that were impossible to meet without facing huge debt

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Couldn't afford it and didn't want to face an impacted major that would mean it would take much longer (and cost even more) to finish a degree. Gained enough knowledge in community college to get a job in software engineering, though I am still being horrifically underpaid thanks to capitalism. Still don't know how I'll be able to afford student loans, which are unmercifully still not excused.

For me to be able to return to college, I would have to be getting paid enough at a job that was also flexible (ideally completely remote, with flexible hours), or have a company offer to help pay for college.

To want to return, I would want a guarantee that i will be able to take the classes I need to graduate. I would want some sort of financial aid or support in general because it's absurd that people are effectively penalized for going to school in this country when it's free in some parts of the world.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Guarantee spots in classes needed, lower prices for entry, support students financially and emotionally. In short: stop acting like a business.”

— Returning at ~30 after almost completing a bachelor's, left college the first time in 2012. I'm a first generation immigrant, coming with parents from Poland when I was 2 years old. I'm multilingual, still remembering much of the Spanish I learned in high school in NJ.

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) The cost of tuition and the hours

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Online courses, more flexible classes and schedules and a decrease in cost

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) More online options for working students who depend on their paycheck to survive”

—32 year old single adult

“i left college because of COVID . my financial needs were cut short and i couldn't afford to attend .

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) i would love for a finical aid person to stay in contact and on top of their game to make sure everyone is not stressed out about a bill or not knowing how to apply their grants.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) just be supportive :)”

—Anonymous

“I was unable to receive the support I needed to continue. I believe I am either two classes away from my degree, or already done. But I could not meet with an advisor on campus, due to living over an hour away, and I signed up for Zoom meetings multiple times, and was left in the ‘waiting room’ until it was too late and the call was never completed. I had professors who refused to abide by my required accommodations set by the Services for Students with Disabilities office. I also noticed that, once the in-person classes started up again after COVID was ‘over’, the university was back to only offering very limited online courses, even though students such as myself may need them in order to complete their degree. Overall, I have not been happy with the help and support I’ve been able to obtain with Sac State and feel that no one there really cares if I have the tools I need to succeed.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) I need to be able to meet with an advisor, not on campus, and figure out what classes are still required of me to complete before I can graduate.

I would need to ensure that I would be able to take those classes online, as I am currently working full time, and am unable to drive the hour+ to campus to attend an in-person course.

I would need help with the application fee for graduation, and I would need help obtaining my accommodations again.

I need someone in my corner who truly wants to help me, and I feel hopeless that I will actually find such help.

I need someone to reach out to me, via email or phone, to help me set up a meeting for academic advisement. My emails and calls and sign-ups for academic advisement have so far gone unnoticed and I am feeling like I’m at the end of my rope. I have been struggling through college for the past ten years, and to feel like I am unable to get the help I need in order to finish when I am so close to the finish line is very disheartening.”

—28 years old, Native American, senior, first generation college student, with neurodivergence and who requires academic accommodations

“I have some health issues because of the Weather change, so I’m not well enough to come back to college. I will join soon.”

—Anonymous

“I believed I was graduating but I was misled by the councilors so I thought I was leaving upon completion.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Not to be charged an outrageous amount to return to school, a better payment plan would be crucial as well.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Expedite my last class needed and assure me I won’t be misled again.”

— Hispanic, First generation, 30, senior year of college

“(What made you want or need to leave college?) Supporting families and unable to get in-person classes due to finance support.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) Be able to have a fully online class/zoom meeting that meets with my flexibility of work schedule.

(What can Sacramento State University do to help you to return to campus and complete your education?) Having an option for a fully online program for studying in the field who can't move to the area, meeting advisors to see how things are going and what we can support for people in their classes.”

— I am a 22-year-old Mexican-American, the first generation to attend college, I have been attending to sac state for one semester

“I got married to my husband back in 2019, got pregnant, mom got diagnosed with terminal cancer. I had familial duties that I needed to tend to that's why I left school. My focus was not there.

(What would need to happen for you to want to or be able to return to college?) I lost my mom. I regretted not finishing school within the 4 years so that she could see me finish. I really want to show my children, they can do it. My husband has his degree...and I really want to achieve this in my life.

I think I really need someone to keep me on track, check in with me every other week. I am a parent to 3 little children so I am always on a time crunch and I am currently working full time as well. The time is now and I think I just need extra support.”

— I am 25 years old, Hmong, a junior at CSUS, first gen student, and parents to 3 littles.

“I left college due to personal reasons. I was a transfer student so already a bit older than most of my peers and found it tough to make friends. But let's be fair, I didn't really care to make friends - finding most of them to have nothing in common with. I struggled with alcohol and drug abuse since I was a young teen and carried that with me well in to my mid-twenties. On top of that, I have dealt with chronic depression my whole life. By the time I made it to Sac State, I was alone with no friends to distract myself from how deeply sad I was. I was disassociating in class, often finding myself forgetting how I even got to campus. I left because I was hurting my GPA and hardly making it to class. I lost any real motivation for my life. I didn't think I would make it to my age now.

I am now 4-years sober. I have gone through extensive therapy. I've spent years working in the real world, I moved to San Francisco where I was making good money at what I was doing - though I was utterly miserable. Tired of working for people that I can't believe make more money than I do. And I finally found out something I am excited about - and finishing my degree will allow me to do just that.

I've already returned! Registered and enrolled for summer and fall :-)

— I am a 31 year old female of mixed race Japanese-Irish. My parents both have college degrees and education is regarded very highly in my family.

Students Who Leave College

Millions of students enroll in higher education in the nation each year. Some will complete their educational journeys, and some will not.

The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, in an annual series of reports the past decade, has tracked students entering college each year and their completion rates. The latest [“Completing College”](#) report summarizes: “The entire series of data reveals a single uncomfortable truth: that more than 1 in 3 students today, and in some cases closer to one in two, do not complete a credential within six years of starting college.” This makes “more than three times as many stopped out as there are enrolled at that point.” And even taking into consideration that some students take longer, including the eight year graduation rates for the cohort of students studied, “barely moves the needle...even though, for part-time students pursuing a bachelor’s degree, eight years might be considered a normal time to completion.” The report concludes: “The implications of this uncomfortable truth are numerous and reflected in the growing population of ‘Some College, No Credential’ adults.”

Those Who Leave College

The total number of people in the nation with some college but no completion of a credential or degree (SCNC) rose to 41.9 million, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center report, [“Some College, No Credential,”](#) for the most recent academic period studied. This includes the 2.3 million college students who stopped out of their studies in the year, an increase of almost 3% from the prior year.

When focusing on working age adults (18 to 65 years old), the number of Americans who left college is 36.8 million—close to 20% of the U.S. population in this age range. Nationally, for every 1,000 graduates, 2,156 Americans are in this SCNC population. And by state, California has the highest number by far, at 5.8 million SCNC individuals, 15.8% of the nation’s SCNC population.

Who They Are

Research over the years finds that students who stop out of college tend to be:

- First generation college students
- Students from lower-income families or backgrounds
- Male, although the past year saw slightly more female students who left higher education
- Students of color, especially Latinx, Black, Native American, and Pacific Islander
- Full-time workers
- Students who support themselves, contribute to their family’s finances, or who have families of their own to support
- Students with children
- Students with disabilities
- LGBTQ+ students
- Transfer students
- Current or former foster youth
- Students taking classes part-time
- Students who take a leave of absence or gap year from their schooling

What College Was Like for Them

A survey reported in [How America Completes College](#) delves into the experiences and mindset of college students who leave their studies alongside those who stay.

In comparison to students still working to complete college, students who left, termed “non-completers,” report:

Less encouragement to go to college from parents, other family members, teachers, a high school counselor or other staff member, a mentor or someone looked up to outside of the family, a non-affiliated college counselor, or an employer—and more non-completers reporting that no one encouraged them at all.

Less sense of support from teachers or professors or their family members during their time in college.

Less preparedness for college-level coursework, with more having to take remedial or developmental courses, less ease in staying on track with classes and going to class, and greater difficulty managing their course workload. More non-completers found their courses too hard and more had to withdraw from a course. They also reported less use of campus resources to help with academic challenges, as well as greater difficulty in getting in touch with their professors and less visiting their professors’ office hours—only half as many of these students!

Less ease in registering for classes and less interaction with an academic advisor.

More enrollment in only online courses and in hybrid classes, and less ease in managing these types of class modalities.

More difficulty in trying to support themselves and/or family while in school.

More difficulty in living away from home and greater homesickness.

More difficulty meeting new people, less feeling a sense of belonging on campus, and more feeling overwhelmed by the adjustment to college social life. Non-completers also reported less use of school resources to help adjust to college or meet other students and less attendance at on-campus activities.

More fear of physical safety while on campus.

More feeling a lack of racial, ethnic, or cultural diversity at the institution. Non-completers also report more experiences of discrimination or racism, and discrimination based on the student’s sexual or gender identity.

Lower confidence in their ability to graduate from college, and lower rating of their academic program and overall college experience.

The fact that they leave their college studies is especially heartbreaking given that most believe that college is an investment in their future (83%), a privileged experience (77%), and will lead to a better job (76%) and even their dream job (75%), and help them to earn more money (80%), and that a college degree opens up more opportunities to them (80%).

When They Leave

According to that same survey, [How America Completes College](#), these former students reported leaving college:

- During or after the first semester—9%
- During or after the first year—26%
- During or after the second year—34%
- During or after the third year—16%
- During or after the fourth year or more—6%
- Just before graduating (less than one year or one semester short of graduating)—8%

Why They Leave

Some of the top reasons reported for leaving college by non-completers in that survey were:

- Change in financial situation—26%
- The cost overall—25%
- Mental health issues—22%
- Loss of motivation or change in focus—21%
- Poor academic performance—15%
- Traumatic personal event—15%
- Change in family situation (marriage, birth of baby, divorce, death)—14%
- Unable to balance school and work—13%
- Physical health issues—11%
- Did not feel college was worth continuing—11%
- Courses too difficult—10%

What Would Have Helped Them to Stay

When asked which of any of the following services or support would have helped them to remain in college, here is how they responded:

- Additional financial resources—41%
- More mental health resources or support—20%
- Better/more flexible class scheduling—20%
- Online hybrid classes—19%
- Additional academic resources—19%
- Additional employment resources—18%
- Friends and social organizations—18%
- Additional support from professors—16%
- Additional support from academic or career advisors—14%
- Extracurricular activities—14%
- Better commute or transportation support—10%
- More representation of people like them—9%

When They Might Come Back

When asked about their intentions to return to college, these former students reported:

- Definitely, in the next year—31%
- Definitely, in the next five years—14%
- Definitely, at some point—27%
- Maybe, in the future—25%
- No, not planning to return—3%

The Risks of Stopping Out

A student may discontinue college for any number of significant reasons, especially in the wake of a global pandemic, some continuing economic uncertainty, and mental health epidemic, and all of this in addition to the problems long associated with college enrollment, including cost, time, and competing work and/or family responsibilities.

Yet once a student stops-out, they are statistically less likely to come back to college. And research tells us that when students don't complete their college education, they stand to lose so much. Achievement of a college degree means more career paths and promotions available, greater likelihood of financial prosperity and security, and better health and quality of life for themselves, their families, and their generations to come.

And we, too, have much to lose. The nation needs its most educated workforce to maintain its standing in the world economy and for its judicial, political, healthcare, and education systems, and other important sectors of society. College graduates also contribute more to their communities, economically and in terms of volunteerism and participation in civic life. And we, as an institution, need our fullest, most diverse student body for the betterment of all our campus experiences, learning, and scholarship.

This Project—and Our Work

“40 million Americans started college and then stopped. That means too much in higher ed doesn't work for too many people, both experts and average citizens agree,” the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) has noted.

“We have a college completion crisis in America. Higher education is supposed to serve as an engine of social mobility, but (when) just over half of students who start a postsecondary degree finish, it's clear the system isn't working for everyone,” the [College Completion Fund](#) has warned.

The number of students who leave college has been called “higher education's dirty little secret, a dereliction of duty,” by Goldman School of Public Policy of UC Berkely expert David L. Kirp, author of *The College Dropout Scandal*—making the case five years ago, when the number was much lower than it is now.

This project, *Listening to Students Who Ever Thought About Leaving College or Did Leave College and Came Back*, has been the unfolding of survey responses from students on this campus this past year and into this academic year, centering on the different factors in their difficulty in enrollment and consideration of leaving or actually leaving—and what gets them to stay or come back. Each section of the project has focused on one key aspect of keeping students on-track and successful in college life through to completion.

This last section, in contrast to all of the past sections, has focused on the students who have left their college studies, who have left our University.

We have much to learn and be reminded of by them of how to serve better the students who are here and the need to do more to cherish each one, every step of the way, through to college completion—and to welcome back those who do return to their higher education.

Conclusion

As those who work at an institution of higher education, we have one of the most impactful of jobs! The students who come to us are here on the path to a college degree that will transform their lives and the lives of their families now and to come, and make our communities and country better and stronger. And each of us in our campus roles contributes in countless different ways to our students' college experience and outcomes, including their degree of college success and ability and decision to stay through to graduation.

Yet each year far too many students across the nation leave higher education without a degree—and in so many cases worse off for it in terms of the expenditure of money, time, and energy, and, potentially, costs to self-concept and self-esteem, loss of friendships and college life, and sense of unfulfilled potential or dreams.

This makes it incumbent upon our institution, upon us, to do more, to do better, to try ever harder to support our students in their journey through higher education to degree achievement. In as much as we are doing now, *we need to do more.*

For more perspectives from students and information and suggestions for increased student retention and success in college, please see the other sections of this work, “Listening to Students Who Thought About Leaving College or Left and Came Back:”

- [“Part 1: The Pivotal First Year in College”](#)
- [“Part 2: The Need for Belonging”](#)
- [“Part 3: The Need to Do Well and Feel Confident in Coursework”](#)
- [“Part 4: The Need to Manage Stress and Cope with Struggles”](#)
- [“Part 5: The Need to Manage Costs and Financial Pressures”](#)
- [“Part 6: The Need to Finish Each Semester as Strongly as Possible”](#)
- [“Part 7: The Need to Return”](#)
- [“Part 8: The Need to Be Engaged in Learning”](#)
- [“Part 9: The Need for Greater Mental Health”](#)
- [“Part 10: The Need for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice”](#)
- [“Part 11: The Need to Find One’s Path”](#)
- [“Part 12: The Need to Graduate”](#)
- [“Part 13: The Need to Continue”](#)
- [“Part 14: The Need for Support and Services”](#)

This work is part of the larger [Listening to Students](#) project done at this institution.

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