



Department Role in Student Success at CU Boulder

Given the central role of Departments in determining faculty rewards, status and resources, it seems logical that any effort to improve the educational success of undergraduate must involve and directly impact departments.

Defining student success. We have a number of metrics we use to assess student success. What else should we look at?

- Expanded viewpoints and intellectual and personal growth; feeling prepared for the next step in life and career
- Critical thinking and independent decision-making skills; viewing oneself as a problem solver; having a sense of ownership and self-attribution of their education's form, progress and trajectory
- Specific achievements and products that demonstrate skills, proficiencies and "awesomeness"
- Financial stability with minimal debt, but ready for the workforce.

What can departments do to influence success? Campus conversations identified several areas of where departments could support success, including:

- **Curriculum design:** Insist on well-designed and executed learning experiences that require authentic professional development of teachers
- **Diversity:** Build in a focused approach with students from different backgrounds, ensuring that course requirements don't auto-eliminate students
- **Culture:** Create student agency with opportunities for self-reflection about being a learner, real-world relevance, service learning, trans-disciplinary learning, and evidence-based reasoning with others

White Papers submitted to Academic Futures in this area

- *Rethinking Departmental Rewards*
(Klymkowsky)
- *Addressing the growing needs of first-year students* (Oliveras et al)

