

SECTION 21H

H. PERSISTING IN COLLEGE

The Coach plays a critical role in helping young people persist in college, from enrollment through graduation. See [Appendix G16. College Persistence Checklist](#).

PREPARING FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER

Once a student is enrolled in college and applied to all forms of funding, the Goal becomes: "[Prepare for and Complete College Semester](#)."

To complete this goal, the Coach should follow the **Required Steps** to ensure that the student:

- ☐ Ensure student has food, transportation, and basic minimum living expenses before stipends/financial aid comes in
- ☐ Check in with young person before AND after first day of the semester to debrief on experience
- ☐ Ensure student has a plan to purchase books
- ☐ Check student's financial aid balance after the first week of school to ensure there is nothing owed and no holds; *follow up with Bursar/Financial Aid office if needed*
- ☐ Ensure student understands how to use college systems (e.g., Blackboard, college student account, etc.)
- ☐ Ensure student's address is correct in the college system
- ☐ Ensure student understands consequences of attendance policies (e.g., after two missed classes a grade drops)
- ☐ Walk through all syllabi with student and put assignment due dates in calendar (*time management is a critical skill for success*)
- ☐ Check in with young person before "withdraw" period is over
 - ☐ If they need to withdraw from any classes, see Advisor. If failing a class is inevitable, it is usually better to receive a "W" than to get a failing grade, which can more significantly affect financial aid, scholarships, etc. See [Appendix G17. How to Properly Withdraw from College Classes](#)
- ☐ Check in with young person during mid-terms (*a highly stressful time*)
- ☐ Provide emotional support to student; check-in on them weekly
- ☐ Check in with young person during finals (*another stressful juncture*)

**All of these Required Steps are based on best practices and align with critical junctures where young people tend to become discouraged/overwhelmed and drop-out.*

Potential Steps to help students persist and/or improve their GPA include:

- ☐ If the student attends a SUNY community college, ensure that they submit a certificate of residence once per year.
- ☐ Attend any orientation
- ☐ If student is enrolled in an Opportunity Program, ensure student attends any mandatory summer programs if needed
- ☐ Assist student with accessing mental health supports and/or peer group supports to emotionally prepare for college
- ☐ Visit college to get familiar with campus
- ☐ Apply to ASAP program if in CUNY (and if not already enrolled in Opportunity Program)
- ☐ Create study plan
- ☐ Connect young person to tutoring (most colleges have a tutoring center and some agencies have college tutors)
- ☐ If a student wants to withdraw from classes or drop out completely: discuss pros/cons, financial implications, and meet with an advisor. See [Appendix G17. How to Properly Withdraw from College Classes](#)
- ☐ Check in with college counselor as needed
- ☐ Connect youth with campus Disability Services office
- ☐ Enroll in work-study
- ☐ Celebrate finishing with 2.0 or higher GPA

Any student who had an IEP or 504 Plan in high school should be referred to the campus Disability Office.

Students can receive additional time to take tests or other needed supports, which can make a big difference in academic performance. As students can feel self-conscious entering the office and discussing their disabilities, the Coach or College Specialist should offer to accompany the student.

AFTER EACH SEMESTER

if the student wants to continue in college the Goal becomes "[Re-enroll in another semester of college](#)".

Required Steps include:

- ☐ Ensure student's grades are submitted to all scholarship providers and/or ETV upon completion of last semester (so that they continue to receive funding)
- ☐ Check student account to ensure there is no outstanding balance and no holds on the student account
- ☐ Apply to classes
- ☐ Submit class schedule to scholarship provider and/or ETV

ONCE RE-ENROLLED

The academic goal becomes: "[Prepare for and Complete College Semester with 2.0+](#)" until the student graduates.

See all associated steps in [Appendix E: Goals & Steps Guide and Worksheets](#)

EACH SEMESTER

Coaches should select the Goal "[Reapply to all sources of financial aid](#)" and check with the College Specialist to ensure that all financial aid (FAFSA & NYS TAP), ETV, and scholarships are reapplied to.

See [Appendix G16 College Persistence Checklist](#)

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