

Fair Futures College Persistence: Looking Ahead to Next Semester

At the Table
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At the Table



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Refer students for Fall 2021!

<http://www.atthetable.org/for-students>

(Students should fill out the interest form themselves)

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[@atthetablenyc](https://twitter.com/atthetablenyc)

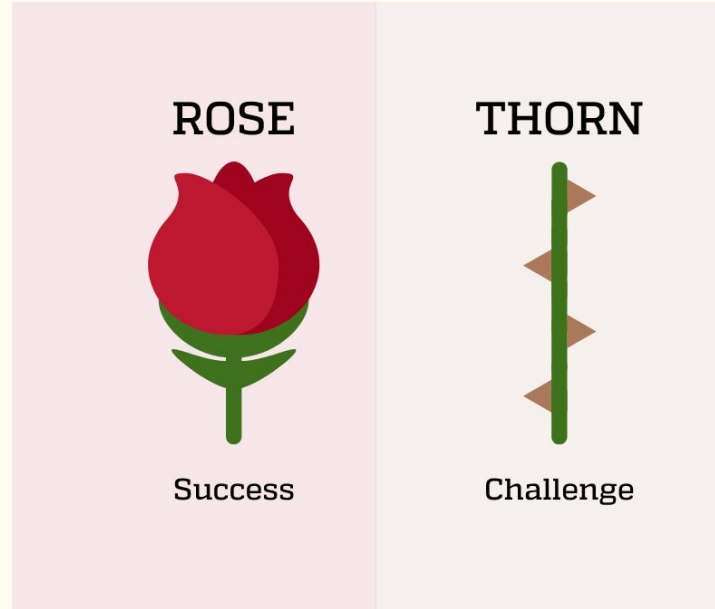
Agenda

1. Chat: Rose and Thorn from the Semester
2. College Must-Dos
 - a. COVID Update
 - b. Financial Aid Updates
 - c. Registration
3. Current Students: Wrapping up Spring 2021
 - a. Grades, Transcripts, & Incompletes
 - b. Summer Registration
 - c. Appeals
 - d. Resolving Holds
4. Incoming Students: Preparing for Fall 2021
 - a. Support Programs
 - b. Getting Ready for Class
 - c. Withdrawing from a Class
5. Panel with Current College Students!

In the Chat:

What is your rose and thorn for this semester?

(Rose is a success or something good; thorn is a challenge or something you struggled with.)



College Must-Dos

Agenda

- COVID Update
- Financial Aid Updates
- Registration

COVID Update

1. CUNY (and many other colleges) is **requiring** students to be vaccinated for in person classes
 - a. New York State vaccine finder:
<https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/Public/prescreener>
 - b. Vaccination sites at CUNY schools including: City College, Lehman College, York College, Medgar Evers College and Queensborough Community College
 - c. Remote classes will still be offered
 - d. For more information: <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/>

College Must-Dos

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- COVID Update
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Financial Aid Updates

1. ETV (Education and Training Voucher)
 - a. **Every eligible student should apply, even if there is no pressing need for aid!**
 - b. Eligibility: students must first complete FAFSA; students must be in care, left care after they turned 16, or left care to guardianship after they turned 14
 - i. **Students also must have been awarded ETV for the first time before they turned 21.**
 - c. Has now been expanded to age 26 (used to be 23) for one year AND award amounts increased to up to \$12,000.
 - d. Fair Futures guide: <https://resources.fairfuturesny.org/AppendixG10>.
2. Verification
 - a. **Some current students may have a balance as a result of missing verification documents! It's not too late to submit these.**
 - b. Since students in care are considered independent, they need to submit two or three verification documents to the college in order for financial aid to come through.
 - i. Independent Student Verification Worksheet
 - ii. IRS non-filing letter
 - iii. Foster care letter indicating dates of placement (sometimes)

College Must-Dos

Agenda

- ~~COVID Update~~
- ~~Financial Aid Updates~~
- Registration

Registration

1. Fall (and Summer!) Registration is **OPEN** at all CUNY schools
 - a. Students need 12 credits or credit equivalents to count as full-time
 - i. Zero-credit remedial classes count as “credit equivalents” for full-time
 - b. Students need to average 15 credits/semester to graduate on-time
 - c. Complete EARLY to ensure the student is enrolled for the classes they need/want at their preferred time
 - d. Review DegreeWorks to make sure every course contributes to graduation
 - i. Remedial classes may be necessary for higher level classes
 - e. ALWAYS look profs up on RateMyProfessors before choosing a course
2. Connect with an academic advisor to confirm your schedule

Discussion: What is on your end-of-semester checklist for each college student you work with?

Current Students: Wrapping up Spring 2021

Agenda

- Grades, Transcripts, & Incompletes
- Appeals
- Summer Registration
- Resolving Holds

Grades, Transcripts, & Incompletes

1. CUNY's deadline to turn in grades for Spring 2021 is 5/28
2. Important to review each student's transcript (and/or Degreeworks!) with them
3. Transcript will tell you:
 - a. How many credits the student earned / their progress toward graduation
 - b. Your student's semester and overall GPA
 - c. Whether any **appeals** need to be submitted
 - d. Whether your student has any incomplete grades - work from these classes will need to be submitted by the deadline or the grade will turn into an "F"

Current Students: Wrapping up Spring 2021

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Appeals

1. Dismissal
 - a. A student is typically dismissed if their GPA falls below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters
 - b. Check school's website for the deadline, but don't wait until the last day to submit
2. WU (Unofficial Withdrawal) and F Grade
 - a. A WU grade is given if the student stopped attending class and is equivalent to an F.
 - b. An appeal, if accepted, would change it to a W
 - c. Deadline for CUNY Schools: end of Fall 2021, but better to do ASAP
3. Financial Aid Appeal
 - a. If a student is not meeting SAP, they can lose financial aid

Current Students: Wrapping up Spring 2021

Agenda

- ~~Grades, Transcripts, & Incompletes~~
- ~~Appeals~~
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Summer Registration

- a. Ways to pay for summer classes
 - i. Pell Grants
 1. Pell can be used for summer classes! Students use their Pell eligibility, though.
 2. Students are eligible for up to 12 semesters of Pell grants if an undergrad and a US citizen
 - ii. ETV
 - iii. FYCSI
- b. When to register for summer classes - EARLY
- c. Considerations when taking summer classes
 - i. More fast-paced

Discussion: What are some reasons that students can end up with holds or balances on their student account?

Current Students: Wrapping up Spring 2021

Agenda

- ~~Grades, Transcripts, & Incompletes~~
- ~~Appeals~~
- ~~Summer Registration~~
- Resolving Holds

Resolving Holds

1. Bursar Hold
 - a. Results from a **past-due balance** on the student's account
 - b. Possible causes of holds - **what are they?**
 - i. Financial aid didn't come in (verification issue or incomplete application)
 - ii. Had to return financial aid funds due to withdrawal
 - iii. Not enough aid to cover tuition (and room+board if applicable)
 - iv. Student incurred a small fine (i.e. for a library book)
 - c. Will delay registration and **may go to collections**
 - d. Steps for resolving holds:
 - i. Resolve any financial aid application/verification issues
 - ii. Apply for additional/emergency funds (ETV, FYCSI, NYFC)
 - iii. Ensure that the bursar is aware that the money is coming!
2. Academic Advisement Hold
 - a. Most common when students are in support programs like ASAP
 - b. May delay registration
 - c. Student should see adviser
3. Are there other holds you've seen for your students?
 - a. Not all holds delay registration!

End of Semester Checklist

1. Transcript review and academic planning
 - a. How did the student do? How do they feel about their progress?
 - b. Are they in good standing or on academic probation?
 - c. Do we need to submit any appeals?
 - i. Grade appeals?
 - ii. Dismissal appeals?
 - iii. Financial aid appeals?
 - d. Do they want to add summer classes?
 - e. Are they fully registered for next semester?
2. Review student account
 - a. Are there any holds?
 - b. Is there a past-due balance? Do they need additional/emergency funds?
 - c. Are all financial aid sources/scholarships renewed for next semester/next year?

Some additional items here: <https://resources.fairfuturesny.org/AppendixG16>

Incoming Students: Preparing for Fall 2021

Agenda

- Support Programs
- Getting Ready for Class
- Withdrawing from a Class

Support Programs

1. CUNY Start & Summer Math Start
 - a. Benefits: helps students place out of remedial classes
 - b. Eligibility: students must be enrolled at certain campuses; low tuition for all students and zero tuition for youth in care
2. FYCSI program (Foster Youth College Success Initiative)
 - a. Eligibility: students must be enrolled in a CUNY, SUNY, or private school with HEOP and must have been in foster care or an orphan after 13.
 - b. At SUNY, typically just gives a standard amount of additional funding, but at CUNY, includes stipend, tuition + housing funds, connection with SW interns.
 - c. Requires self-identification
 - d. Further information:
<http://www.nysed.gov/postsecondary-services/foster-youth-college-success-initiative>
 - e. Students can apply using this form:
<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/ocfs-3165-foster-youth-college-success-programpro-6.2.2020.pdf>

Incoming Students: Preparing for Fall 2021

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Support Programs

1. ASAP
 - a. Benefits: gap tuition assistance; tuition assistance for winter and summer classes; textbook assistance; dedicated advisor; cohort model; special registration for classes open only to ASAP students; unlimited MetroCard
 - b. Eligibility: students must have 15 or fewer credits, have at least a 2.0, enroll in an ASAP-approved major and campus, and have no more than 2 remedial needs
2. SEEK/CD
 - a. Benefits: financial assistance for transportation and books; additional semesters of TAP funds
 - b. Eligibility: Be a first time freshman, unless transferring from SEEK, HEOP, or EOP
3. Fair Futures Guide to Opportunity Programs found here:
<https://resources.fairfuturesny.org/AppendixG8>

Incoming Students: Preparing for Fall 2021

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- ~~Support Programs~~
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Getting Ready for Class

1. How to access online course materials / navigate Blackboard
 - a. Blackboard houses assignments, professor contact info, grades, and can be used to submit work (depending on the professor)
 - b. Especially important for remote classes
2. Where to find the syllabus and what it tells you!
 - a. Syllabus is typically available on Blackboard!
 - b. Contains key information including:
 - i. Textbook and supplies needed for a course
 - ii. Material the course will cover
 - iii. Attendance and late work policy
 - iv. How the course is graded!
 - v. Schedule of key assignments and exams (sometimes)
 - c. Reviewing the syllabus tells students **what they need to do in order to pass the class.**
3. How to get books
 - a. Book check (frequently late for first time students!)
 - b. Support programs
 - c. College bookstore, Amazon, school library, etc.

Discussion: What do you do if a student does not have the books they need for their classes, and the book check has not yet arrived?

Incoming Students: Preparing for Fall 2021

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Withdrawing from a Class

Students should know how this works before they start classes! If students know they will miss a significant amount of class time, they should communicate with their professors in advance.

1. A **WN grade** is given if the student never attended class and can be reversed by the professor if the student contacts them **right away**; it does not have a negative impact on student's GPA.
2. A **WU grade** is given if the student stopped attending class and is equivalent to an F.
3. A **W grade** is an official withdrawal and is not counted towards GPA.
 - a. Students should only officially withdraw from class if they are failing and have talked with the professor about their options, or if they have a personal crisis that will stop them from being able to pass.
 - b. Sometimes students can get an incomplete instead of withdrawing due to health/personal crisis!
4. Students are responsible for a prorated portion of their tuition if they withdraw before the 60% mark of the semester (including if they get a WN); withdrawing after 60% of the semester is completed, but before the deadline, means that students will not be held responsible for paying back any financial aid.
5. Fair Futures Guide to Withdrawing from a Class found here:
<https://resources.fairfuturesny.org/AppendixG17>

Student Panel

Michelle Ortiz, Nassau Community College

McKeema Wallace, Bronx Community College

Gianni Cuevas, LaGuardia Community College