# The Positive ROI of Graduate Outcomes Data

Your Roadmap to Institutional Success

Steppingblocks



### Meet Your Session Hosts

From the Steppingblocks
Student Success team



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#### 4 Key Drivers of a Positive ROI

01

Improved
Time to
Degree

Plus better retention and graduation rates

02

Higher Enrollment Numbers

Leading to additional tuition and fee revenues

03

Greater Alumni Giving

Encourage donations with better campaigns 04

Better Employer Partnerships

With historical hiring trends and skills data

#### **The Data-Driven Roadmap**

## Funding sources require outcomes data

### Expectations and incentives for institutions of higher education to improve student outcomes

- Additional funding sources based on student success outcomes or addressing barriers to success. Metrics include equity, completion, transfer rates, credit hours earned and post-graduation success
- Performance-based funding: State policies vary by type of institution, the percentage of funding that states allocate based on performance and outcome metrics
- Grants/Donors: Specific goals and outcomes based on the mission of the organization



# 1. Improved Time to Degree

Time to degree is an important indicator of student success. What causes lag?

- Institutional transfers
- Poor academic planning
- Changing a major
- Enrolling in courses that don't count toward a degree



The average length of enrollment for bachelor's degree earners from four-year public institutions is 5.2 academic years.

Poor time to degree metrics ultimately penalize students

What are the negative implications for students if time to degree isn't improved?

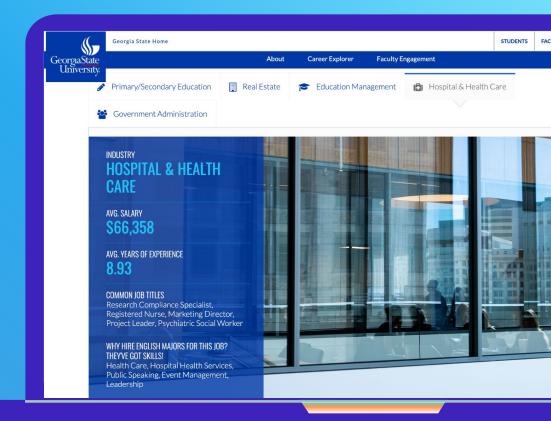
- Excessive credit, leading to financial implications for students
- Insufficient financial resources causes stop outs and part-time enrollment
- Student debt increases
- Earnings are forgone



How do you improve time to

degree?

- Promote benefits of earning a degree from your institution
- Offer course selection resources that align with real career paths informed by graduate outcomes data
- Introduce career paths early on to help students select a major, plan their coursework and stay on track
- Deliver personalized support to students at scale



Retain dollars and resources when

you retain students

- For every one percent GSU improves its retention rate, it's worth about \$3.3 million per year in additional tuition and fee revenues
- Get the house in order and leadership on the same page by leading with program-based evidence of where degrees are doing well and where they aren't
- Display and distribute outcomes data and give that information to current students immediately



### 2. Higher Enrollment Numbers

Increase prospect conversions by providing immediate, transparent value related to programs

- Connect your public program and major-specific pages to data-driven career resources to drive interest and conversions
- Collect contact information and deliver relevant promotions to encourage enrollment
- Appeal to parents



## 3. Greater Alumni Engagement & Giving

### **Encourage donations and community** with targeted campaigns

- Structure every campaign around a targeted alumni group and their professional, regional or cultural identities
- Support with segmentation:
  - Establish an industry-based affinity group in a particular region
  - Identify high-earners by gender at specific companies who match donations



### 4. Better Employer Partnerships

#### Understand hiring trends at the institutional level

- Analyze the supply and demand of skills from your university by company to close gaps by program
- Understand employers hiring fewer of your grads to strengthen relationships and long-term outcomes
- Identify and engage with alumni at target companies



#### Thanks!

Do you have any questions for us?

#### **Keep in touch!**

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Steppingblocks (2021). StepEx21 User Conference. https://resources.steppingblocks.com/stepex21



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