Retention research and nationwide trends present overwhelming evidence that students’ experiences during their first year of college largely determine their academic success in subsequent years - and, in fact, the likelihood of their remaining in school to complete their degrees.

To help colleges and universities in their efforts to retain and support their freshman students, this new book provides comprehensive guidelines for developing strategies, programs, and services that will foster students’ educational progress and adjustment during the pivotal first year of college. It shows how to create environments that will help students fulfill academic and personal goals, choose careers, strengthen personal identities, and so set the stage for continued academic success.

The Freshman Year Experience identifies the factors vital to freshman success and details how institutions can maximize students’ progress and retention through orientation, academic advising, mentoring, counseling, health and wellness programs, residence halls, and more. The book offers strategies for developing and implementing each critical program, service, or intervention and explains how it meets the special needs of today’s freshmen.

The authors detail how to launch and run effective freshman seminars to ensure a successful first year. They show how to gain campus support for a seminar, review the content and administration of the course, and outline how to select as well as prepare faculty and staff to teach it. The book demonstrates how affirmative action programs, off-campus support groups, and mentor programs can meet the particular needs of such freshman populations as Hispanics, blacks, women, commuters, disabled students, and others. And it offers practical guidelines for coordinating the efforts of faculty, administrators, student affairs professionals, and students to ensure the success of freshman programs and services and the institution as a whole.
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