

2007 Survey on Retention Best Practices Executive Summary

The Committee on Retention Efforts (CORE) asked EIU department chairs to complete a survey on the best practices in their departments that contribute to the retention of their majors. Chairs were asked to determine the best practices in their departments, identify the targeted population, and explain why they believe it is a best practice. As of December 2007, 17 departments had responded.

Chairs were also asked to identify any efforts specifically targeted toward transfer students. Of the 17 respondents, 4 indicated that their departments had specific efforts aimed at transfer students.

Because of the open-ended nature of the questions, results varied widely. Responses have been categorized and are summarized below; percentages are based on the number of respondents, not the number of departments at the University.

- 59% (10) student relationships with faculty
- 41% (7) departmental student organizations (honoraries, clubs)
- 18% (3) academic events (lectures, field trips)
- 18% (3) research opportunities
- 12% (2) scholarships
- 12% (2) academic advising
- 12% (2) departmental social events (picnics, cookouts)

Other activities/practices mentioned by department chairs include sending welcome letters to students, giving students mailboxes in the department, structured course sequencing, course availability, and offering career services.

