

Public Abstract

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Title:Understanding the reacculturation experiences of first-generation, undecided students

Little research has been conducted to learn about the experiences of first-generation students who are undecided with their academic major. These students typically have a lower retention rate than students who have parents with college degrees as well as students who have entered college knowing their academic study of interest. Using Bruffee's reacculturation process as a framework to shape the study, the researcher interviewed first-generation, undecided students along with other qualitative data collection methods. Findings revealed heightened feelings of stress, desire to become comfortable on campus, reliance upon continuing-generation friends, helpfulness of specialized first-year seminar course, and an uncertainty towards advisors' roles. Based upon research findings and framework, recommendations for practice are shared, which should prove helpful to advisors and administrators to glean insight into improved campus support.