

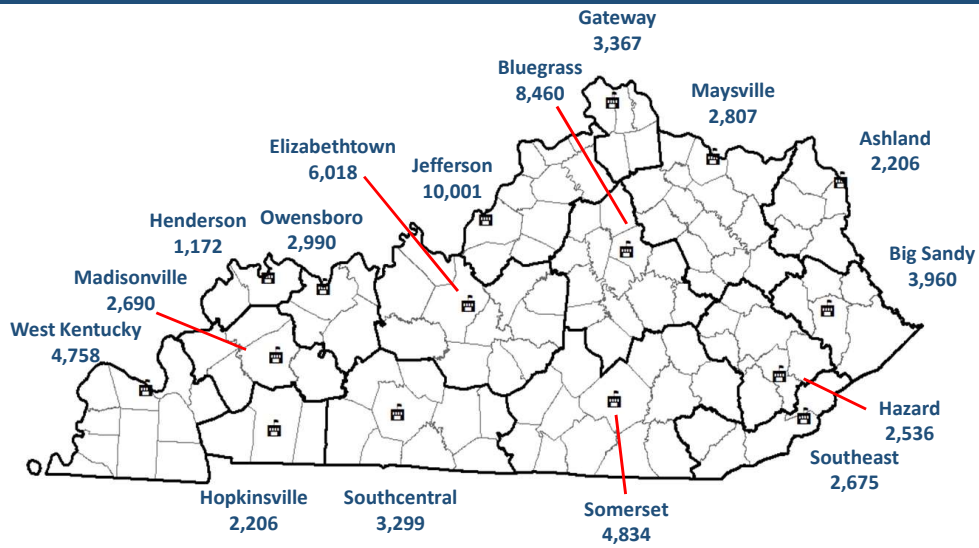
Nonacademic Barriers Facing Kentucky Community And Technical College Students



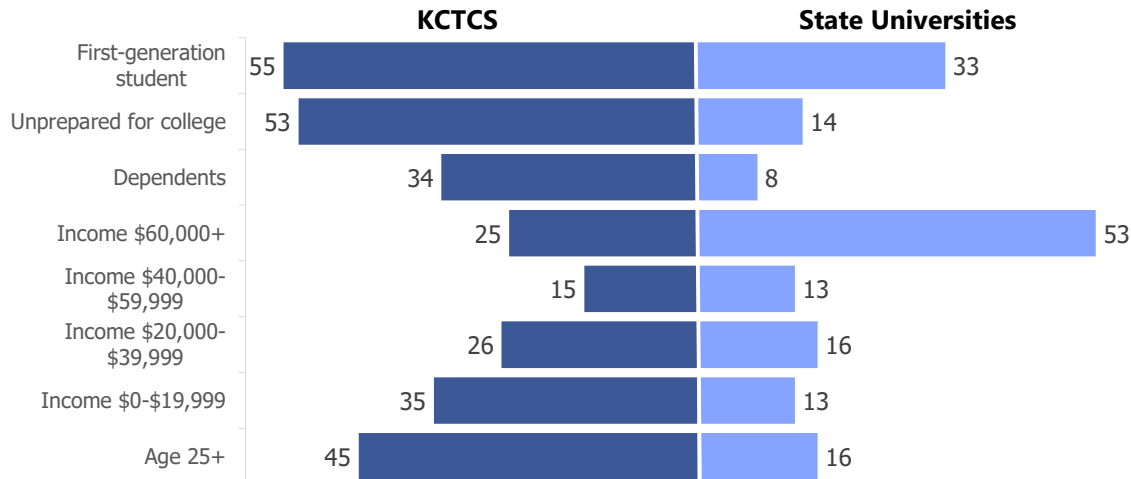
Legislative Oversight and Investigations Committee

September 16, 2021

KCTCS



Percentage of KCTCS Students VS State University Students 2016-2017



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Barriers to College Success



- Academic Barrier: Occurs when students are not academically prepared for college.
- Nonacademic Barrier: Occurs when students face obstacles to academic success that are not directly related to academic proficiency.
- This report focuses on nonacademic barriers at KCTCS colleges.

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Nonacademic Barriers

1. Inability to navigate college
2. Financial instability
3. Competing time constraints
4. Personal health issues
5. Disengagement

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Prevalence of Nonacademic Barriers

- No reliable data on the prevalence of barriers at individual colleges.
- No way to track the prevalence of barriers over time.

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Proxy Measure for Nonacademic Barriers

- Financial instability
 - Housing insecurity
 - Food insecurity
 - Child care
 - Lack of transportation
- Personal health issues
- Inability to navigate college
- Competing time constraints
- Disengagement

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Recommendation 1

The KCTCS System Office and colleges should develop methods to determine the prevalence of specific nonacademic barriers at each college and track the prevalence of such barriers over time.

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KCTCS Program Data

- 142 nonacademic programs reported
- Most commonly targeted barriers:
 - Financial instability
 - Inability to navigate college
- Most common type of program: Advising
- Measures of program success:
 - 50 percent usage
 - 40 percent retention
 - 30 percent attainment

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Findings from Data Analysis

- Difficulty identifying and categorizing non-academic programs
- Variation in reported number of programs, types of barriers targeted, and the services provided
- Different methods for measuring program success
 - Usage vs Retention vs Attainment

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Recommendation 2

The KCTCS System Office and colleges should develop more accurate measures of nonacademic program success that focus on determining whether a program decreases the prevalence of the problem it was designed to address.

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Recommendation 3

The KCTCS System Office should study the relationship between programs that decrease nonacademic barriers, student success, and retention. Results should be shared with the colleges so they can improve existing programs and more effectively implement future programs.

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KCTCS Report

- Addresses all three LOIC recommendations.
- Focus on data collection and analysis.
- Plan in place to continue analyses and improvement.
- Included in its evaluation program success an analysis of how well a program addresses non-academic barrier categories.

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KCTCS Report

- The program KCTCS selected for analysis was an ideal choice because it is common among all colleges and is data driven.
- The success of other programs may prove more difficult to measure because few are as ubiquitous or data driven as the program chosen for the pilot study.

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