The *SuccessNavigator®* assessment in action

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Nick Wagner, Director of Institutional Research at Saginaw Valley State University, chairs an early intervention task force that reports to the Executive Student Success Committee and the Office of the Provost.

Challenges facing today's students

While Wagner believes that unpreparedness is a significant factor, he also recognizes costs and difficulty acclimating to and navigating a college environment, primarily in the first year, as other obstacles to success.

"We know even the best and brightest students can face challenges, so we wanted to make sure we had the ability to identify other indicators that pair with academic preparation," says Wagner.

How the *SuccessNavigator®* assessment helps students succeed

"The *SuccessNavigator®* assessment provides a way to get early feedback on how students are doing in totality when they start at an institution. The reports include not just grade indicators or academic performance, but also reveal any social limitations or challenges students face surrounding their confidence or perception of fitting in."

"The assessment continues to be reliable and valid in terms of identifying at-risk students, and the platform provides an easy way to access the data."

The real-life benefits of the *SuccessNavigator* assessment

Wagner highlights some of the benefits of the assessment and how it supports student success:

"We frame our work at the institution around student success initiatives, and we strictly rely on the *SuccessNavigator* assessment to identify at-risk students within the first three to four weeks of the semester. The assessment continues to be reliable and valid in terms of identifying at-risk students, and the platform provides an easy way to access the data. The results have been excellent as we have a documented process in place.

"My favorite features are the academic success index and retention index scores as they allow for quick and easy access to some important indicators for identifying those most at risk."

Wagner describes the customer service staff: "Absolutely a fantastic team. They are always responsive, generally within a few hours I hear something back, and they are super easy to work with. We were one of the first schools to implement the assessment through our Learning Management System and it went seamlessly when working with their IT team and all who made it possible when coordinating."

He recommends the *SuccessNavigator* assessment, saying, "It's easy to distribute, easy to use, data is reported in a variety of ways and Advisor Reports are useful when communicating strengths and weaknesses to students."
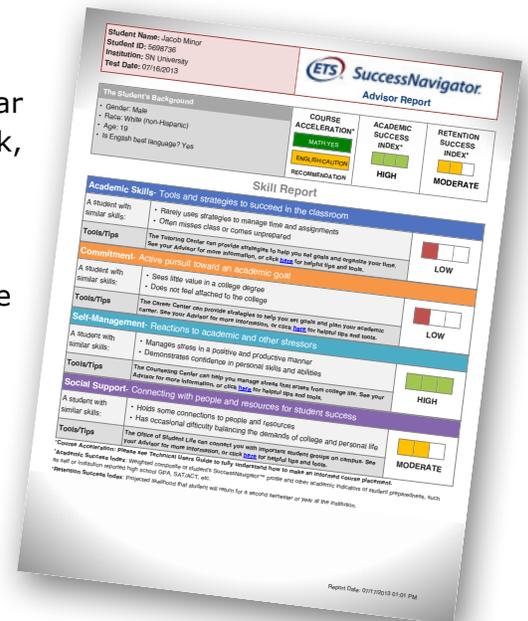
Improve student retention and completion rates as early as your next incoming class

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