

Top 5 Factors Contributing to Columbia Student Retention

Applying these factors in policy and practice will decrease student attrition

◆ Academic Preparedness

- Academic readiness and skills
- Navigating college

◆ Institutional Transactions

- Experiences with Columbia processes, policies, communications, and broader student service interactions
- Timely and helpful support

◆ Community & Wellness

- Sense of belonging to Columbia, other students, academic department, and Chicago
- Inclusive and safe communities with identities being represented and celebrated
- Emotional, mental, and physical health
- Family wellness
- Basic needs (Housing & Food)



◆ Financial Challenges

- Financial Aid (Loans, Scholarships)
- Perceptions of cost
- Funds for course materials, books, and supplies
- Financial literacy

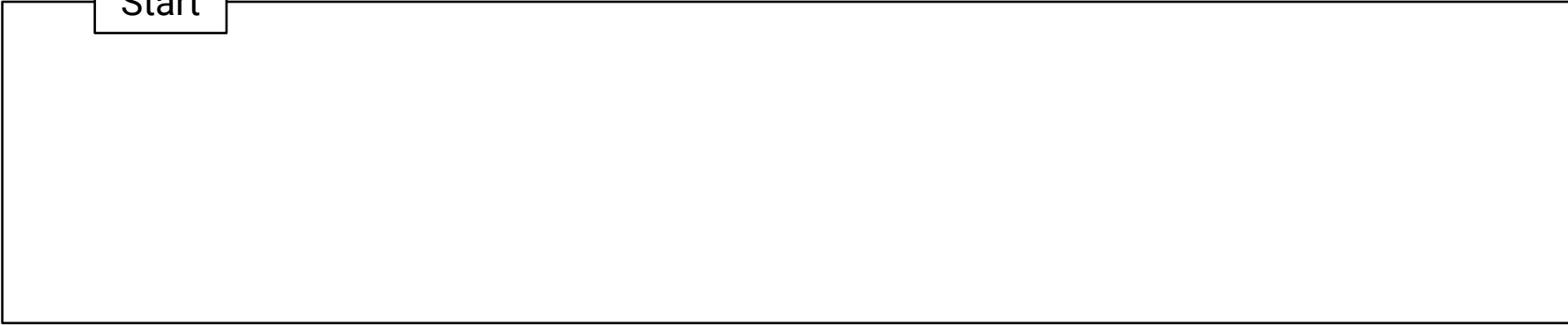
◆ Academic Experience

- Availability of courses (capacity, scheduling)
- Course completion and achievement
- Academic rigor
- Relevancy to creative disciplines and career preparedness
- Curriculum complexity
- Course section parity

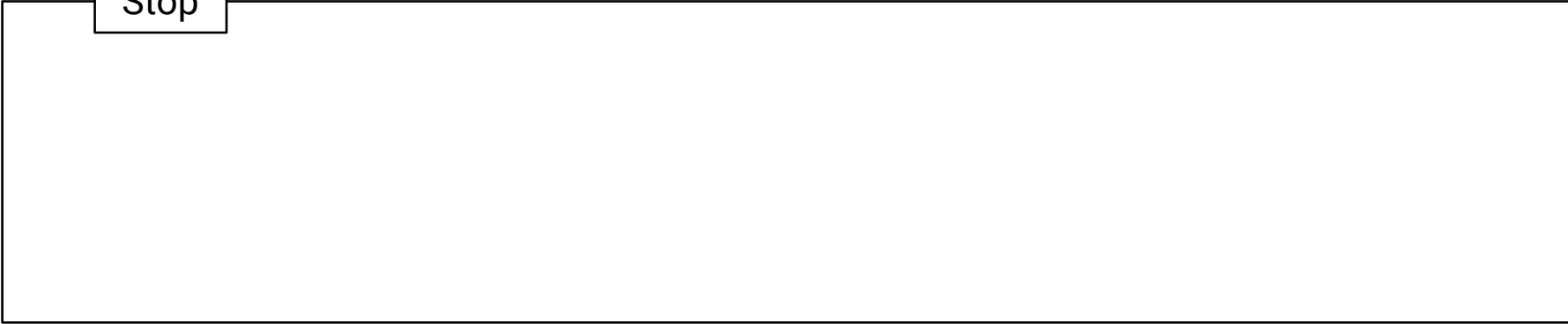
Thematic factors were identified through triangulation of data sources in collaboration with the Retention Taskforce and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Insights to Action: Describe what you will start, stop, and continue to do based on these retention factors to decrease attrition.

Start



Stop



Continue

