

Student Strengths Inventory (SSI)

Description

New first year students completed a 10-minute survey at orientation called the Student Strengths Inventory (SSI). This “non-cognitive” inventory asks about self-perceptions and attitudes towards college academics, getting involved on campus, approach to managing stressors, and comfort in social situations. Results are only visible to the advisor and student success staff and are intended to help students build on strengths and get support for challenges.

For advisors, the survey results in Academic Success and Retention scores; these are only visible to advisors, and not students. Advisors and students can view their levels (low, moderate, high) on the six factors, and included with the six factors are general recommendations for improving or maximizing success in a specific area.

Indices

1. Academic Success
2. Retention

Factors

1. Academic Self-efficacy: An individual’s confidence in his or her ability to achieve academically and succeed in college.
2. Academic Engagement: The value an individual places on academics and attentiveness to school work.
3. Educational Commitment: An individual’s dedication to college and the value placed upon a college degree.
4. Resiliency: An individual’s approach to challenging situations and stressful events.
5. Campus Engagement: An individual’s desire to be involved in campus activities and their attachment to the college/university.
6. Social Comfort: An individual’s comfort in social situations and ability to communicate with others.

SSI Recommendations by Factor

Academic Self-efficacy

- Schedule tutoring. Tutoring with Hood peers or professional tutors is available through any Blackboard course, under Tools, select Academic Online Tutoring and Writing Support
- Create your own study group with peers in class.
- Talk with your advisor or FYS instructor about your progress.
- Review [academic resources](#) on the Student Success Center website, including the [SchoolShelf](#) catalog of academic success tips.
- Meet with Lisa Copenhaver or Gretchen Nonemaker on [success coaching](#).
- Enroll in [GNST 101 Seminar for Academic Success](#), a 2-credit elective course.

Academic Engagement

- Attend class regularly, ask questions, review all syllabi and keep up with reading and assignments.
- Check email regularly to stay informed.
- Talk with professors during their office hours.

- Schedule tutoring. Tutoring with Hood peers or professional tutors is available through any Blackboard course, under Tools, select Academic Online Tutoring and Writing Support.
- Evaluate if you are devoting enough time to academics.
- Become involved in major-related clubs, honor societies, and attend departmental programs.

Educational Commitment

- Meet with [Career Services](#) to explore your talents and interests in relation to Hood majors and careers.
- Review the [Catalog](#) and your degree progress report (DPR) in self-service to become familiar with graduation requirements.
- Talk with your advisor about your progress in deciding on a major or your progress in the major, and your experience at Hood to date.

Resiliency

- Seek free [Counseling](#) to help with personal and emotional challenges.
- Address [Alcohol and Substance Abuse](#).
- Explore and develop your faith through the [Office of the Dean of the Chapel](#).
- The [Dean of Students](#) works with students undergoing emergencies and crises impacting enrollment.
- Victims [of sexual harassment and misconduct](#) can seek resources and help.

Campus Engagement

- Review the [Student Engagement](#) site and opportunities, and talk with staff.
- Download and view events in the Corq app.
- Check email for campus events and programs of interest.
- Become involved in [Commuter Council](#).

Social Comfort

- Review the [Student Engagement](#) site and opportunities, and talk with staff.
- Attend programs in your residence hall.
- Interact with your peer mentors.
- Connect with [LGBTQ support](#).
- Become involved with organizations and efforts to increase [equity and inclusion](#) for all in the Hood community.