

2011 Annual Report: Transforming the System. Changing the Culture.

Increasing college graduation rates for first-generation and under-represented students at the University of Tampa is the primary goal of a new initiative called Student Success - Responding to a National Imperative. Helios is investing \$1.3 million over four years in this effort to create an academically effective and socially-supportive environment around students that includes scholarships.

University officials expect gains in graduation rates of up to 17 percent within the targeted population, but they also anticipate gains in students overcoming academic challenges, participating in active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction and enriching educational experiences.

The program reaches across academic, enrollment, student services and financial aid and includes the formation of an Office of Student Success and the creation of micro-academic communities where students can interact with faculty and staff. The initiative includes gap financial aid for students with the greatest financial needs and merit-based incentive awards for students who have demonstrated academic success after their first year.