

**Understanding Success and Well-being in First-year Students and Faculty
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There seems to be a societal push to see college as a means to a financial end. As such, much attention has been focused on the individual benefits of attaining a higher education degree, with colleges and universities being held accountable for their contribution to those benefits. Studies show that a higher education degree serves broader purposes including individual growth and development and service to society through research, outreach, and civic engagement. Missing in the research literature and college success initiatives is an exploration of how students' understanding and self-perception of success and well-being are related to college persistence.

The purpose of this grant proposal is to extend a currently funded project on first-year student success and well-being at MSU. The funded study surveys first-year students at the beginning and conclusion of their first year on measures pertaining to success and well-being, and surveys faculty who teach first-year courses regarding their personal definitions of success and well-being. Our goal is to conduct a sequential, mixed-methods study on success and well-being in the first year, and this proposal would request funding to hold several focus groups of first-year students and faculty in the coming year to understand qualitatively what they report quantitatively on surveys. A second proposal is being prepared to fund survey data collection of senior students regarding their perceptions of success and well-being to compare responses.