

Supporting the Success of Our Students

Lori Lowder

Associate Vice Provost

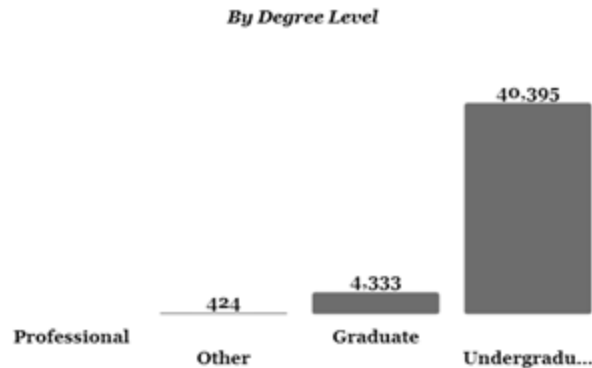
&

Hannah Stocks

Executive Director of Student Advising and Retention



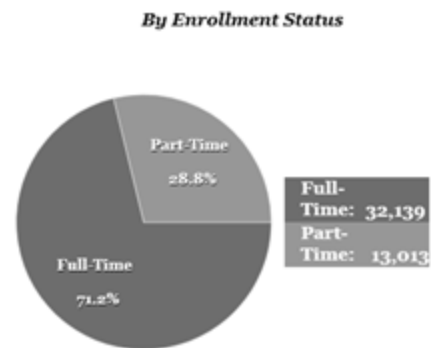
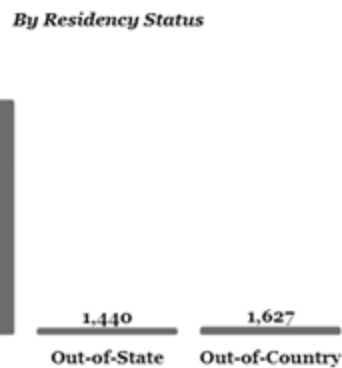
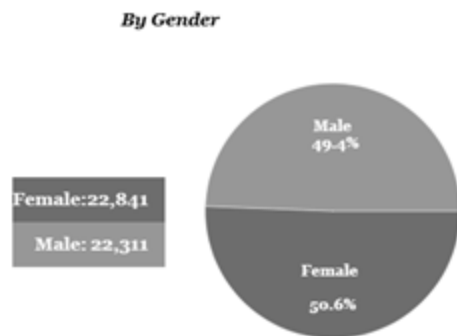
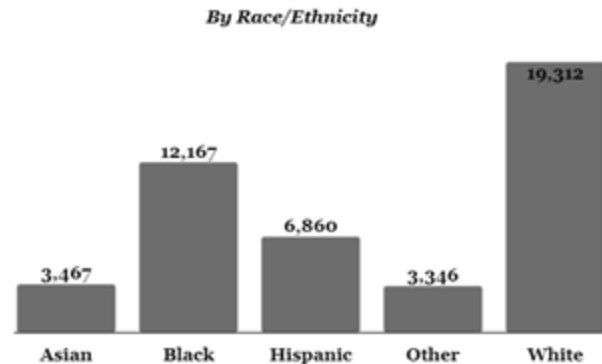
Kennesaw State University Fall 2023



Total Enrollment: **45,152**

First-Time Freshmen: **8,234**

New Transfers: **2,596**



Source: USG Data Dashboard

KSU Students (cont.)

First-Generation Student:

Student's parents did not complete a 4-year college or university degree (38% KSU students)

Pell-Eligible Student:

Undergraduate student who displays exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree (37% KSU students)



KSU Students (cont.)

- Transfers: 15% of first-years, 54% of seniors
- Sexual orientation other than straight: 22% of first-years, 17% of seniors
- Have a learning disability: 20% of first-years, 19% of seniors
- Greek life: 4% of first-years, 10% of seniors
- Homeless: 1% of first-years, 1% of seniors

https://ir.kennesaw.edu/dashboard_pdfs/NSSE23%20Respondent%20Profile.pdf



KSU Students (cont.)

Admission Requirements:

- Minimum 2.5 GPA with qualifying test scores
 - SAT: 500 - Evidence Based Reading and Writing | 490 Math
 - ACT: 18 - English or Reading | 18 Math
- Minimum 3.2 GPA test optional

Learning Support Exemption Requirements:

- ENGL 1101
 - ≥ 2.7 (GPA) | 480 - EBRW (SAT) | 17 - English or Reading (ACT)
- MATH 1001/STAT 1401
 - ≥ 3.1 (GPA) | 440 - Math (SAT) | 17 - Math (ACT)
- MATH 1111
 - ≥ 3.2 (GPA) | 510 - Math (SAT) | 20 - Math (ACT)

First-Year Student Profile - FALL 2023

	Fall 2022	% Submit	Fall 2023	% Submit
Average HS GPA	3.50		3.48	
Number Submitted	6,922	98.5%	8,094	98.3%
Average SAT Total	1119.76		1121.95	
Number Submitted	4,556	64.9%	3,291	40.0%
Average ACT Composite	22.06		21.94	
Number Submitted	2,258	32.1%	1,752	21.3%



Terminology

Retention rates:

Measure the percentage of first-time undergraduate students who return to the same institution the following fall

Graduation rates:

Measure the percentage of first-time, full-time undergraduate students who complete their program at the same institution within a specified period of time

Retention and Graduation Rates

Term Description ▲	Cohort with Exceptions
Fall 2015	4,883
Fall 2016	5,201
Fall 2017	5,071
Fall 2018	4,654
Fall 2019	6,109
Fall 2020	7,359
Fall 2021	8,004
Fall 2022	6,665
Fall 2023	7,730



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR
STUDENT SUCCESS
AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Diagnostic Analysis and Playbook

Prepared for



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY

July 2022



KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY

Playbook Executive Summary

Prioritized actions

Kennesaw State University has a history of making positive change in key student success areas and is poised to continue progressing with the new strategic plan focused on student success. To bolster these efforts, the NISS recommends substantive action be taken to improve data utilization, standardize advising practices, improve the first-year experience, and better support outcomes key courses.

1

Strengthen the ability of student-support offices to make proactive, data-informed decisions through better access to vetted, timely, and operationalizable data

2

Standardize academic advising systems and protocols to ensure students receive consistent, proactive support across all advising units and colleges

3

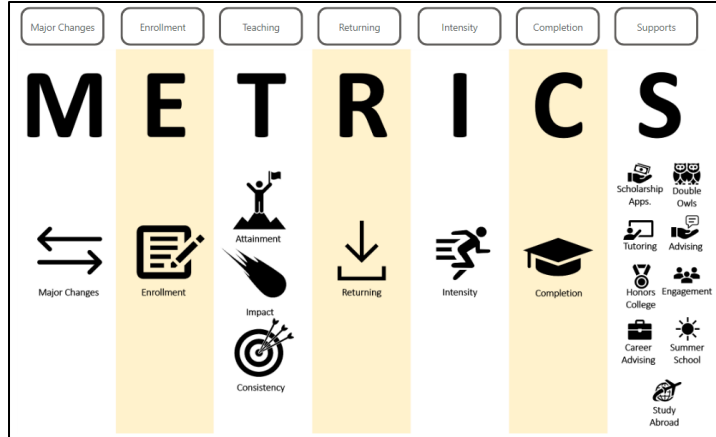
Create structures focused on the first-year experience—e.g., scaled summer bridge program, meta-majors, first-year experience course—to coordinate student onboarding and to guide students into and through their academic studies in the first year and beyond

4

Improve outcomes in critical courses with the highest non-pass rates through targeted resources such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, and course and program re-design efforts

Data-Informed Decisions

Available options:



What is the role of an academic advisor?

- Advising Directors and Advisors...

- **Enforce policies and processes** created by the institution (both within the college and the university, at large)
- Work as a “**liaison**” to the students from departments/college to share information
- **Ensure students are supported**
- Work with college leaders/campus partners to **gather information and create strategy to assist students with navigating their responsibilities**

ADVISORS DO THINGS LIKE:

- New Student (Orientation) → Graduation Semester Planning
 - Use program maps, departmental information shared to the advisors, follow institutional policies/procedures
- Interventions/Outreaches
 - Intervene with Faculty-provided Info (EA, etc.)
 - CPos
 - Credit Hour Intensity
 - Not Enrolled Campaigning
- Advising Hold Appointments and Drop-ins
- Senior Audit Process
- Referrals and connection points with campus partners



Advising & Mentorship

Academic Advisors are assigned to students from Orientation to graduation dependent upon chosen major, and advising appointments and communication typically involve discussions with students about:

- the school's mission, culture, and expectations
- campus and community resources, policies, and procedures
- modes of thinking, learning, and decision-making that will lead to academic success
- the selection of academic programs and courses
- the planning and selection of courses to fulfill requirements for an academic major or minor
- an efficient path to graduation

Both

Academic Advisors and Faculty Mentors both work to support students with:

- the development of life and career goals
- connecting their academic interests with their personal and career ambitions
- setting short-term and long-term career goals
- finding learning experiences outside the classroom (e.g., shadowing, volunteer opportunities, on-campus involvement, and externships/internships)
- understanding the specifics of graduate school requirements or job applications

Faculty Mentors are likely to mentor students whose professional interests are similar to their own, so it's important to work with a mentor who knows about the area you would like to get into. Mentors typically provide:

- crucial "insider information" about a career area
- information about the subtleties and politics of particular jobs (how things really work)
- a socializing role for students to a chosen profession, helping students to "walk the walk" of a field
- instruction on the norms that set the acceptable range of behaviors within a field
- intentional conversations focused on the mentee's professional and personal growth and development
- vital professional contacts to people who already work in the field (networking)

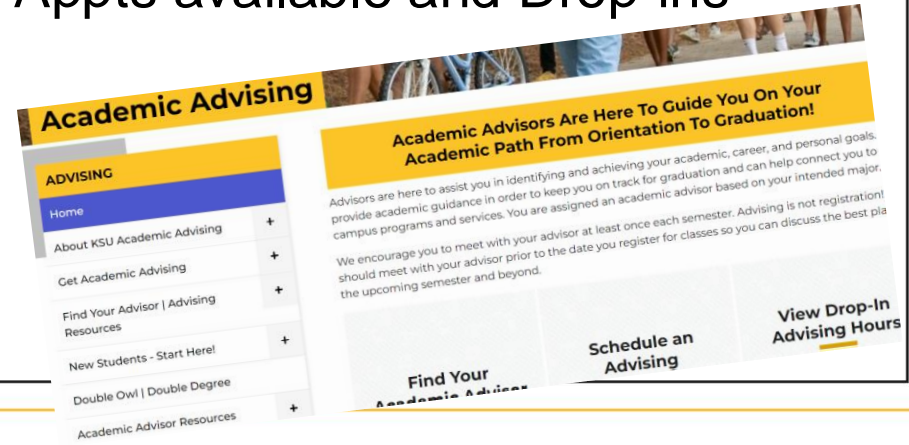
How does Academic Advising work at KSU?

- Academic Advising Offices exist within colleges and/or departments
 - The Advising Office/advisor will reach out via email with important updates or information about operations

*If you're interested in other majors,
students can meet with other advisors!*

askadvising@kennesaw.edu
advising.kennesaw.edu

- There are regularly scheduled Appts available and Drop-ins
- Check the website!



Two important processes

1. Progress Reports/Early Alert

- Students who may be showing early signs of difficulties within the first few weeks of the semester
- Alerts and activates targeted support and intervention processes

2. Midterm Grades

- Mid-semester assessment of academic progress
- Provide feedback to students prior to last day to withdrawal
- Alerts and activates targeted support and intervention processes

Block Scheduling during 1st Semester

- A block schedule is a **set of classes grouped together** according to a student's major, test scores, and other pertinent data.
- Block scheduling allows students to register for multiple courses all at once.

Advising / Orientation / Starting Blocks

ADVISING

- Home
- About KSU Academic Advising +
- Get Academic Advising | Find Your Advisor +
- Orientation Advising +
- College Advising Centers +
- Explore the Majors
- Advising Resources +
- Tutoring and Student Support Programs +

Starting Blocks



What is a "Starting Block"?

To help new students start strong at KSU, incoming first year students are provided the opportunity to participate in Starting Blocks.

Rather than selecting individual classes, students choose a block of courses relative to their major or interests, allowing them to take multiple courses with other students with similar long-term interests and goals.

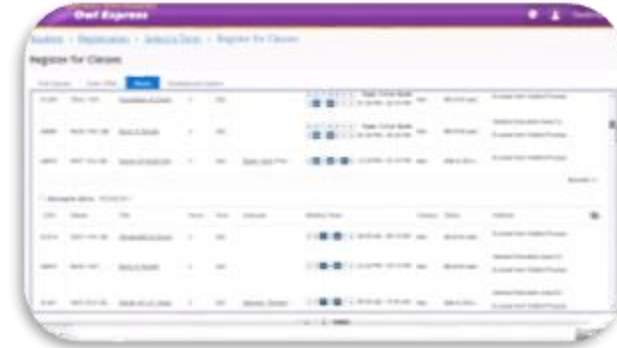
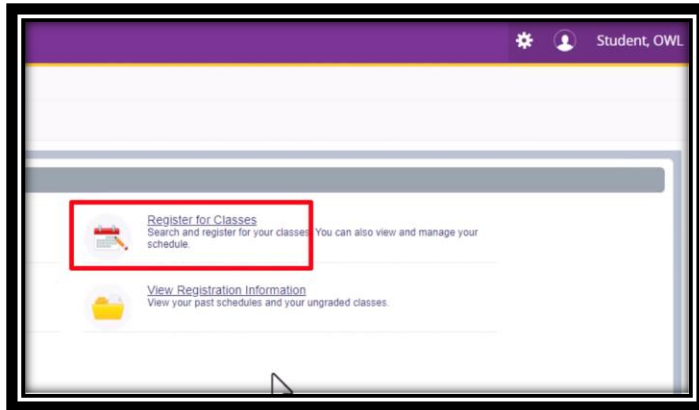
Starting Blocks ensures that every first-year student starts their academic pursuit on the right foot. Students will have the ability to be with familiar faces in multiple courses. Get started with the right support to help you succeed!



https://advising.kennesaw.edu/orientation/starting_blocks.php

Practical Benefits of Block Scheduling

- Streamlines the registration process for easier enrollment.
- Helps ensures appropriate selection of courses.
- May help minimize loss of credit if student changes majors.



Additional Benefits of Block Scheduling

- Provides the optimal chance to get students registered for a full-time (15 credit hour) schedule.
 - Students completing only 12 hours per semester on average either graduate late or never graduate at all and accumulate excess debt in the process.
 - Research indicates that students who enroll in 15 credits perform better academically and are more likely to persist. ^[1]
- Enhances social integration, facilitates the formation of study groups, and fosters community building.
 - Enhanced social integration results in increased student retention. ^[2,3,4]

Student Affairs

- Organize Events and Activities
- Support Student Organizations and Clubs
- Sponsor centers
- Provide volunteer and service opportunities
- Support Health and Wellness



<https://www.kennesaw.edu/student-affairs/index.php>



Improving Success in Courses

SMART Center



Tutoring, in person and online
across more than 80 subjects

Writing Center



Multifaceted writing
support

Supplemental Instruction



Weekly study sessions
for students enrolled in
targeted courses



High Impact Practices

- Capstone Courses and Projects
- Collaborative Assignments and Projects
- Common Intellectual Experiences
- Global Learning
- ePortfolios
- First-Year Seminars and Experiences
- Internships
- Learning Communities
- Service Learning
- Undergraduate Research
- Writing-Intensive Courses



<https://www.aacu.org/trending-topics/high-impact>



How can you help?

**Remember why we're
here, and let students
know you care.**



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Any Questions

