University of Pittsburgh

Personalized Education Initiative

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Personalizing the Pitt Education

Plan for Pitt Goal:
“We aspire to be a university that prepares students to lead lives of impact through a supportive environment focused on a holistic and individualized approach to learning inside and outside the classroom.”

Plan for Pitt Strategy:
“Serve as a leader in personalizing educational experiences of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, with particular attention to mentorship, advising, and tailoring engagement to the goals of individual students.”

Personalized Education is achieved through:
“Tailored engagement in educational activities that reflect each student's unique identities, experiences, interests, abilities, and aspirations.”
Personalizing education starts with a focus on the individual student

Students differ in knowledge, skills, experiences as well as aspirations and goals. The best educational experiences have always involved trying to understand the abilities, interests and goals of individual students.

What is different now?

• Students need and expect this more than ever.
• We now have the opportunity to do this in a more sophisticated and (hopefully) effective way, using data, analytics and new modes for interacting with students and their social environment.
• Immersive, engaged experiences are increasingly important for students long term success.
The Paradox of Choice
Pitt - Freshman Year
- lost, confused
- too many people, too much information
- too many decisions

Pitt - Sophomore Year
- focused on work and school
- lost track of people and career path

Pitt - Junior Year
- found my friends!
- found my place academically!
- discovered a possible career path

Pitt - Senior Year (5th Year)

PITT - Senior Year (4th)

H2P!!!
More Students, and Yet...

For the poorest wealth group, college attendance has risen, but college graduation has not.

![Graph showing college attendance and graduation rates for the lowest, middle, and highest wealth groups.](image)

**Note:** Wealth categories are based on a person's parents' wealth when the person was 10-14 years old. Lowest wealth group is the bottom 40 percent of households; middle wealth is the middle 40 percent; upper wealth is the top 20 percent. Educational outcomes are at age 25. Source: Fabian Pfeffer, “Growing Wealth Gaps in Education,” the journal Demography. | By The New York Times
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Personalized Education

In class

Outside class

Curriculum and Advising
Actions – Planned and Underway

- Understand and Match Students and Opportunities
- Enhance Coaching, Advising and Mentoring
- Engage the Campus and Develop New Opportunities
• Thank you!