# Brochure: Social-Belonging for College Students

A free, evidence-based program designed to support a sense of belonging on campus to improve engagement, retention, and achievement for students at four-year colleges and universities.

Social-Belonging for College Students was developed with the goal of improving engagement, retention, and achievement for students by supporting a sense of belonging in college. It was developed by leading researchers at the College Transition Collaborative, and has been rigorously tested and scientifically validated in trials with thousands of students at four-year colleges and universities. Social-Belonging for College Students is now freely available to four-year colleges and universities in the United States.
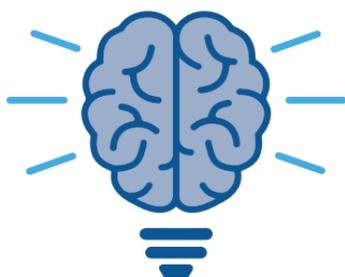
Short.
- 30-minute online program.
- Includes short reading passages, a brief reflection exercise, and survey questions.
- Students reflect on passages emphasizing how difficulties in the transition to college are normal and improve with time.

Evidence-Based.
- Rigorously tested with thousands of college students. Past findings include:
- 13 percentage point increase in first-year, full-time enrollment among college-admitted high school seniors at an urban charter network.
- 4 percentage point increase in first-year, full-time enrollment among minority and first-generation students at a large, public university.
- .09 increase in cumulative first-year GPA among minority and first-generation students at a selective, private university.

Easy to Implement.
- Open for participation from June 1st to October 15th, 2018.
- Incoming first-year students participate over the summer or during new student orientation.
- Takes colleges 2-4 weeks to finalize logistics internally, and less than 60 minutes to register.

Almost all first-year students experience challenges in the transition to college, such as failing a test or feeling like they aren't making friends. For students who are socially disadvantaged in higher education—including students of color, low income students, and first-generation college students—persistent negative stereotypes and underrepresentation can lead them to wonder if they belong in college, especially when faced with challenges and setbacks. This concern can lead to social and academic withdrawal which, in turn, leads to lower academic achievement and persistence.

The Social-Belonging Program aims to help all students view challenges encountered in the transition to college as normal and improvable so they are more able to remain socially and academically engaged in the face of challenges. It is typically implemented as one component of new student orientation among other activities, and is meant to complement your institution's existing student success efforts. It can also help provide insights into student experiences at your school, which may inform other institutional programs around student achievement, persistence, and wellbeing.

How It Works

1. **Learn.** Visit *perts.net/social-belonging* and download the Program Information Packet.

2. **Sign up**. Create a user account and prepare to participate using the online PERTS platform.

3. **Participate**. Students complete the 30-minute web module.

4. **Track Impact**. See how many students completed the program, and receive a report about the program's impact at your school.

College programs open to the first 200 eligible and approved colleges..
Visit *perts.net/social-belonging* to get started!

COLLEGE
TRANSITION
COLLABORATIVE