

Graduate TA Role in Undergraduate Student Success

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MSU: Pioneer Land Grant University

- What is a land-grant university (or college)?
- What are the historical commitments of a land-grant institution?
- How does MSU fulfill these historical commitments?
 - Research and graduate education
 - Outreach
 - Undergraduate education




One Challenge and One Philosophy

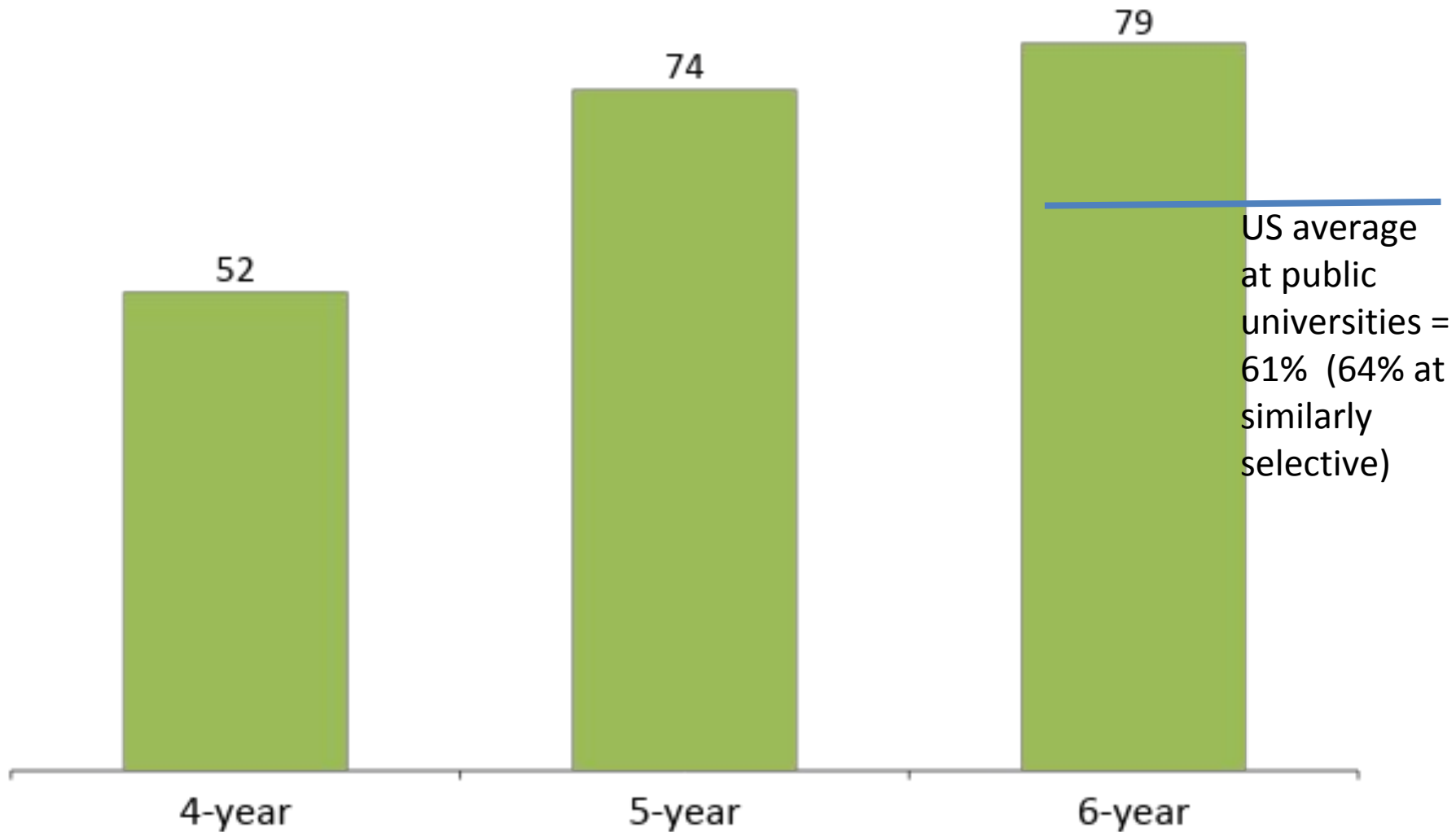
- Challenge: Increasing student success at MSU
- Re-organizing across institutional cultures to create ecosystem of student success



Who are MSU undergraduates? (Fall 2017)

- 38,996
 - 52% female, 48% male
 - 20% US students of color
 - 14% international students
 - 70% from Michigan (all 82 counties), all 50 US states, 133 countries
 - 72% admission rate
 - 67% receive financial aid
 - 2018 Tuition/fees \$14,460 (in state), \$39,750 (out)
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Michigan State University Overall Graduation Rate



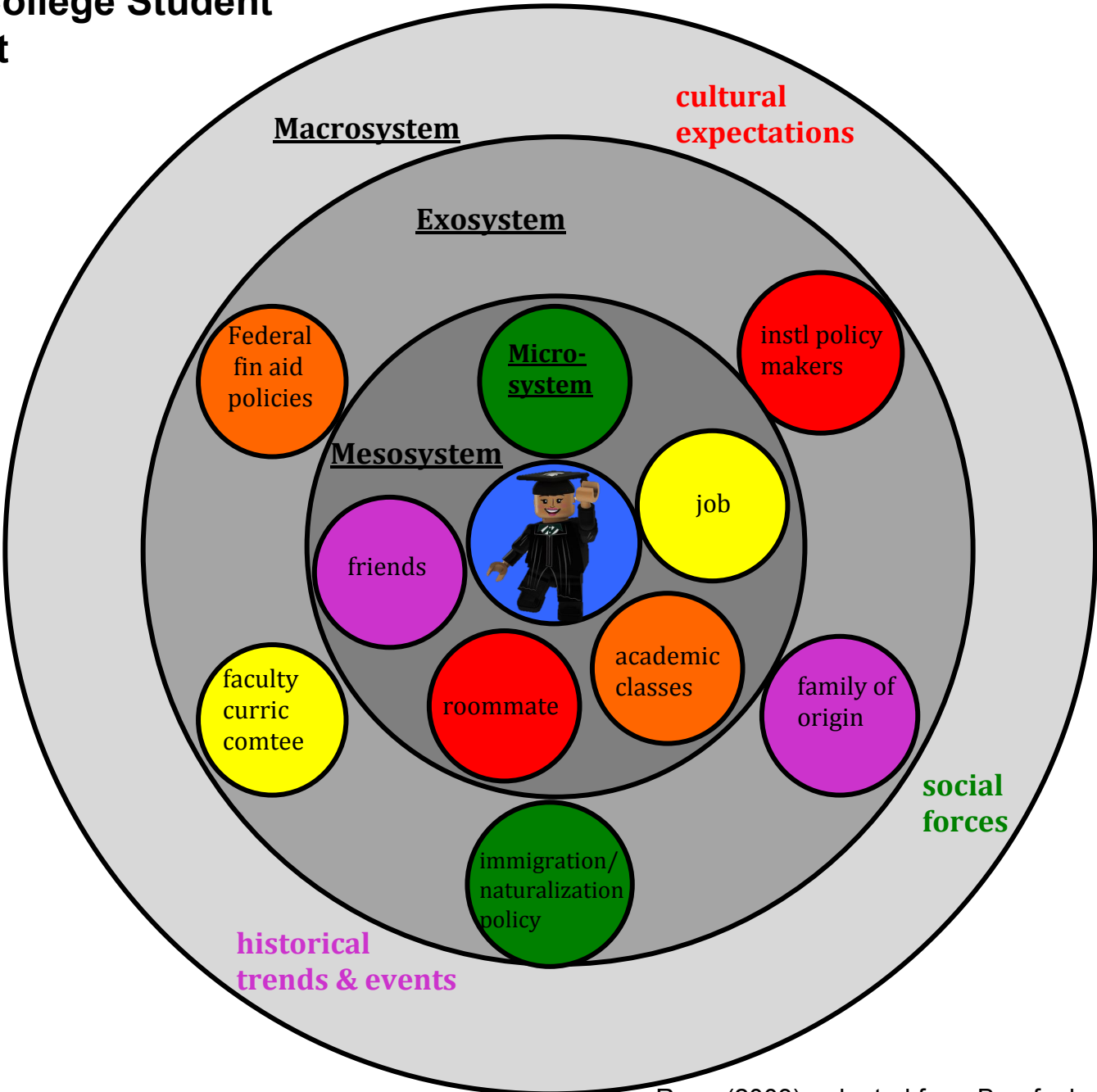
MSU Aim Statement

Improve student success by

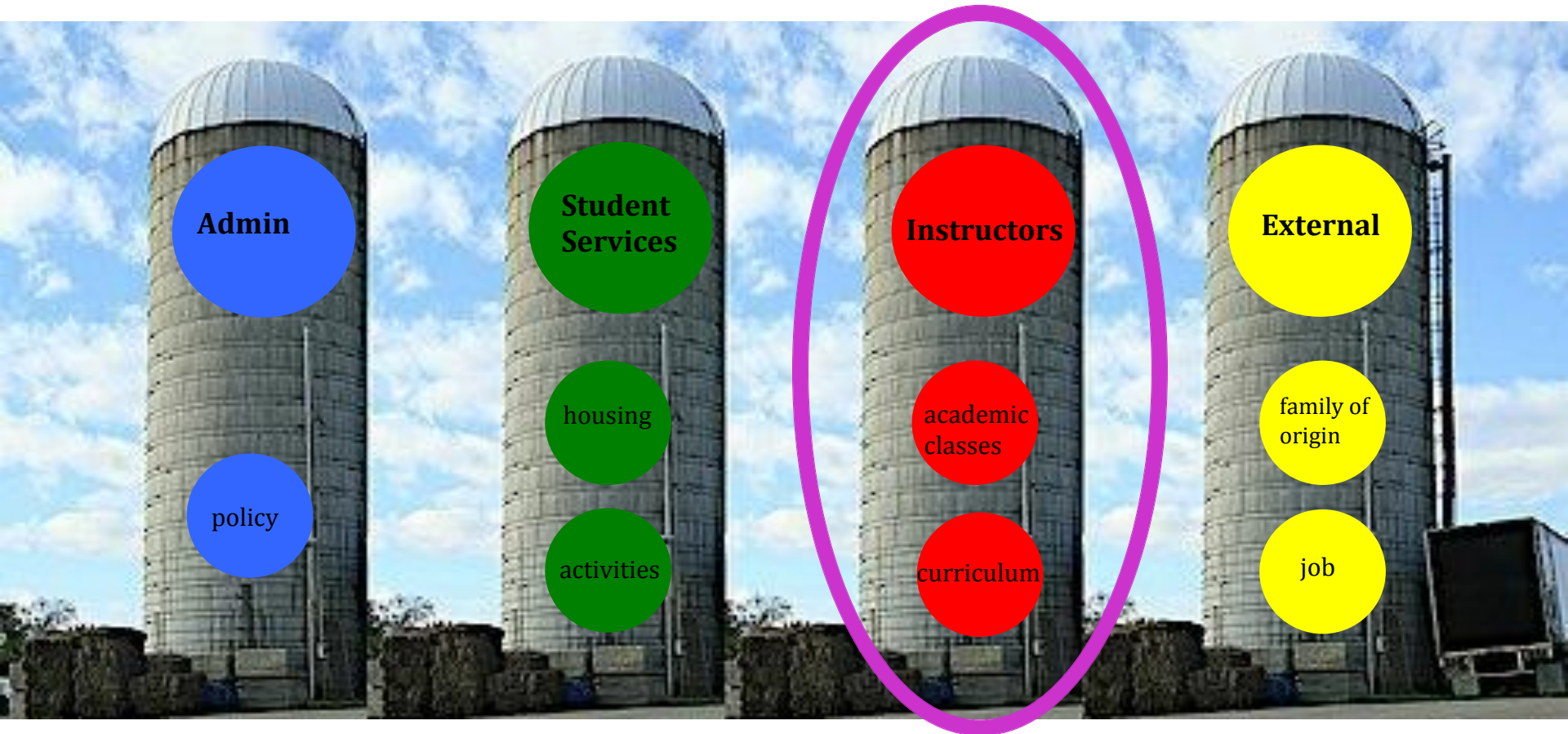
- increasing the graduation rate,
- decreasing time to degree, and
- closing opportunity gaps, particularly for lower-income, first generation, Black, Latino, and/or Native American students

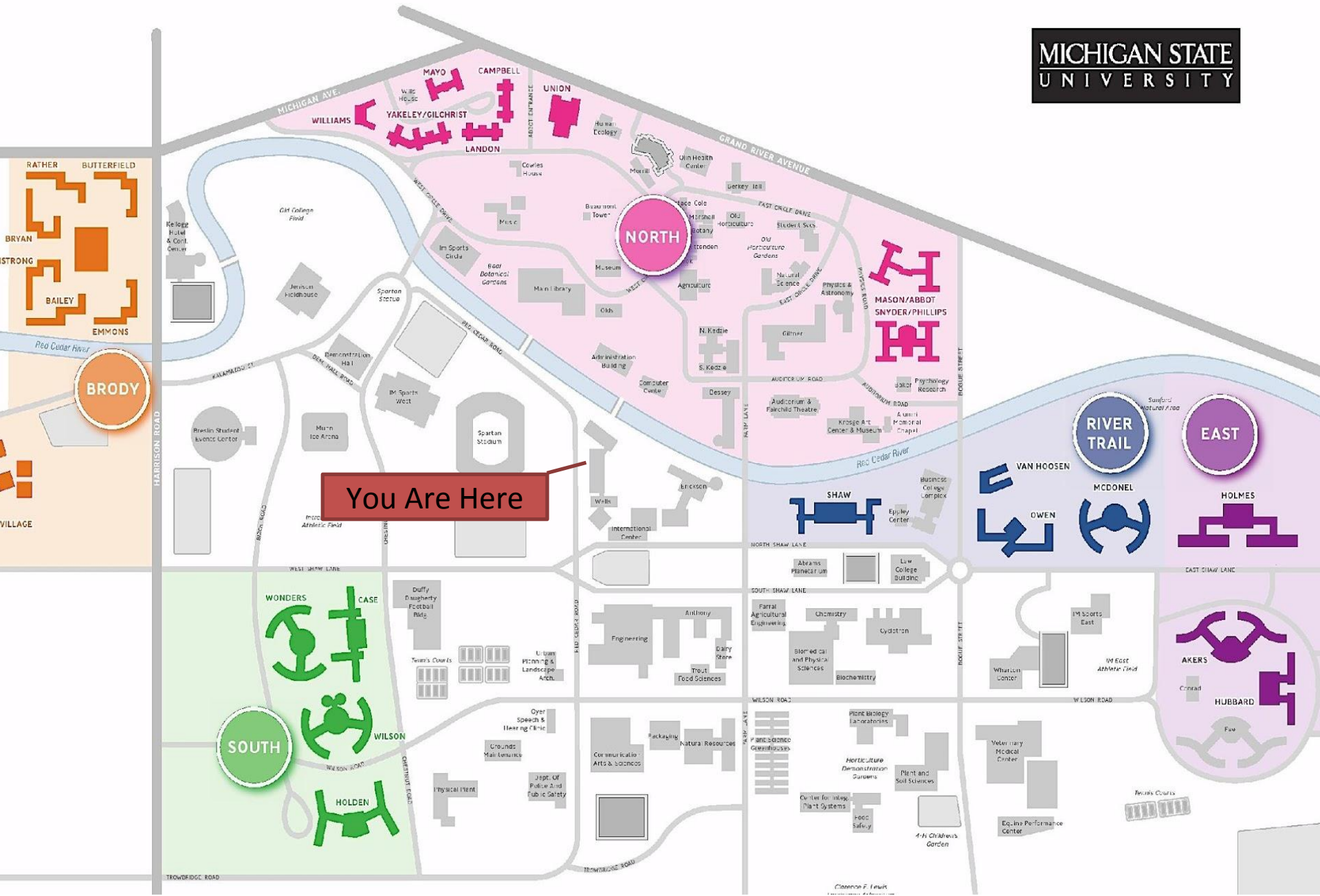
Goal: 82% 6-year graduation rate by 2020

Ecology of College Student Development



Higher Education Organizes Itself More Like This





You Are Here

NORTH

MASON/ABBOTT
SNYDER/PHILLIPS

RIVER TRAIL

EAST

SHAW

VAN HOESSEN
OWEN

MCDONEL

HOLMES

SOUTH

WONDERS

WILSON

HOLDEN

Engineering

Anthony

Chemistry

Cyclotron

AKERS

HUBBARD

Duffy Daugherty
Football Field

Town's Courts

Urban Planning &
Landscape Arch.

Over Speech &
Hearing Clinic

Dept. Of
Police And
Public Safety

Engineering

Early Stone

Food Sciences

Blomdahl
and Physics
Sciences

Biochemistry

Plant Biology
Laboratories

Plant and
Soil Sciences

Plant and
Soil Sciences

Plant and
Soil Sciences

Plant and
Soil Sciences

Plant and
Soil Sciences

Whitson
Center

Veterinary
Medical
Center

Equine Performance
Center

IM Sports
East

IM East
Athlete's
Vind

Tennis Courts

HARRISON ROAD

WILSON ROAD

TROWBRIDGE ROAD

MICHIGAN AVE.

GRAND RIVER AVENUE

KALAMAZOO ST

DEERFIELD ROAD

WEST SHAW LANE

WILSON ROAD

TROWBRIDGE ROAD

WEST CEDAR DRIVE

WEST CEDAR DRIVE

KAD GEBER ROAD

WILSON ROAD

TROWBRIDGE ROAD

EAST CIRCLE DRIVE

AUDITORIUM ROAD

NORTH SHAW LANE

SOUTH SHAW LANE

WILSON ROAD

WILSON ROAD

ROUSE STREET

ROUSE STREET

WILSON ROAD

TROWBRIDGE ROAD

Clarence F. Lewis

University of Michigan

Re-organizing to Create an Ecosystem of Student Success

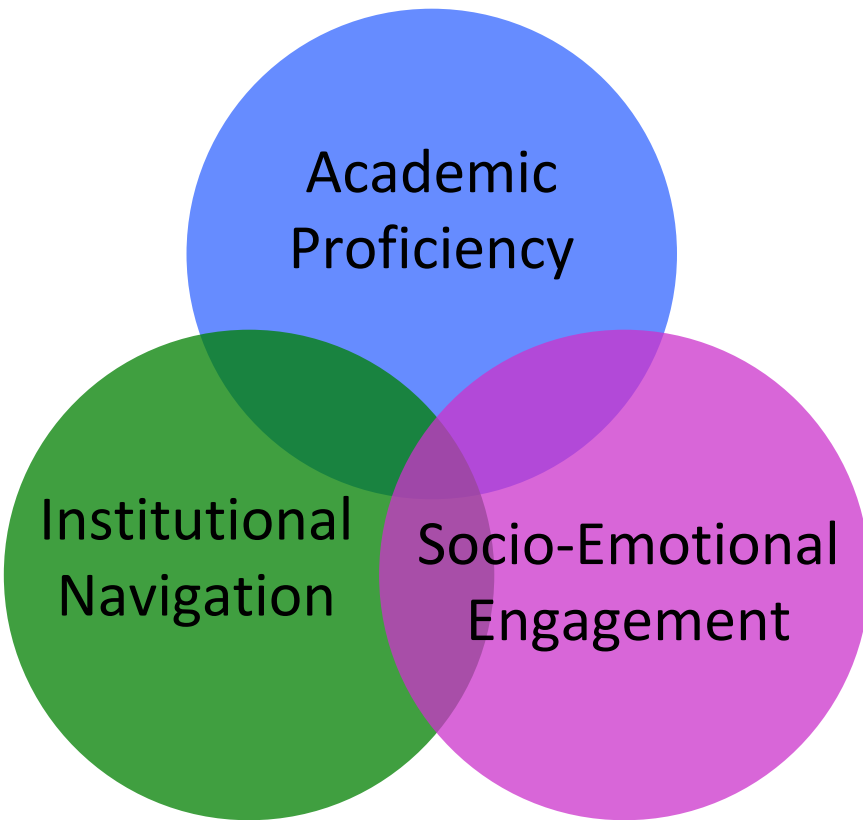
Neighborhood Student Success Collaborative

A residentially-based, cross-functional, cross-unit organization that

- 1) provides student services (e.g., health, housing, academic & career advising, academic support),
- 2) uses analytics to guide real-time interventions by cross-unit teams, and
- 3) connects instructors (like you!) to resources to help students succeed.



MSU Neighborhoods Model of Student Success



- Academic Proficiency
 - Enhanced academic performance and skills
 - Understanding learning styles/strategies
 - Early knowledge/use of academic resources

- Institutional Navigation
 - Understanding policies related to academic standing and time to degree
 - Knowledge of policies/procedures
 - Confidence to seek resources

- Socio-Emotional Engagement
 - Balanced involvement
 - Sense of belonging
 - Reflection and self-assessment
 - Sense of Purpose
 - Intercultural awareness and engagement

(Royal, Noto, High McCord, Pitcher, 2015)



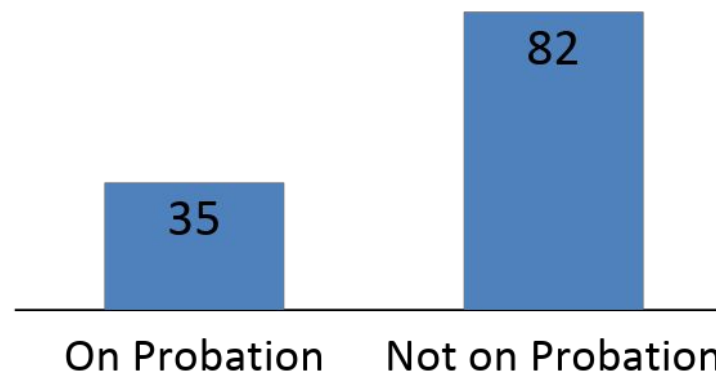
Where do graduate TA's fit?

- Over 1200 TAs campus wide teaching
- Over 1750 sections enrolling
- Over 45,000 students.
 - Allowing for double or triple counting, TA-student contact hours are very high
 - Most sections are 100- or 200-level, meaning students newer in the major, required, or core courses and newer to MSU.

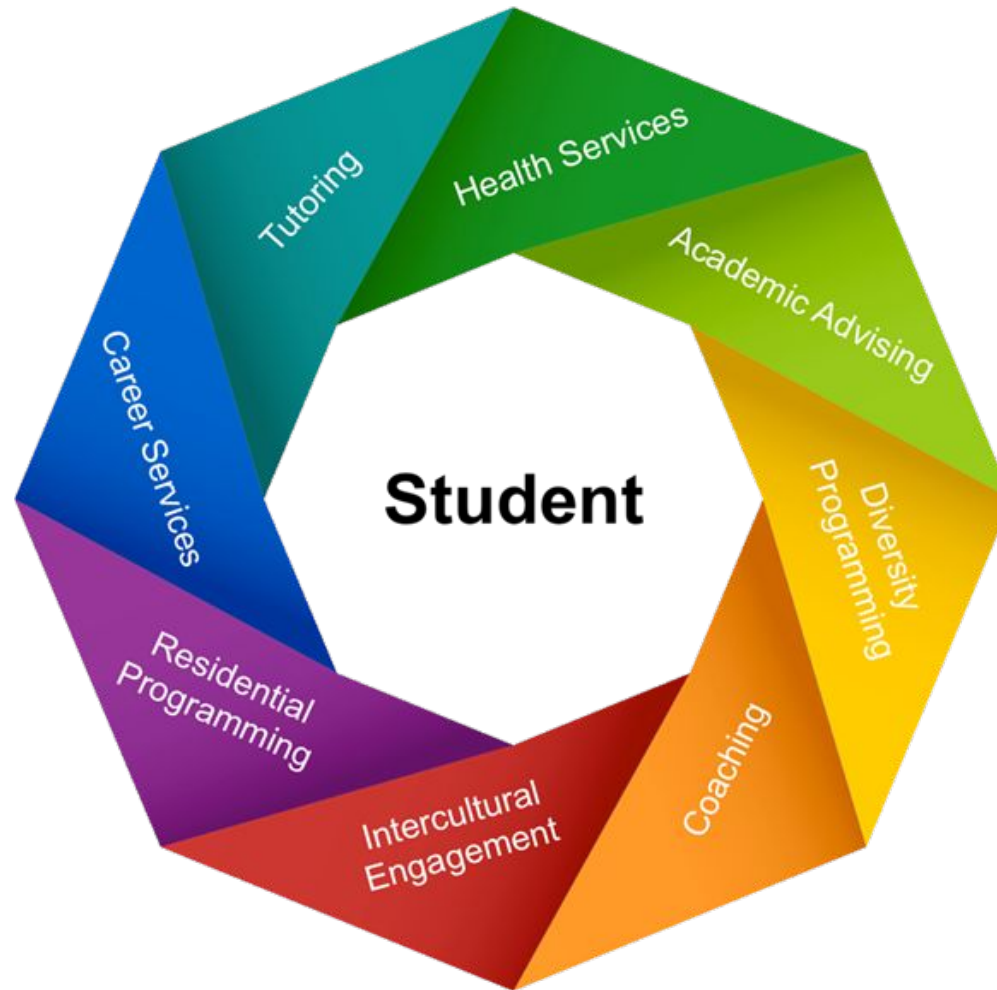


Example of a Student Success Challenge

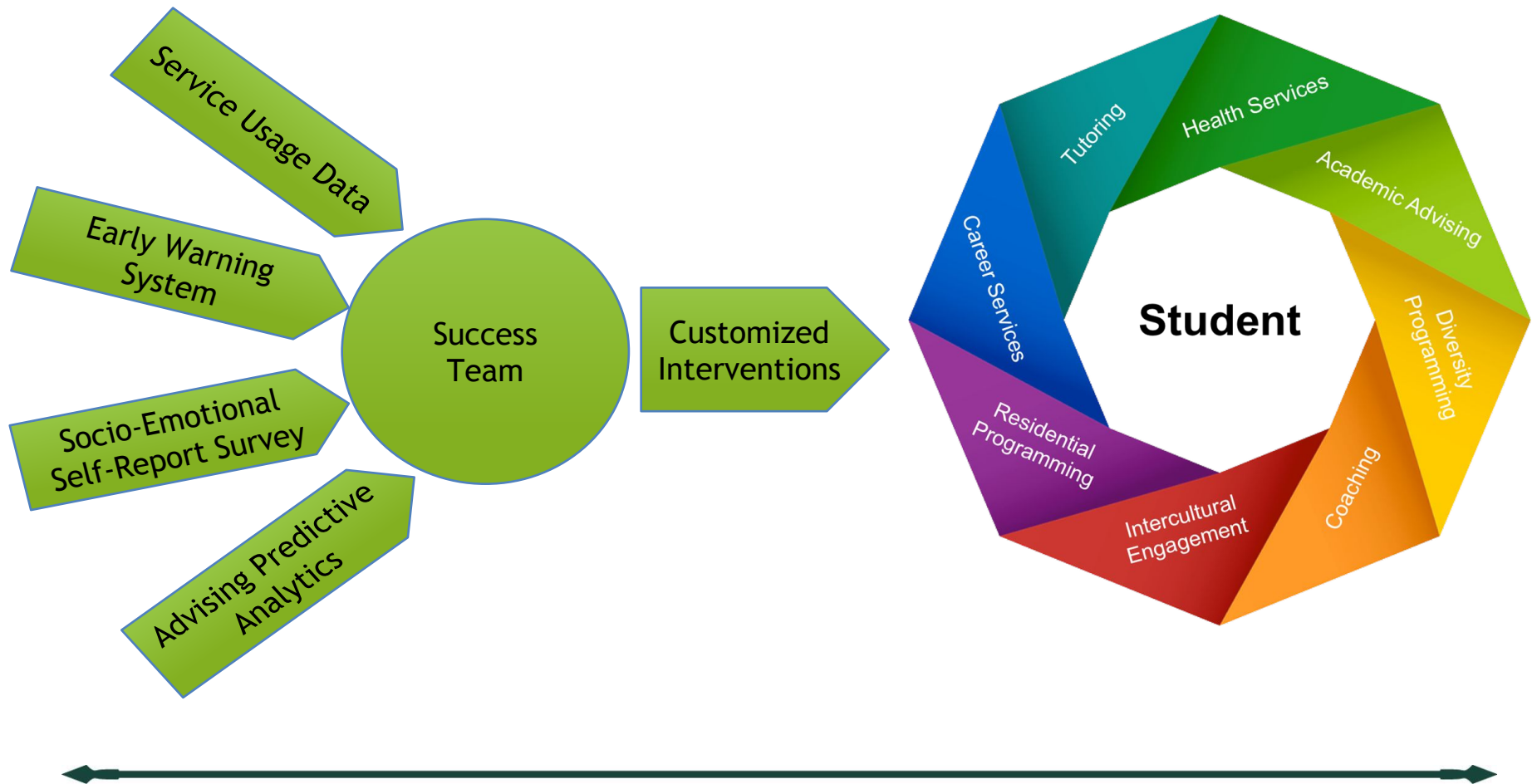
- First-year students earning less than a 2.0 GPA are on academic probation (AP) after their first semester
- 6-year graduation rate of 35% compared to over 80% for students not on AP after first semester
- Historically, over 10% of first-year students ended up on AP.



Our Philosophy of Coordinated Care



Neighborhood Success Teams

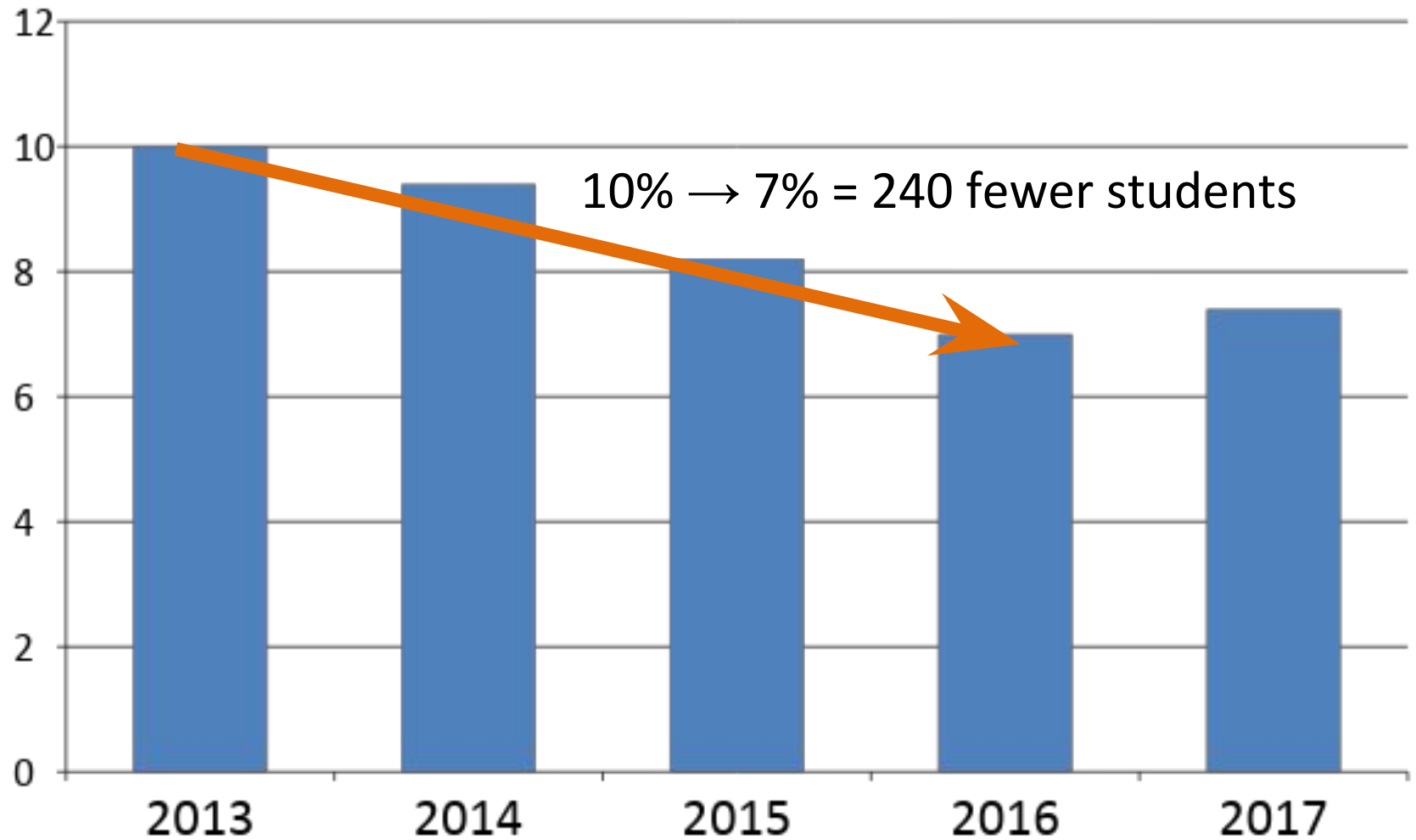


Early Academic Alert: EASE Reports

- Enhancing Academic Success Early
- Confidential report on grade, attendance, or engagement
- Uses Registrar's course grade system
- Alert goes to academic advisor and student
- Fall 2017: over 75,000 reports on over 18,000 unique students
 - Advisors followed up on 80% of reports of <2.5



Academic Probation after First Semester



TAs = Critical Link

- Referring students to resources
 - Tutoring, office hours, study groups
 - Neighborhood, advisors, resident assistants
- Setting norm that being a Spartan means using resources to succeed
- Setting example that you can *learn to learn*
 - Talk about your own learning, set backs, do-overs
- Making clear that *students belong at MSU*
- Submitting EASE reports (or information to instructor of record)



TAs = Critical Link to Student Success

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Thank you!



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