

At a Glance

Connect4Success is a guided transfer pathway program developed to increase student access and timely completion of the AA and baccalaureate degrees. *Connect4Success* guarantees admission to FIU to students who complete the AA within three years at any Florida College System (FCS) institution. Inaugural partners include Miami Dade College, Broward College, Palm Beach State College, and Florida Keys Community College. *Connect4Success* builds on Florida's 2+2 articulation framework, but adds a timeline and benefits, including pre-transfer advising and early engagement—aimed at reinforcing students' four-year identity. *Connect4Success* aims to positively impact performance funding metrics, as well as FIUs *BeyondPossible* 2020 strategic goal to increase the AA transfer 4-year graduation rate from 64% to 70% by 2020.

A Tripartite Model of Transition Support

Develop A Guided Pathway

- Offer an alternate pathway to FIU rooted in access and cost-savings.
- Require AA degree for guaranteed admission, incentivize with timeline.
- Brand program/pathway and communicate benefits.

Support Pre-Transfer Advising

- House Bridge Advisors at colleges, working in tandem with college advisors.
- Focus on transfer readiness: major selection, completion of prerequisites.
- Promote 24/7 resources: transfer guides, workshops/events.

Maintain Students' 4-Year Identity

- Stay connected to students, keep completion visible, attainable.
- Build affinity through engagement opportunities at FIU.
- Offer FIU OneCard/Student ID: "Be an FIU Panther."

FIU
Bridge Advisors

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Connect4Success Benefits

Guaranteed Admission to FIU w/ AA Degree
Orientation at Partner College ~ FIU OneCard (Student ID)
Bridge Advisors ~ Transfer Guides ~ Transition Workshops
Access to FIU Library ~ Signature Events/Home Athletic Games
Fast-Track Enrollment/No New Application ~ Scholarships
Saves Students/Families Money and Time

Quantitative & Qualitative Findings*

Fall-to-fall retention for 2013, 2014, and 2015 cohorts are: 90% for C4S vs. 67% for non-C4S, 86% for C4S vs. 65% for non-C4S, and 89% for C4S vs. 65% for non-C4S, respectively. AA completion rates among C4S students in the fall 2011 cohort (transitioned to FIU in 2014) was 47% vs. 31% for non-C4S students. Forty percent of these AA graduates earned the baccalaureate degree at FIU, marking a 2-year completion rate.

Themes/Student Interviews: (1) the promise of a "seat" at FIU and the timeline kept students motivated to "finish up," (2) the "safe start" at the partner college built students' academic confidence, (3) the FIU student ID and the opportunity to attend events at FIU kept students connected, and (4) the program felt continuous, students sensed both institutions working together to support them. *Exclusive to Miami Dade College partnership.