



How College Affects Students: 21st Century Evidence that Higher Education Works

By Matthew J. Mayhew, Alyssa N. Rockenbach, Nicholas A. Bowman, Tricia A. D. Seifert, Gregory C. Wolniak



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The bestselling analysis of higher education's impact, updated with the latest data

How College Affects Students synthesizes over 1,800 individual research investigations to provide a deeper understanding of how the undergraduate experience affects student populations. Volume 3 contains the findings accumulated between 2002 and 2013, covering diverse aspects of college impact, including cognitive and moral development, attitudes and values, psychosocial change, educational attainment, and the economic, career, and quality of life outcomes after college. Each chapter compares current findings with those of Volumes 1 and 2 (covering 1967 to 2001) and highlights the extent of agreement and disagreement in research findings over the past 45 years. The structure of each chapter allows readers to understand if and how college works and, of equal importance, for whom does it work. This book is an invaluable resource for administrators, faculty, policymakers, and student affairs practitioners, and provides key insight into the impact of their work.

Higher education is under more intense scrutiny than ever before, and understanding its impact on students is critical for shaping the way forward. This book distills important research on a broad array of topics to provide a cohesive picture of student experiences and outcomes by:

- Reviewing a decade's worth of research;
- Comparing current findings with those of past decades;
- Examining a multifaceted analysis of higher education's impact; and
- Informing policy and practice with empirical evidence

Amidst the current introspection and skepticism surrounding higher education, there is a massive body of research that must be synthesized to enhance understanding of college's effects. *How College Affects Students* compiles, organizes, and distills this information in one place, and makes it available to research and practitioner audiences; Volume 3 provides insight on the past decade, with the expert analysis characteristic of this seminal work.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

THE REVISED AND UPDATED BESTSELLING ANALYSIS OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S IMPACT

"In the tradition of the two previous editions, this is the quintessential resource for the current generation of scholars, graduate students, and policy makers about whether, how, and why college matters."

—**George D. Kuh**, director, National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment

"Thankfully, the scholarly discourse on higher education is intentionally moving toward important questions that examine student outcomes in ways that inform pressing, but often ignored, public policy questions. This volume is an important step for affirming what we know, and identifying what we need to learn about the programs and services provided to students."

—**James T. Minor**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education

"For the past three decades, *How College Affects Students* has been one of the most vital resources in higher education. This edition continues the tradition of outstanding research on the college experience. A must-read for both student affairs and higher education professionals."

—**Kevin Kruger**, president of NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

"As too much higher education rhetoric proliferates across our nation with little or no grounding in scholarship, the authors of this book have given us a gift. They offer an exemplary evidence-based synthesis of the college student experience. Whether examining student retention, persistence, attainment, earnings or quality of life outcomes, this book gives us a terrific collection of peer-reviewed studies by topical areas. The authors also do an extraordinary job to help us understand how college shapes the character, morals and values of our communities and, thus, our nation. They have clearly made the case – based in scholarship – that college matters now more than ever."

—**Martha Kanter**, former United States Under Secretary for Education

About the Author

Matthew J. Mayhew is the William Ray and Marie Adamson Flesher Professor of Educational Administration at The Ohio State University.

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Patrick T. Terenzini is distinguished professor and senior scientist emeritus in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at Pennsylvania State University.

Pascarella and Terenzini are co-authors of the first two volumes of *How College Affects Students*.

Users Review

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Rosemarie Pickett:

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