

**CollegeKeys Compact™ - Inventory for Colleges and Universities**  
**Sample Goals Statement**

At Delta University we have a growing tradition of enrolling and graduating low-income students from our community, state, and region. Once low-income students are enrolled, the challenges that threaten their retention and success vary greatly but can be addressed through policies and programs that adequately meet the needs of these diverse students. We find that while academic preparedness and financial aid are concerns for most low-income students, personal and academic support services are most helpful to the majority of low-income students at Delta University.

Our level of partnership with the local school districts has allowed us to target cohorts of low-income students with college preparatory coursework during summer months and college-going guidance and support during the academic year. Relationships with high school counselors have allowed various academic departments and our admissions office at Delta to effectively demonstrate that college is a possibility for low-income students with adequate preparation and long- and short-term goal setting.

For low-income prospective applicants outside of our local community, we have made a great effort in revising our admissions application to be friendlier so that students' experiences and background can be most accurately depicted when they apply. That said, on the application we include various ways for students to demonstrate their socioeconomic background, and we accept all fee-waivers signed by a high school guidance counselor.

Admitted students who may need remedial academic work or assistance once they arrive at Delta are referred to our Summer Bridge program and/or our Academic Planning Office. Need-based financial aid at Delta is stringent, but federal and state grants are used to help round out the aid packages, thereby limiting loan debt for low-income students. Bi-monthly workshops on personal finances are targeted specifically to low-income students, and all entering freshman and transfer students are given a book on how to live cheaply while at Delta.

Our inventory has made it clear that gaps exist in the services we offer low-income students, and Delta has made plans to meet the particular needs of these students. We have restructured our Academic Planning Office to act as a focal point for most of the assistance and the services low-income students will need beginning in their freshman year. Academic Planning now has a formal relationship with the Admissions and Financial Aid Office and a network of specifically selected professors from most academic departments who will act as academic and personal mentors for low-income students. This year's low-income freshmen are the first cohort that will experience our integrated inter-office services aimed at helping these students navigate Delta and gain assistance whenever needed.