

■ Importance of Student Characteristics

- No feature of the degree programs of a school is more influential in determining the educational practices of the school than the characteristics of the student population. What happens in classrooms, online, in group projects, and in individual study is all influenced by students' backgrounds in educational experiences, cultural history, work experiences, family relationships, and other characteristics.
- Even if a school does not explicitly recruit for particular student characteristics, it is likely that certain personal features are prevalent in the student population, and those features will influence pedagogy, instructional content, and non-curricular experiences.
- Program design and faculty development should take student characteristics into consideration.