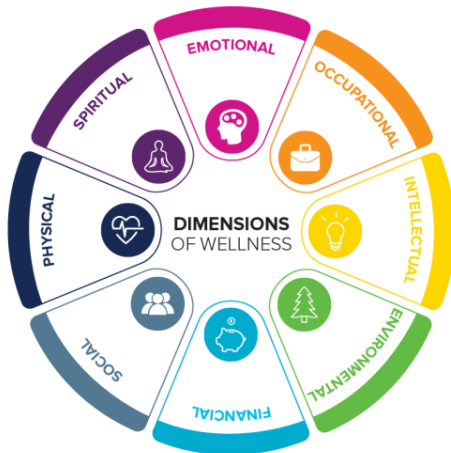




A Student Success Framework

The Division of Student Affairs at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is committed to enhancing student retention, persistence, and graduation through a comprehensive 4Ward Focus framework. This strategic approach addresses the interconnected elements essential for student success across four key areas and in alignment with [SIUE's Strategic Plan](#). Some examples are provided below of the work that has begun on the SIUE Student Affairs 4WARD Focus framework.

Student Basic Needs forms the foundation of our work, recognizing that students must have their fundamental necessities met before they can fully engage academically. With 52% of SIUE students experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, or homelessness, SIUE expanded resources including Mini-Cougar Cupboards throughout campus, emergency funding support, and transportation assistance through SIUE's bus token initiative. Recent efforts have enabled SIUE to address the root causes of housing insecurity while ensuring students have access to essential resources.



Student Health and Well-being focuses on helping students thrive holistically once their basic needs are met. Recognizing that 52% of SIUE students experience loneliness and 49% get insufficient sleep, SIUE initiatives include relaxation and sensory rooms across campus, self-care carts, expanded Welcome Weekend programming centered on the eight dimensions of wellness, and innovative stress-reduction programming during high-pressure periods like finals week. This is in addition to strategic investments in Counseling and Health Services and Health Education and Promotion.

Career-Readiness Competencies

prepare students for workplace success and lifelong career management through hands-on experiences. SIUE student employment programs consistently show higher retention rates, with nearly 95% of full-time freshmen with non-Federal Work Study employment retained from fall 2023 to fall 2024.

SIUE Student Affairs launched a Career-Readiness Badge program, developed supervisor toolkits, and integrated National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) competency language into student positions to ensure meaningful skill development alongside academic learning.

Career Readiness Competencies

There are **eight career readiness competencies**, each of which can be demonstrated in a variety of ways.



Fostering a Vibrant Campus Life Experience creates intentional connections that help students feel they belong and matter at SIUE. Research shows that students participating in four involvement practices are more likely to be retained, and SIUE has every opportunity to provide access to campus activities that allow students to thrive. Through strategic programming and community-building initiatives, SIUE is creating an environment where all students can find their place and contribute to our campus community.

Together, these four focus areas create a comprehensive support system that addresses the full spectrum of student needs, from basic survival and stability to thriving and optimal functioning, ultimately contributing to improved retention rates and student success at SIUE.