

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
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Title of Paper	An Analysis of Factors Impacting Retention and Student Success in Chemical and Biological Engineering at Montana State University
Abstract	<p>Previous research on retention has identified 3 major themes related to student retention: (1) the quality and compatibility of teaching, (2) student's background and preparation, and (3) students expectations and attitude regarding the particular discipline. While faculty members tend to identify the student's background and preparation as the major factor in retention, a number of important research studies have identified teaching quality as the major factor. In the Chemical and Biological Engineering department at Montana State University, an ongoing effort has been in place to improve both the quality and the style of teaching. Despite these efforts, retention of incoming freshman has declined over the past few years, so an analysis was conducted to try to determine the important factors for retention among our unique student group. Data was collected on 220 students over a 4 year period that included admission test scores, course grades during the student's first 3 semesters, and an email survey of all the unretained students. The results indicate that the early mathematics courses are an important barrier to student success, a significant factor in students choosing to discontinue their studies, and a significant predictor of their performance in early chemical engineering courses.</p>