

# Five Components of Student Belonging

Students' sense of belonging on campus is one of the top factors in their retention and persistence. But belonging is hard to define and even harder to measure. Through a review of academic literature and conversations with university leaders, EAB has broken down student belonging into **five specific, defined components**—each with specific best practices that leaders can put in place. Students who have all five components are much more likely to feel they belong and to stay engaged with the university even after they graduate.



1

## Seamless Student Experience

- Policy and process audits to reduce pain points
- Single point of contact for holistic student needs
- Improved virtual student service experience

2

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Institutional culture of wellbeing and prevention
- Evidence-based activities to develop resiliency
- Help for students facing food/housing insecurity

3

## Active and Engaged Learning

- Active learning pedagogy and classroom design
- Opportunities for small-group learning
- Incentives for staff to scale learning innovations

4

## Cocurricular and Social Engagement

- Engagement options for every student and course
- Skill-building opportunities for student leaders
- Virtual community building for distance learners

5

## Academic Mentoring and Support

- Structured instructor-student mentoring schemes
- Events that foster connections with staff
- Resources for staff to support student wellbeing