Accepted Manuscript

Thrivers and Divers: Using Non-Academic Measures to Predict College Success and Failure

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PII: S0272-7757(17)30023-7

DOI: 10.1016/j.econedurev.2017.09.008

Reference: ECOEDU 1742

To appear in: Economics of Education Review

Received date: 11 January 2017 Revised date: 19 July 2017

Accepted date: 30 September 2017



Please cite this article as: Graham Beattie, Jean-William P. Laliberté, Philip Oreopoulos, Thrivers and Divers: Using Non-Academic Measures to Predict College Success and Failure, *Economics of Education Review* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.econedurev.2017.09.008

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Highlights

- We introduce a novel method for collecting a comprehensive set of non-academic characteristics for a representative sample of incoming college freshman and focus our attention on student outliers
- Divers are students whose first-year college average lies far below expectations. Divers have a far exceed expectations.
- Divers are more impatient and tend to wait to the last minute before studying. They self-report often cramming for exams and wait longer before starting assignments.
- Thrivers are more purpose-driven, and willing to study more hours per week to obtain a higher GPA
- High school grades remain the best predictor of collge grade, however, non-academic constructs
 are especially useful for predicting extreme outcomes that cannot be explained by prior
 educational achievement.

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