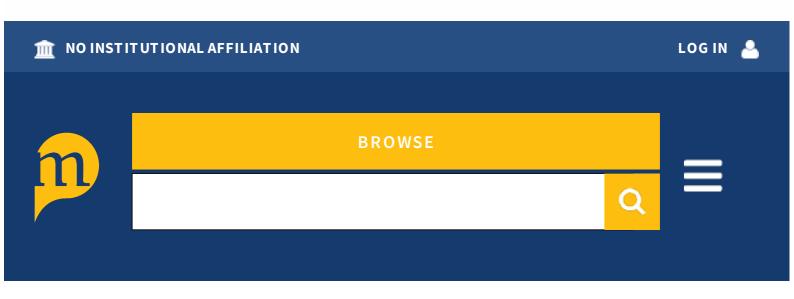
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Exploring the effects of ability to pay on persistence in college.



# Exploring the Effects of Ability to Pay on Persistence in College

Alberto F. Cabrera, Jacob O. Stampen, W. Lee Hansen

The Review of Higher Education

Johns Hopkins University Press

Volume 13, Number 3, Spring 1990

pp. 303-336

10.1353/rhe.1990.0020

**ARTICLE** 

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#### **Abstract**

This study examines the effects of economic and none conomic variables on college persistence, building both on economic theory and Tinto's Student Integration Model. The authors tested their predictive research design's hypotheses by means of logistic regression models with a national sample of 1,375 college students attending public four-year institutions. Findings indicate that financial variables moderate the effect of goal commitment on persistence. They explore implications both for theory and for student financial aid policy.

The Review of Higher Education Spring 1990, Volume 13 No. 3 Pages 303–336 Copyright © 1990 Association for the Study of Higher Education All Rights Reserved (ISSN 0162-5748)



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During the last twenty years, a wide variety of federal, state, and institutional student aid programs have evolved, all with the expectation that they will enhance access to college, widen choice among institutions, and increase student persistence (Stampen 1980). The cost of these programs was approximately \$20 billion

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The authors thank Joel R. Levin, Maria B. Castaneda, Michael Olivas, Richard A. Rossmiller, Randall Dunham, Robert M. Hauser, Robert H. Fenske, Robert M. Mare, Ronald Serlin, and three anonymous reviewers for their help in the research design and their comments on previous drafts. Special thanks go to Dennis Carrol for his invaluable help on the handling of the different "High School and Beyond" data bases. This research was supported in part by a grant from the U.S. Office of Educational Research and Improvement (Grant No. OERI-G008690009). The opinions in this paper do not necessarily reflect the position, policy, or endorsement of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement.





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