



The key to helping students succeed

The Conley Readiness Index (CRI) is a research-based readiness inventory developed from over 15 years of studies into what it takes for students to succeed in their college courses.

According to the CRI, students who are ready for college and careers can:

- qualify for entry-level, credit-bearing college courses leading to success in associate or baccalaureate degree programs or career-oriented training programs without the need for remedial or developmental coursework
- complete these foundational courses successfully at a level enabling them to continue in their chosen major or program of study

Validity and reliability

Based on research of over 300,000 students in colleges and high schools, the CRI was built on a thorough analysis of course descriptions, syllabi, lesson plans, and surveys of instructors across more than 20 essential college courses.

From a rich base of quantitative and qualitative data, Dr. David T. Conley identified 35 "actionable" techniques and strategies upon which students can focus as they seek to improve readiness and prepare for college and career success. These strategies are organized into four broad "dimensions" that make up the Four Keys to College and Career Readiness model: Key Cognitive Strategies; Key Content Knowledge; Key Learning Skills; Key Transition Skills.

Early intervention

The CRI also provides a holistic view of specific areas where gaps may exist between students' aspirations and their skills. This critically important information allows students to focus on developing the specific knowledge and skills they need to successfully pursue their personal college and career paths.



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“David Conley’s [Four Keys Framework] is breathtaking in its scope and depth...If his recommendations were to be implemented, it would constitute a true transformation of the current educational system.”

— Educational researcher and thought leader, Robert J. Marzano
Marzano Research Laboratory

The Four Keys of College and Career Readiness



Problem foundation

- Hypothesize
- Strategize

Research

- Identify
- Collect

Interpretation

- Evaluate
- Analyze

Communication

- Organize
- Construct

Precision/Accuracy

- Monitor
- Confirm



General knowledge

- Structure of knowledge
- Facility with technology
- Foundational knowledge

Attitudes towards learning

- Challenge
- Value
- Effort
- Attribution



Ownership of learning

- Goal setting
- Persistence
- Motivation
- Help-seeking
- Self-efficacy

Learning techniques

- Time management skills
- Test-taking skills
- Note-taking skills
- Memorization/recall skills
- Strategic reading skills
- Collaborative learning skills
- Study skills



Postsecondary awareness

- College and career expectations
- Financial aid awareness

College and career preparation

- College preparation
- Career preparation

Personal awareness

- Self-advocacy
- Institutional advocacy

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