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

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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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