

5 Areas CAOs are Considering to Increase Institutional Value

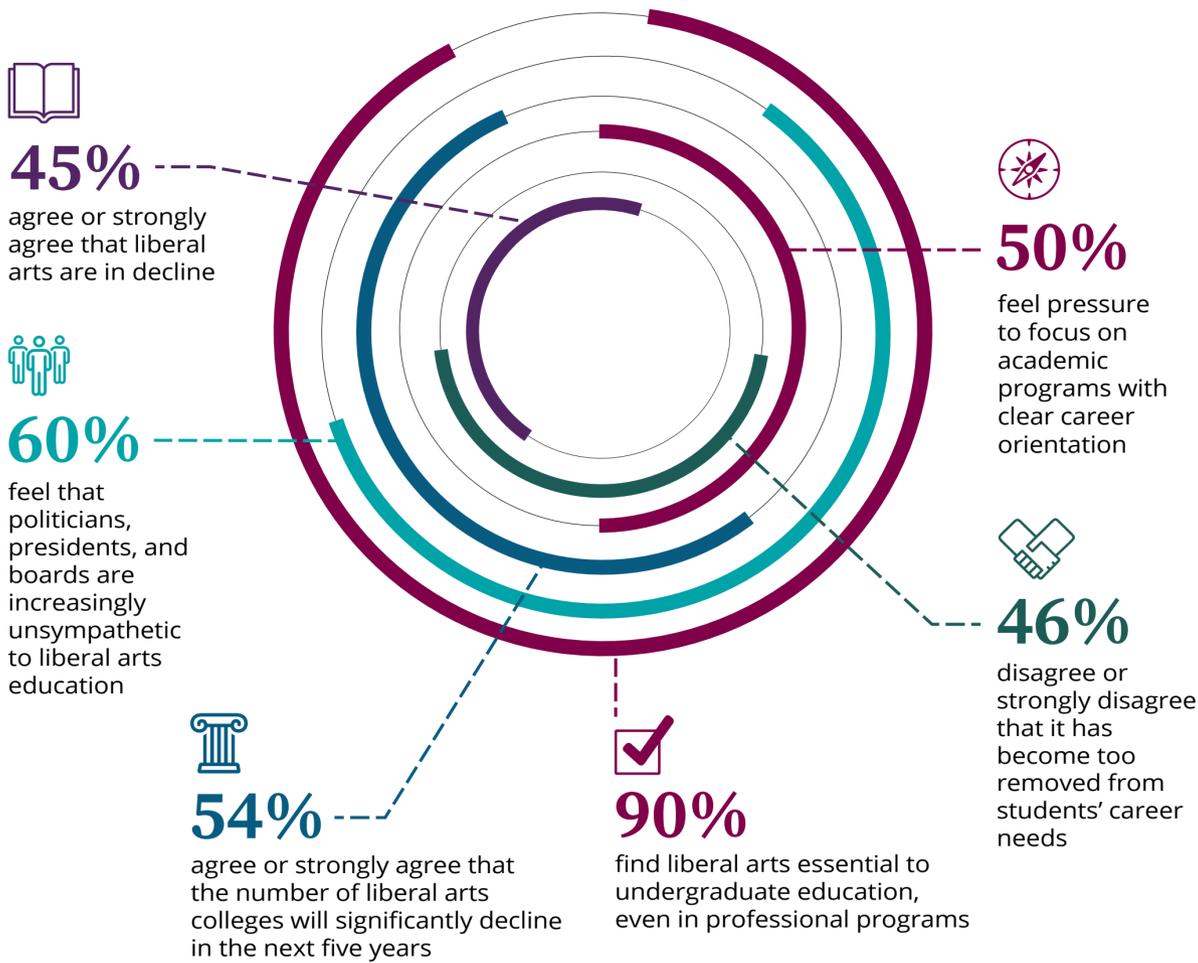
Recent surveys from Inside Higher Ed identified the areas Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) are focusing on in order to provide higher institutional value to both students and employers.



1

Role of Liberal Arts

Although 90% of CAOs believe that liberal arts education “is central to undergraduate education — even in professional programs,” there is recognition that liberal arts programs may need some adjustments to sufficiently prepare students for careers.

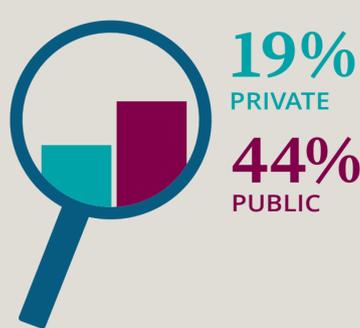


2

Controlling Rising Prices

CAOs are acutely aware of higher education's financial pressures, as well as the public's growing impatience for high tuition rates, but aren't confident in their institution's ability to control rising prices for students and their families. They are looking for new strategies and economic models to sustain their institutions.

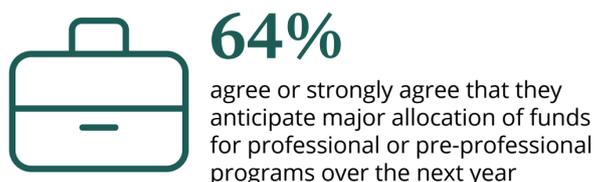
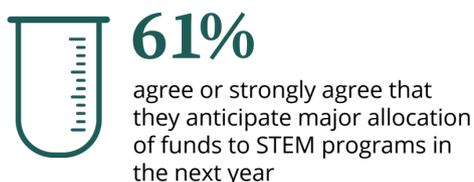
CAOs who believe they are very effective at controlling rising costs



3

Attention to Student Preparation

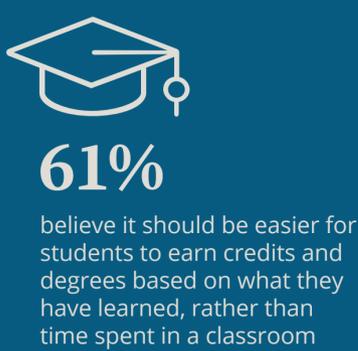
Although 48% of CAOs from all institutional sectors believe that their institution is very effective at preparing students for the professional world, many are taking steps to address pundits' concerns that students do not have the skills and qualities needed for the workplace.



4

Awarding Academic Credit

To address growing higher education costs and changing student and employer demands, CAOs are considering competency-based strategies that allow students to progress as they demonstrate mastery of academic content, regardless of time, place, or pace of learning.



5

Expanding Access

In order to serve more students and provide the flexibility they need, CAOs overwhelmingly are looking to online courses and offerings as a solution.

CAOs who said that they'll be expanding online programs and offerings at their institution over the next year



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1. Inside Higher Ed Report: 2017 Survey of College and University Chief Academic Officers
2. Inside Higher Ed Report: 2016 Survey of College and University Chief Academic Officers