

The SFU logo consists of the letters 'SFU' in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a red rectangular background.

SFU

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
THINKING OF THE WORLD

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Student Awards & Financial Aid:

An Important Pathway to Choice and Student Persistence

Introduction

Competing Values

Theories & Research to inform policy & practice

Policy - Practice Framework

Questions & Discussion

Agenda

- 680M allocated out of operating funds to scholarships, awards and bursaries, 4.2% of expenditures (CAUBO annual report, 2009)
- Scant research in Canada on the effect of institutional aid on student recruitment & retention

Introduction

“Institutional aid is important for students in financial need who, for whatever reason, slip through the cracks and fail to qualify for government assistance. It lends flexibility to the system”

Ross Finnie

Introduction

Needs-Based Aid	Merit-Based Aid
Access	Best & Brightest
Diversity	Selectivity

Competing Values

- College Choice Theory
- Situated Context
- Persistence Framework

Theories & Research

- Predisposition (Grade 7)
- Search (Grade 10)
- Choice (Grade 11/12)

Whether



Where

(Hossler & Gallagher, 1987)

College Choice Theory

- Typically students make the decision to attend PSE between Gr. 7 & 9
- Students & parents under-estimate the costs of attending
- Students from higher SES have much wider choice-sets

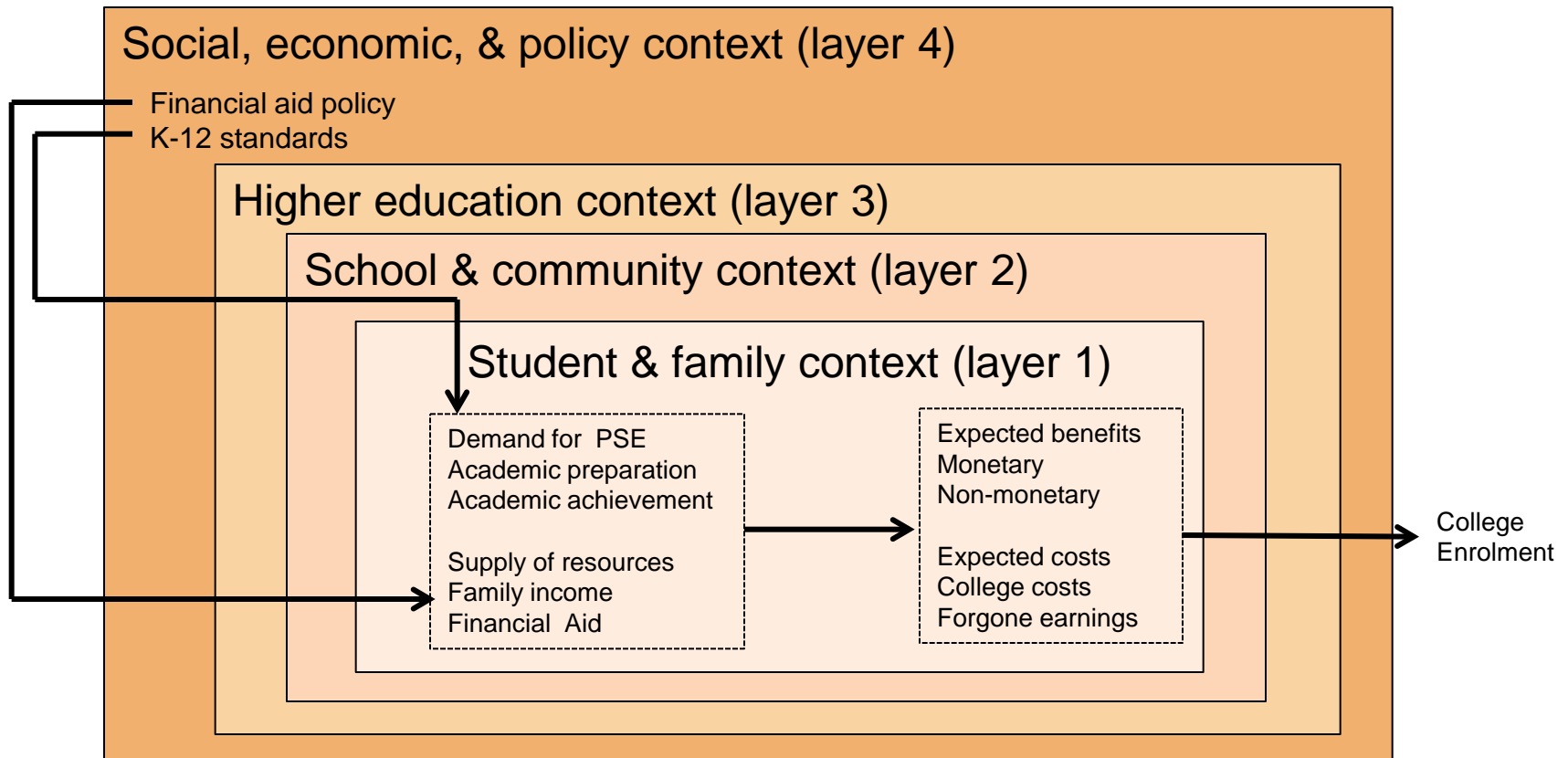
College Choice Theory – All research

- Relationship exists between attracting the best & brightest students & the number & value of institutional scholarships
- To move a second choice to a first choice takes large amounts of money

College Choice Theory – All Research

- Receiving an admission offer from a first-choice institution is the critical decision factor & the scholarship secondary
- Students will work harder academically knowing they can receive a scholarship

College Choice – My Research



Perna (2010)

Situated Context

- Academic performance affects students options & choices
- Students whose parents are university-educated more likely to attend university
- A scholarship offer provides external validation of parental efforts
- Parental aspirations combined with parental education overcome lower SES for immigrant youth

Situated Context – All Research

- A decrease in net-price is positively associated with an increased likelihood to enrol
- Lower income students are more price-sensitive to a change in net-price
- “Naming” a grant award a scholarship has positive effects on enrolment

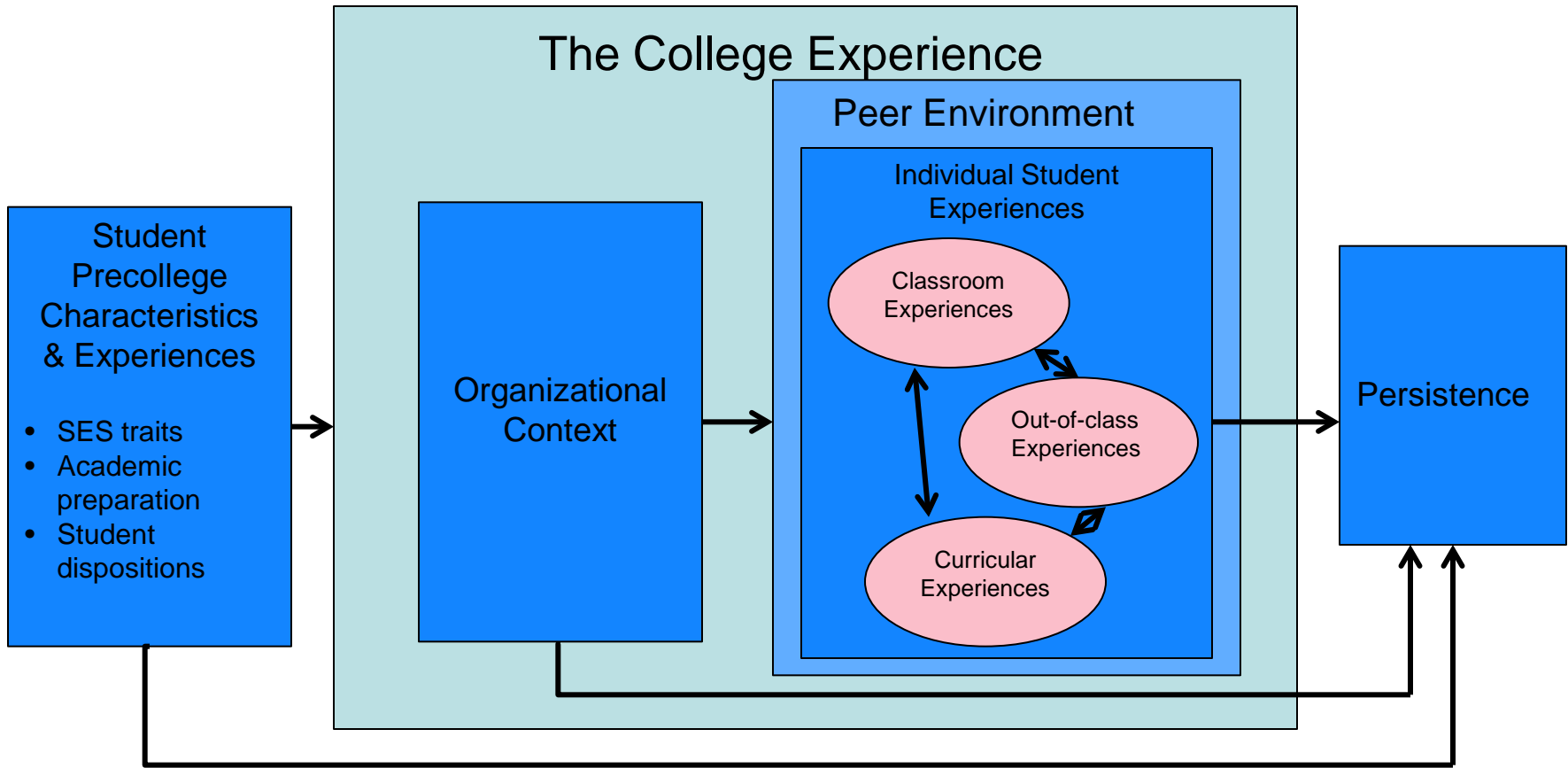
Situated Context – All Research

- Parents are primary motivational force for a scholarship offer with mothers being the greater of the two parents
- Scholarships are supporting students with financial need
- Over 40% of students are first-generation university or first-generation PSE

Situated Context – My research

- Over 60% of students both parents are immigrants
- First generation families accepted their highest offer of scholarship aid
- 51% of those who accepted offer had Family Neighbourhood incomes of less than \$64,000

Situated Context – My research



(Terenzini & Reason, 2005)

Persistence

- When aid is perceived to be adequate, students persist at higher rates
- Academic ability is a better predictor of persistence than aid alone
- The best strategies combine services with financial incentives & support
- Most important attributes maybe reducing the need to work, reducing financial-stress, & increasing belonging

Persistence – All Research

- Scholarship characterized:
 - as a source of parental pride
 - financial help reducing the financial stress of PSE
 - a positive effect on sense of self

Persistence – My research

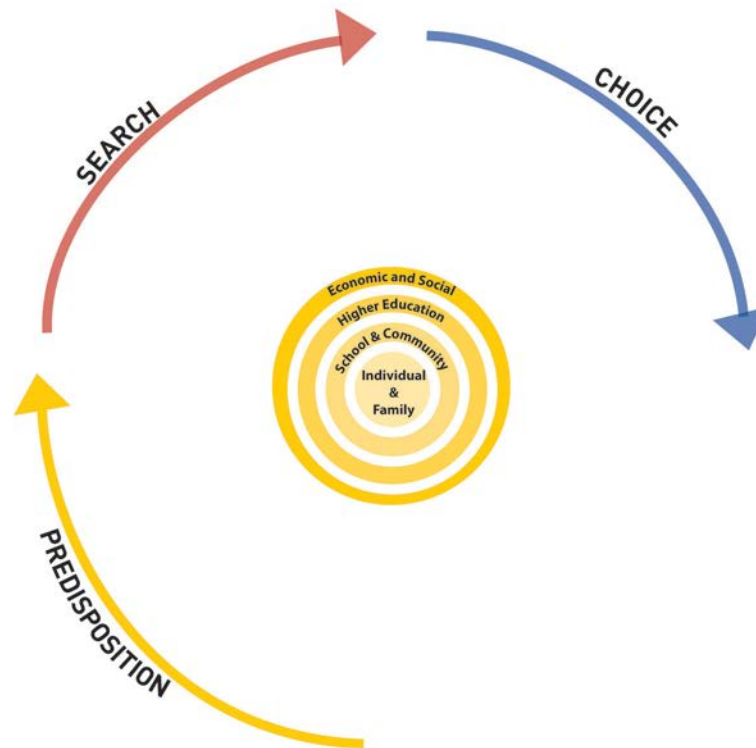
Student Centred



Ross & Nilson, 2011

Institutional Policy-Practice Framework

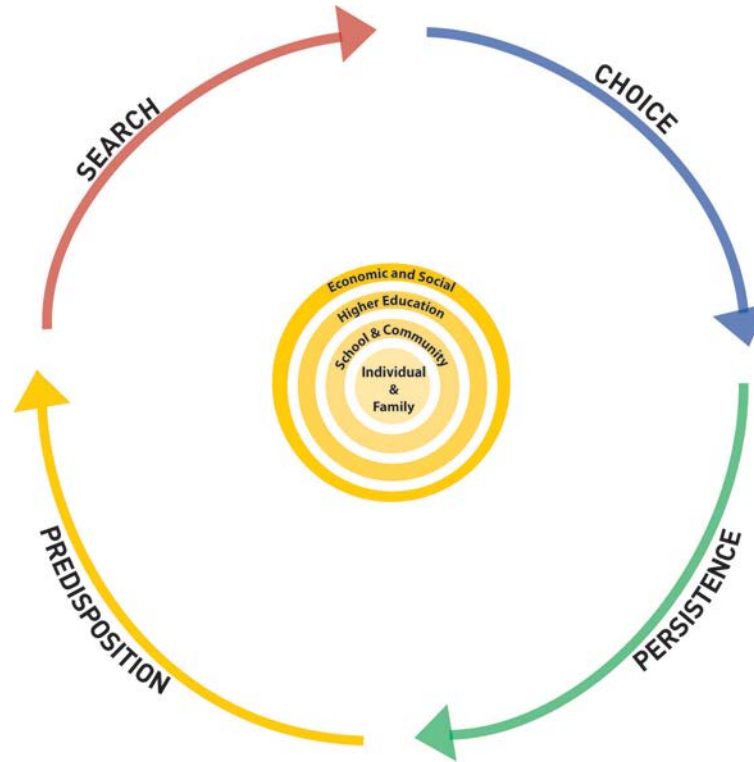
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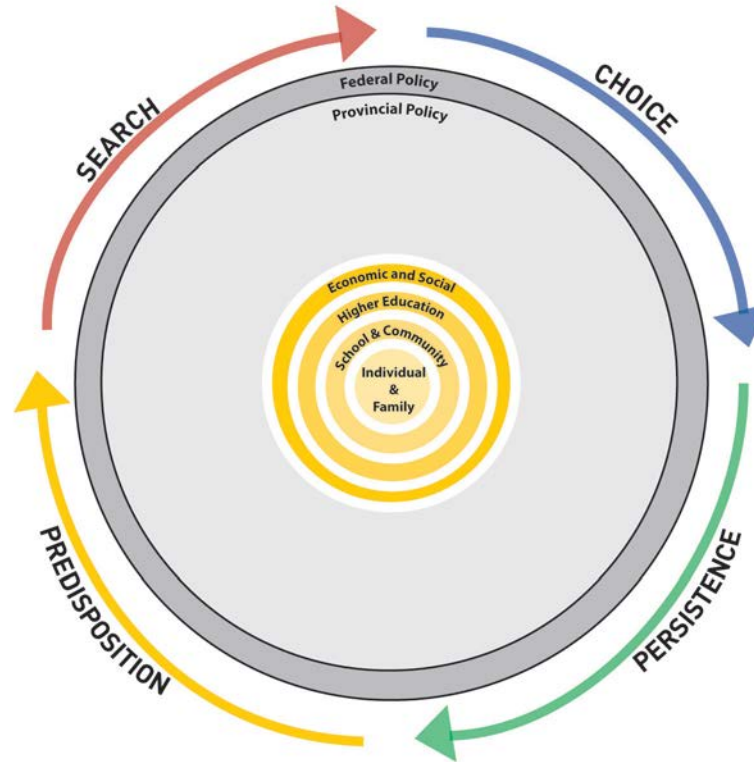
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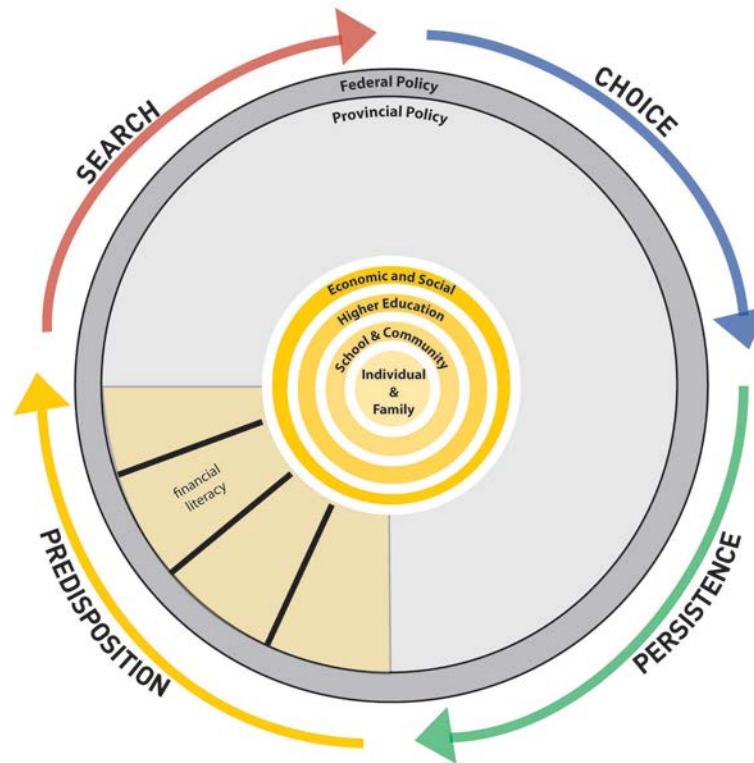
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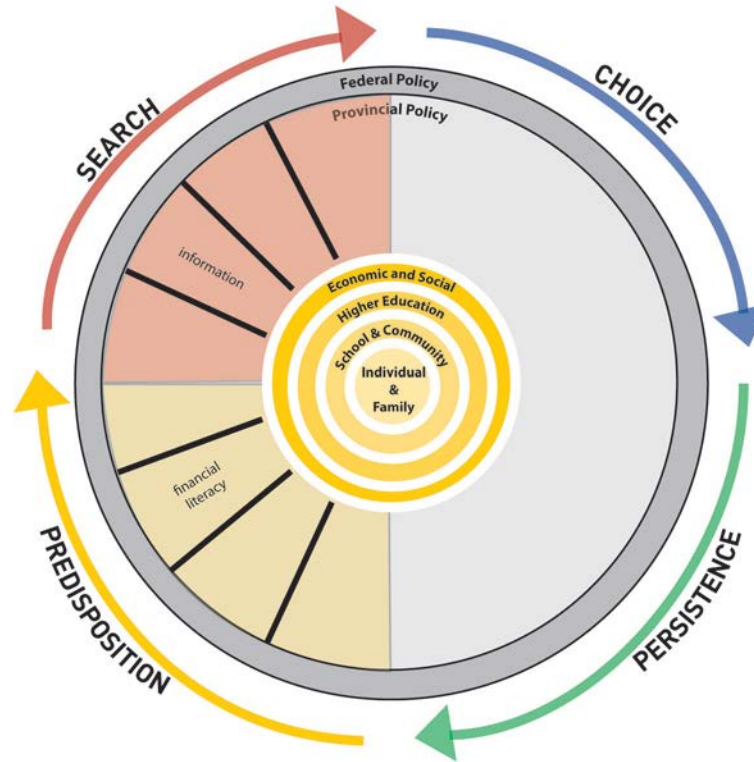
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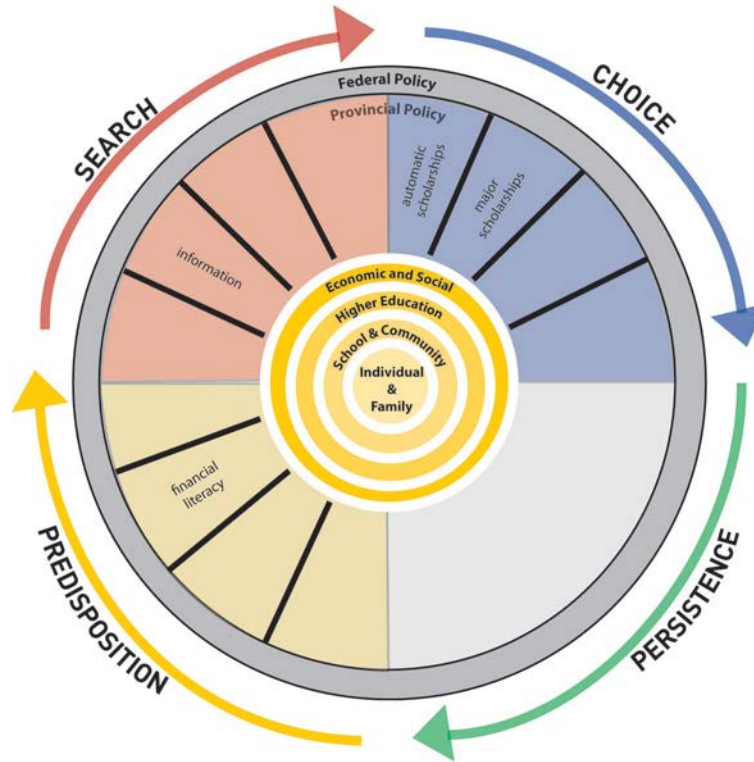
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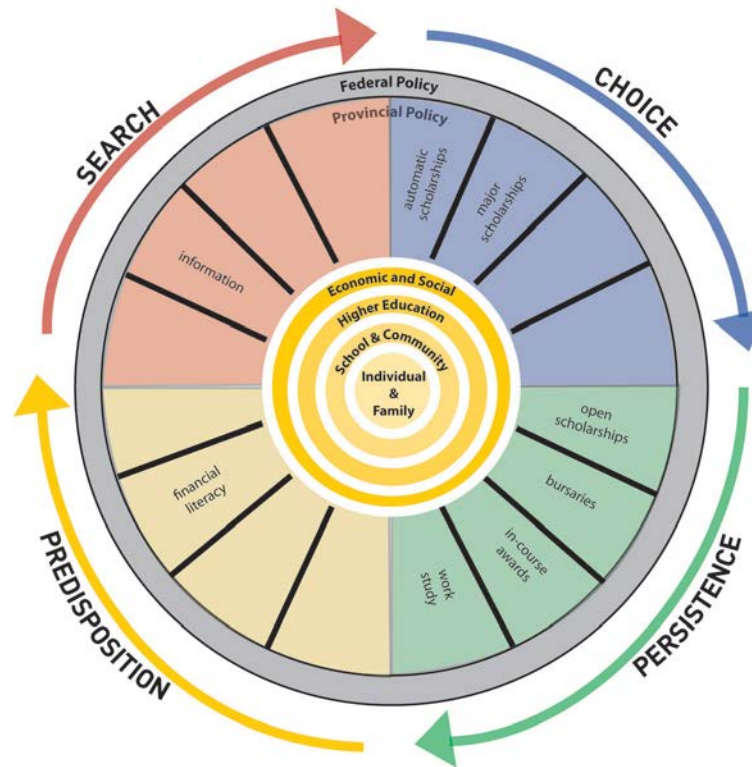
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Institutional Policy-Practice Framework

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Institutional Policy-Practice Framework

- What policies & practices does your institution use now for institutional aid? How do they fit in the framework?
- How have you aligned your financial aid & award policies with your recruitment and retention goals?
- Are there different strategies for different student groups?

Questions

- What are the provincial and federal aid policies? Can the institution complement them, take advantage of them, or distinguish itself from them?

Questions