

# A STUDENT'S STORY

## HOW ANALYTICS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN EDUCATION



James graduates high school with honors.

Top 10% of his class with a 3.74 GPA

Accepted at 4 of the 5 colleges to which he applied

Academic scholarships for engineering

Takes summer prep classes and does well

James completes a fall semester of engineering classes at State University.



James drops out.

## WHY?

The **academic data** tells us that James:



Was doing fine in most of his engineering classes

Struggled with two classes taught by the same TA

Was taking an intensive Chinese language course

Was failing Chinese and advised to drop the course

But what does the **other data** tell us about James?

### Smart ID badges

James missed more and more classes after mid-term exams. He was also leaving the dorm for extended periods of time at night.

### Parking lot sensors

James's car left and re-entered the parking lot at odd hours during the class week.

### Library system data

James library attendance had fallen off dramatically over the last several weeks.

### Student information

James had issues with his roommates which necessitated an intervention from the dorm RA.



## SO WHAT HAPPENED?

If we analyze **all data** together:



### Academically burnt out

He had too heavy a load in engineering. Adding Chinese had overwhelmed him.



### Incomplete records

The busy engineering TA failed to record his struggle to keep up in his extra study.



### Roommate problems

To avoid conflict, James was sleeping on a couch in a student center.



### Part-time employment

James started a part-time job, cutting into study time and class attendance.

Having a fuller picture of James allows us to see possible risk factors, and interventions could have been made before James dropped out.



Learn more about how analytics can help our students succeed.

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