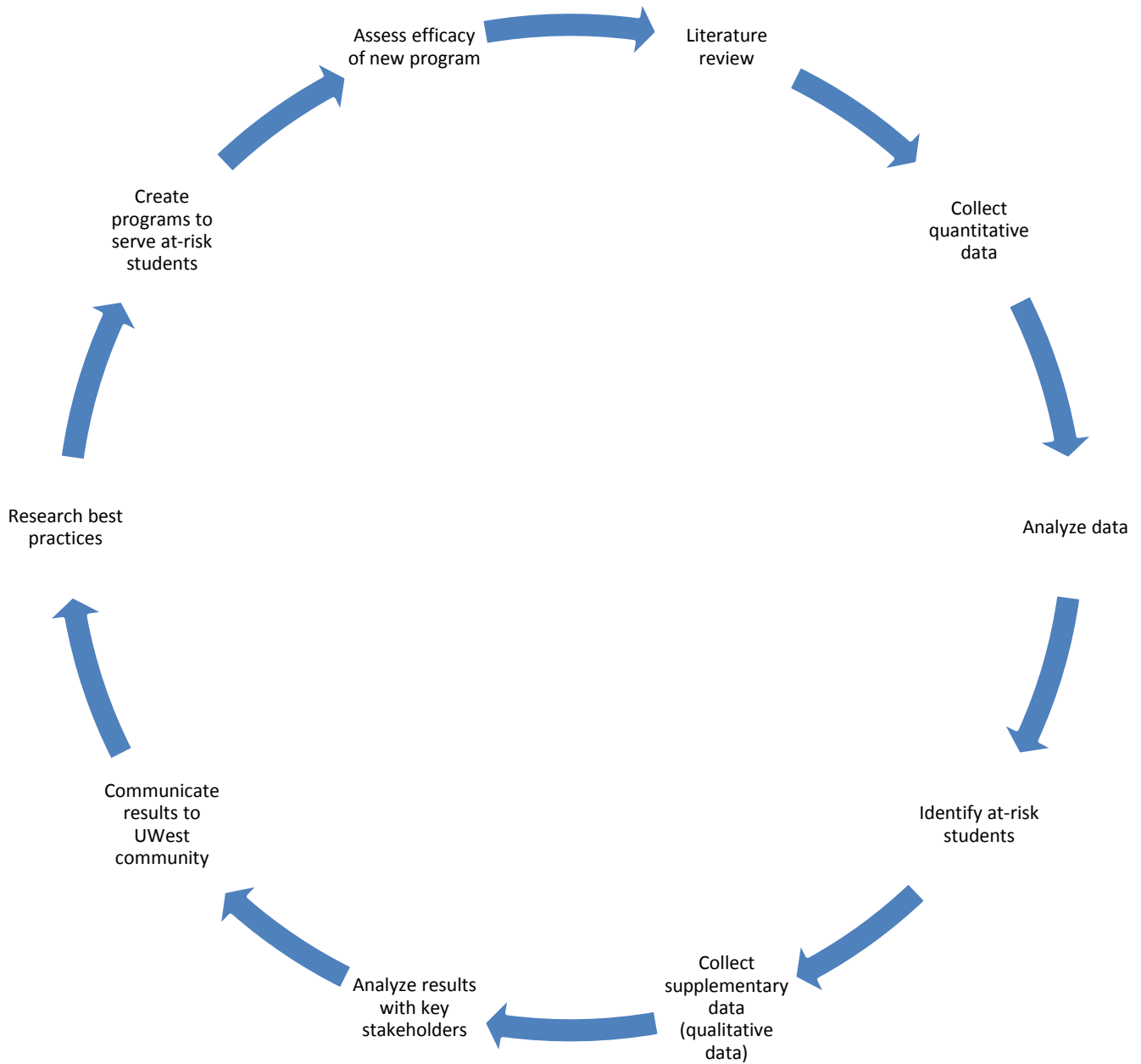


# Research Methodology



## Research Methodology (explained)

1. **Literature review:** Read current literature on retention best practices and identify key variables that have been empirically proven to be highly correlated with student attrition.
2. **Collect Quantitative Data:** Collect data on student enrollment and one year retention and disaggregate data based on variables presented in the literature review.
3. **Analyze Data:** The IR&AO will analyze data and present its findings to the Retention Committee.
4. **Identify at-risk students:** Identify, based on the data, students who are most likely to drop out.
5. **Collect supplementary data (qualitative data):** Conduct more in-depth analysis of at-risk students. Conduct focus group or interviews with at-risk students to attain a better understanding of their struggles.
6. **Analyze results with key stakeholders:** Present findings (quantitative and qualitative) to faculty, staff, students, et cetera. Have members of the community reflect on the data and provide feedback based on their own experiences.
7. **Communicate results to UWest community:** Write final report on findings and share with retention committee.
8. **Research best practices:** Identify best practices to accommodate at-risk student segment.
9. **Create programs to best serve at-risk student population:** Create and implement programs that have been empirically proven to better serve at-risk student populations.
10. **Assess efficacy of program(s):** Evaluate effectiveness of new initiatives.