Technological University Dublin

Monitoring the outcome of student exams for all Access students

Overview of Initiative

The purpose of the initiative is to ensure the academic success and progression of Access students. Access students are students under the age of 23 who enter TU Dublin through one of four Access entry routes (HEAR, Access TU Dublin, QQI Access TU Dublin, & Access Foundation Programme).

By reviewing student performance after Semester 1 and Semester 2 exams, the Access Support Service can identify students who may be facing challenges and proactively offer targeted support. Using a data-driven approach, an analysis of exam results enables the Access Office to identify trends (high failure courses/modules), inform targeted interventions, and ensure support is tailored to the specific needs of Access students. Exam result support calls are unique to Access students and represent a proactive approach in the provision of supports to students.

The initiative will be further enhanced with the migration of systems to Banner, which will identify students at greater risk of failing exams at an earlier stage.

Monitoring & Oversight

Each year, a review of the Access Student Support Model takes place. This includes a thorough review of the exam results analysis outcomes. A review of the progression / non-progression rates for all Access students examined is undertaken by faculty, level, course, campus, CAO points and demographic information. The review highlights areas where additional support interventions may be needed or amended.

Key Features

- Assessment & Examination focus
- Targeted initiative
- Early intervention

Aims & Objectives

Aim: To streamline the support offered to Access students following exam results analysis in January and June and to provide appropriate and consistent academic and wellbeing support to students across all campuses.

Objective 1: To analyse exam results to identify student needs and inform the provision of supports where required to support student progression and retention.

Objective 2: To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of support initiatives.

Data & Evidence of Impact

TU Dublin has been monitoring progression rates for more than 15 years in one of the campuses. The student support model is continually evolving and aligning with the needs of the students based on the outcomes identified through the exam results analysis.

The progression of Access students has increased significantly since undertaking the exam results analysis in conjunction with the review of the student support model. In the five-year period 2008/09 to 2012/13, the progression rate was 69%; in the period 2020/21 to 2024/25, the progression rate was 73% — an overall increase despite the negative impact of the Covid pandemic years.

Additional Information

- Access Support | TU Dublin
- Student Services & Support | TU Dublin
- Instagram @tudublinaccesssupport