University College Dublin

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An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath

HEA | An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
The Higher Education Authority

Supporting Student Academic Progression Initiative

Overview of Initiative

UCD aims to support all students to successfully complete their programme of study and to ensure satisfactory academic progress to be maintained throughout their studies. This requirement is set out in Academic Regulations. There are many factors which may affect a student's academic progress; the Continuation Academic Progress Policy was established to provide a framework to guide the approach to:

- support students to maintain progress
- identify those who need additional support
- support governing boards fulfil their responsibility for oversight of the academic performance and progression of students
- ensure a fair and consistent approach is used across UCD where unsatisfactory academic performance indicates that students may need support.

The initiative aims to support as many students as possible to progress through their degree to completion. The aim is to provide early interventions, with faculty, school, and college offices and support staff identifying and supporting students who may be at risk based on their performance.

Where, despite interventions, the student is not progressing, procedural steps for a formal review of a student's performance are triggered by three failed attempts to pass a module.

Monitoring & Oversight

Governing Boards are responsible for monitoring the academic progress of students registered to their programmes. Programme and School Exam Boards review student performance relative to previous years and note any changes or trends.

Data relating to the number of students whose registration has been discontinued under the policy are reported to Academic Council annually by Academic Council Conduct and Capacity (ACCSCC). Data relating to student contacts is held locally at School and/or College level.

Key Features

- All students
- Institution policy
- Early intervention initiative

Aims & Objectives

Aim: To provide a framework for the effective, consistent, and timely identification and management of continuation issues that may arise, ensuring as many students as possible maintain satisfactory academic progress and complete their programme of study.

Objective 1: To identify students who may require additional academic support.

Objective 2: To support governing boards to fulfil their responsibility for oversight of the academic performance and progression of students and ensure a fair and consistent approach is used across the University where there are concerns about academic performance.

Institutional Context

Continuation – Academic Progress Policy

Data & Evidence of Impact

Low numbers of students whose registrations have been discontinued under this policy may indicate successful interventions. However, more data on the overall application of the policy is needed to evidence this assumption.

Central exam board and progression audit reports identify students in need of intervention. Significant manual, resource-intensive work at local School and College office level is required to extract and manipulate data for the purpose of Governing Boards. We intend to investigate developing an allied system to support automated identification of students at academic risk under this policy and accurate tracking of follow-up activity.

Additional Information

- Continuation – Academic Progress Policy and Procedures
- Continuation & Readmission Process Map
- UCD Academic Advising
- UCD LEAP