

DEFINING STUDENT SUCCESS AT UNB



“Student success at the University of New Brunswick is ultimately determined by the student and is fostered within an environment that values diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, and decolonization. Student success at UNB provides opportunities to engage in educationally purposeful activities; supports persistence; encourages academic achievement; fosters student satisfaction; promotes the acquisition of desired knowledge, skills, and competencies; supports attainment of educational objectives; and prepares learners for positive post-university performance.”



ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATIONALLY PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITIES

Educationally purposeful activities are those activities that are tangential to the classroom but that support the educational mission of the university. Examples of these activities include:

- Purposeful student-faculty contact
- Active and collaborative learning
- Peer support
- Prompt and constructive feedback
- Respect for diverse talents and ways of learning
- Institutional environments perceived as inclusive and affirming
- First year experience programming
- High-Impact Practices
- Experiential learning
- Leadership activities
- Supplemental Instruction



PERSISTENCE

Students' persistence in their academic career (of particular importance for student retention) is influenced by a variety of factors including:

- Effective planning through the lifecycle of the student from pre-application through post-graduation
- Continuous/uninterrupted student enrolment
- Timely completion of coursework or research program
- Student wellness – physical and mental health supports
- The amount of time students spend on educational activities (attending classes, studying)
- Commitment to educational goals
- Availability of financial aid and scholarships
- Social and academic integration
- Engagement in campus life
- Supportive relationships (inside and outside the classroom)
- Co-curricular activities – sports and recreation, student clubs and societies, etc.
- Early warning systems
- Student success initiatives
- Student support services (e.g. Counselling, Student Accessibility Centre, Residence Life, Math Learning Centre)



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Academic achievement is perhaps one of the most well-known components of student success. Some examples include:

- Completion of Program Objectives
- Student academic standing
- Completion of desired degree/credential and structures to support identifying and pursuing desired program.
- Credit hours earned in consecutive terms
- High school entrance and first-year grades
- National scholarships and prizes



SATISFACTION

“Satisfaction represents a sense that the student feels he or she belongs at, and is loyal to, the institution” (Kuh et al, 2006, p. 44) Factors that influence students' satisfaction with their university experience include:

- Academic advising
- Interaction with peers
- Interaction with faculty
- Sense of belonging and community on campus for diverse student populations
- Living in residence



ACQUISITION OF DESIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

The acquisition of desired knowledges, skills, and competencies involves the 'softer skills' that students gain as part of their university education. For example, these may include:

- Cognitive complexity
- Acquisition of interdisciplinary knowledge, including Indigenous knowledges and treaty relations.
- Humanitarianism
- Interpersonal and intrapersonal competence
- Practical competence



ATTAINMENT OF EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The attainment of educational objectives begins to look at students' success beyond our university. Examples include:

- Degree/credential completion rates
- Acceptance into post-graduate programs
- Performance on post-graduate exams
- Achievement of students' final educational goals
- Employment and advancement relevant to their degree



POST-UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE

Students' experiences with UNB do not end with graduation. Student success also includes students' post-graduation experience, including:

- Employment rates after graduation
- Employment in desired field
- Economic benefits (salaries after graduation)
- Community involvement and civic behavior
- Job and life satisfaction
- Satisfaction with degree preparation for post-university life
- Lifelong learning pursuits

Success belongs to every student and is fostered in a learning community that challenges and inspires students to engage, persist, and achieve their potential.