Maynooth University Student Success Initiative

Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

MSU
Maynooth Students' Union
Aontas na Mac Léinn Mhá Nuad

MU Student Success Initiative Consultation Group 'Data for Student Success' Information Sheet

The 'Data for Student Success' project is focused on evaluating the data from students' digital footprints to determine accurate and reliable information that can be used to facilitate supportive practices and decision-making related to student success and engagement.

Central to the work of the 'Data for Student Success' project is the development of appropriate, ethical, and effective, analytical practice that is in line with the values and ethos of the University with a central focus on supporting and benefitting students.

Project Outputs

During the academic year 2021/22, the project looks to prepare the groundwork in this area by;

1) Evaluating the scope of the 'digital footprint' currently being generated
2) Identifying data sources that can inform student success indicators
3) Investigating how digital dashboards can work with this information
4) Developing a Learning Analytics Policy
5) Outlining recommendations for a staged development of learning analytics in MU

These outputs will provide the University with a solid base on which to build capacity over the term of the upcoming Strategic Plan.

Project Members

Name	Title
Laura McElwain (Project Lead)	Institutional Research Officer
Eddie Corr	Data for Student Success Project Executive
Simon Ahern	Educational Technology Officer
Rachel Fagan	Examinations Officer
Teresa Lee	Director of Quality
John McLoughlin	Director of IT Services

Consultation Scope

As part of the overall Student Success Initiative Consultation Group phase, the 'Data for Student Success' project will be primarialy concerned with seeking your input and feedback into the development of a University Learning Analytics Policy.

We will achieve this consultation through workshop exercises and survey tools that will explore your expectations and concerns around the use of student data to enhance student success practices.

Digital Footprint

Student data, or a student's 'digital footprint', is generated from a variety of sources across the University. These include areas such as biographical and course data from Student Information Systems; assessment data; library usage; attendance data; interaction with the VLE; and participation in co/extra-curricular activity.

Learning Analytics

Appropriate analysis of student data can provide a path for examining where student success and engagement is being impacted and sheds light on where support may be required, and effective, in moving student success practices forward.

This process of analysing student data is often commonly referred to as Learning Analytics and can serve two broad purposes:

1. At Institutional-level it supports the analysis of information about students which can be used to inform improvements to processes, structures and supports.

2. At student-level it can be used to drive supportive interventions for individual students, primarily in the form of individual advice and guidance intended to support student success.

Learning Analytics Policy Purpose

A Learning Analytics policy will outline key principles that should apply when using student data for the purpose of learning analytics. It should serve to safeguard student data, protect the rights of students and staff, and outline how data can be used in an ethical manner that is beneficial to students.

Contact

For more information about the Data for Student Success project, please contact Laura McElwain (laura.mcelwain@mu.ie) or Eddie Corr (eddie.corr@mu.ie).

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
Dashboard	An interface that presents information from multiple sources in a visual and user-friendly way
Data analytics	The use of data for decision-making.
Data mining	An approach to data analysis whereby raw data is used to identify previously unidentified relationships and/or patterns.
Data Governance	The management of policies, systems, security and practices, in order to ensure that an institution's data is accurate, complete, consistent, reliable and available to the right people at the right time.
Learning analytics	The use of student data to understand and enhance supportive practices and decision making related to student success and engagement.
Metadata	A set of data that provides context or additional information about a related data set. Metadata related to user activity, for example, may include login times, durations or navigation paths
Student information systems (SIS)	A central management information system used to manage student data by educational institutions.
Virtual learning environment (VLE)	An online platform that enables educators to share learning resources (such as lecture notes and online quizzes) with students. In Maynooth's case this system is called Moodle.