

Fall-to-Spring Persistence Resolution – Pilot Shell

Whereas, retention is a central issue to Wright State University, with a substantial impact on enrollment and tuition revenue as well as student success and completion outcomes (Appendix A); and

Whereas, Fall-to-Spring persistence is the first significant retention milestone and offers an early opportunity to retain students, improve academic outcomes, and ensure progress to degree; and

Whereas, high-level buy-in and commitment from deans, chairs, and all administrators is recommended to actively support persistence initiatives and communicate the importance of participation by faculty, advisors, students, and all relevant Wright State University employees; and

Whereas, information on resources to assist students with academic, financial, and social-emotional challenges is often difficult to locate, as it is fragmented across a variety of departmental pages, incomplete, or out of date; and

Whereas, responsiveness and open rates for email are known to be low across most student populations, and are expected to be lower for students exhibiting signs of disengagement, while student use of Pilot is widespread across first-year courses; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the University should create a Pilot shell to house resource information for first-year students, which would expand the new student education program (currently termed Wright Step, Appendix B) and add other important instructional resources; and let it be further

Resolved, that the Pilot shells be segmented for all first-time Wright State University students (e.g., undergraduate, transfer, graduate, Lake and/or Dayton campus) so that each specific group of students would receive content most relevant to their needs.

Appendix A – Wright State Retention for First-Time, Full-Time Students

Wright State’s retention rate for first-time, full-time students was 65% from Fall 2017 to Fall 2018.

Fall-to-Spring persistence is the first significant retention milestone and offers an early opportunity to retain students, improve academic outcomes, and ensure progress to degree. At Wright State University, only 83% of first-time full-time students enrolled in classes at Wright State in Fall 2018 returned for classes in Spring 2019.

Fall-to-Spring and Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates for Dayton Campus Fall Cohorts

Term	Headcount	Returned Spring	Returned Fall
Fall 2018	1,854	83%	TBD
Fall 2017	2,208	84%	65%
Fall 2016	2,296	86%	66%
Fall 2015	2,408	87%	67%

Note. Dayton campus fall cohorts include full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who were pursuing degrees offered at the Dayton campus.

Appendix B – Wright Step (New Student Education Program) Overview

Wright Step provides instruction and assessment on topics such as Academic Integrity Orientation, suicide prevention and mental health awareness, power-based violence, and alcohol abuse awareness with the recommendation that additional instructional resources be added around financial planning, budgeting, and aid. This expanded Wright Step program will serve as a comprehensive directory of academic help centers; and a comprehensive directory of other campus resources and services.

2019 Message to students:

Welcome to Wright State University! You have been enrolled in a no credit/no cost course as a new student or transfer student at Wright State.

The modules available in the content section of this course are offered as part of your experience as a student (undergraduate or graduate) who is new (or has transferred) to Wright State University. They offer information that we believe is important to your success at Wright State. We invite you to complete the modules at your leisure as a way of learning more about these important topics including *bystander behavior, alcohol use, sexual misconduct, healthy relationships, and academic integrity*.

Note: If you are enrolled in a UVC course, your instructor will have more information for you. If you are not enrolled in a UVC course, please proceed through Pilot.

Module 1: Academic Integrity Orientation

Read the material available via the “Wright State University Academic Integrity” link.
Successfully pass the Quiz.

Modules 2-4: Alcohol Awareness, Sexual Assault, and Bystander Intervention via EduRISK
Each course contains videos and activities.