



# What is Student Success?

## *Student Success and the Student Success and Persistence Team*

In 2011, the Provost organized the Student Success and Persistence Team (SSPT) to study student success and recommend ways to improve retention and graduation.

But the team quickly discerned that these metrics are mere components of student success and expanded its examination to other considerations such as:

- employment after graduation?
- pursuit of personal, spiritual, and intellectual passions?
- social experiences and relationships in college?

For information and best practices, the team drew from findings of the Thriving Project (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/abc.20016>), a North American survey and longitudinal research project exploring engaged learning, academic determination, social connectedness, positive perspective, and diverse citizenship as components of thriving,

student success, and persistence. Thriving college students have more than academic success, the researchers contend: “They also experience a sense of community and a level of psychological well-being that contributes to their persistence to graduation and allows them to gain maximum benefit from being in college.”

## *The Work of the SSPT*

Defining student success as thriving both academically and socially, the SSPT team has undertaken an interpretive analysis of quantitative and qualitative student data to identify factors that contribute to and predict success at UD. After determining the best markers of student success, it will recommend response strategies for improvement.

Throughout the academic year, the team will share findings and resources that faculty and staff can use to contribute to the success of the students. To share ideas or observations about student success, contact the team at [success@udayton.edu](mailto:success@udayton.edu).

## **2018-19 Student Success and Persistence Team**

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