

UCD LEAP (UCD Live Engagement & Attendance Project)



University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath



Overview of Initiative

UCD LEAP, an online tool piloted from 2018/19 and mainstreamed from 2020 onwards, has been designed to identify and enable the provision of personalised and timely supports to students, in particular first-year students, at risk of disengagement from their programme. The resource enables UCD Student Advisers to analyse students' engagement in their programme by reviewing programme-level, Virtual Learning Environment data.

UCD LEAP is informed by login and content access data. A weekly report is generated and sent to Student Advisers in all programme areas so that they can proactively reach out to students who have been flagged by the system to offer pastoral care and wellbeing support. Enhancements to UCD LEAP (through Tableau) will see the further development and customisation of VLE engagement reporting and the inclusion of additional metrics.

Monitoring & Oversight

- Reporting to the UCD University Management Team's Student Experience Group.
- Monitoring and reporting on effectiveness is an annual activity, with additional work being undertaken to determine how VLE engagement insights can be expanded into related domains.

Additional Information

https://www.ucd.ie/institutional_research/projects/ucdleap/

Key Features

- Student wellbeing, experience & success focused
- Targeted initiative
- All students

Aims & Objectives

Aim: To create a student engagement model which enables personalised and effective interventions by Student Advisory staff and to evaluate the effectiveness of real-time data-driven interventions.

Objective 1: To identify students at risk of disengagement to enable Student Advisers to provide proactive supports that may lead to better outcomes for students.

Objective 2: To deliver early interventions to students at risk of disengagement to enhance the student experience and the retention of students.

Data & Evidence of Impact

Research on the effectiveness of UCD LEAP found:

- Although measuring the impact of LEAP interventions on an individual level can be difficult, LEAP clearly identifies students at an elevated risk of non-progression and lower GPA attainment ($p < 0.01$).
- To establish this, LEAP was rolled out on a phased basis for different Colleges in UCD. The project team analysed retrospective data of student groups where students from multiple colleges were enrolled in the same modules. Students within the LEAP umbrella that availed of LEAP interventions had fewer failed modules, improved GPA, and withdrew less frequently than those outside of the umbrella that otherwise would have had an intervention ($p < 0.01$).
- Qualitative feedback collected from students highlighted that they valued this support pathway to Student Advisers.
- LEAP provided scaffolding for further work on leveraging real-time engagement insights to further enable student success. One example of this is an analysis of 2024/25 data which suggests LEAP interventions can also have a positive downstream impact on engagement in student clubs & societies.