## STRATEGIC PRIORITY

1.0 Teaching and Learning

### SUB-PRIORITY

1.1 Increase retention and degree completion

### EXECUTIVE SPONSOR

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### PROJECT LEADS

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### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 3.2, 4.2, 5.6

### DESCRIPTION

Dalhousie’s percentage of students who successfully move from first to second year lags the U15. Retention rates for international students pose specific concerns. There is a need to better understand the academic and non-academic factors which influence retention and degree completion of students in Dalhousie’s direct-entry programs.

The multi-faceted strategy will ensure the effective development of a "culture of retention" across Dalhousie’s campuses. The strategy will focus on effective analysis and proactive student success strategies; enrolment approaches from a retention and completion perspective; and continuous development, implementation and evaluation of all institution-wide and faculty-based student support practices.

### SPECIFIC GOALS

1. Improve student success year over year, with a focus on those students, identified by analysis, as being the most likely to be aided by defined strategies and organizational cultures. One measure of success would be increased retention and increased degree completion.
2. Increase first year student retention rates for both Canadian students and international students above the U15 averages by 2018.
3. Increase the completion time rates for 6 years or 7 years, as appropriate by program, to above the U15 average by 2018.