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First-Year Student Success Initiative webpage

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First-Year Student Success Initiative

Student success is central to UMaine's mission, values, reputation and fiscal health. The first year of a student's academic experience has a particularly significant impact on their academic success or failure. A variety of factors contribute to students' success (or failure) in their first year. Throughout the 2018-2019 academic year the Divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Life collaborated on the development of plans to optimize the first-year student experience.

On September 27, 2018, Provost Hecker led an Academic Affairs Faculty Forum at which he shared background data and analyses related to student success and failure as well as a proposal for how UMaine administrators, faculty, and staff can work together to create a comprehensive first year student success plan. [Background materials, the PowerPoint slides and a video of the Forum are available here.](#)

On May 15, 2019, key findings and recommendations from teams assigned to work on various aspects of the plan were shared at a Faculty Forum. [Background materials, the PowerPoint slides and a video of the forum are available here.](#)



[View with transcript](#)

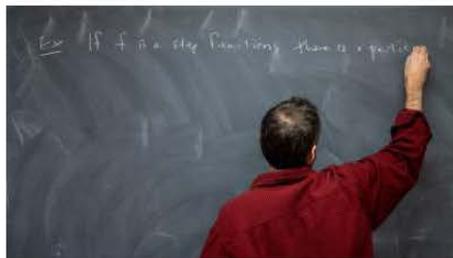
[Steering Committee](#)

Current efforts underway:

Working Groups: Ten Working Groups explored UMaine data, policies and practices and well as national best practices in order to develop recommendations for how to improve the first years student experience at UMaine. The links below connect to information about each Working Group including its charge, membership, resources related to the work, and their final reports.



Academic Support Services Working Group



Faculty Support/Development Working Group



Financial Working Group





First-year Student Success Courses Working Group



Living Learning Communities Working Group



New Student Orientation Working Group



Placement, Preparation, and Progress Working Group



Student Success Hub Working Group



Summer Preparation Working Group



Navigate Committee

First-year Curricula review: Provost Hecker charged the college deans to work within their college structures to engage the faculties associated with each undergraduate major in a review of the recommended and required first-year curricula. The Provost's charges to the deans are available at the links below:

- [College of Education & Human Development](#)
- [College of Engineering](#)
- [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- [College of Natural Sciences, Forestry & Agriculture](#)
- [Undergraduate School of Business, Maine Business School](#)

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University of Maine | Orono, ME 04469 | 207.581.1865

