



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

## Board of Trustees

Item: AS: I-1

### COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

#### SUBJECT: STUDENT SUCCESS UPDATE

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##### PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Information only.

##### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dr. James Capp, associate vice president for strategic planning and student success, will provide an update on the live, in-progress status of key student success measurements, including freshmen retention and the timely graduation rates of various cohorts. In addition, Dr. Capp will provide the Board with a current overview of Florida Atlantic's broad student success strategy with a focus on the work of the University's cross-functional teams and their AI-driven predictive analytics platforms. Lastly, Trustees will review ongoing initiatives that are having transformational impacts on academic operations and FAU students, such as recently implemented technology, a nimble and comprehensive financial aid strategy, innovative academic support services, and efforts to reinvent the classroom experience. This presentation will offer the Board a real-time snapshot of institutional performance and the strategic enhancements driving progress at the University.

##### IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Initiatives are ongoing. The key metrics reported will be finalized in Spring 2026 as part of the State University System's annual accountability planning process.

##### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This item is for informational purposes only. No additional funding is being requested as part of this report. University administration continuously evaluates the efficacy of student success initiatives and strategically allocates existing budget resources to sustain the most impactful efforts.

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**Presented by:**

**Dr. James Capp, Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs**

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YOUR  
FUTURE  
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## **Student Success Update**

Board of Trustees Committee on Academic and Student Affairs

presented on June 10, 2025

James Capp, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President for Strategic Planning & Student Success



# Overview

- 1. Key metrics in progress**
- 2. Florida Atlantic's student success strategy**
  - a. Cross-functional teams
  - b. AI-driven predictive analytics
- 3. Transformational initiatives**
  - a. Technology recently implemented
  - b. Financial aid strategy
  - c. Innovative academic support
  - d. Reinventing the classroom



# 1. Key metrics in progress



## Key metrics in progress

- **Freshmen retention rate** (full-time first-time-in-college students)
  - ▲ Up 2.5 percentage points over this time last year – pushing for a strong finish this summer
    - Retention rate of 2024 cohort hit 80% in May (earliest point in FAU history)
- **4-year graduation rate** (full-time first-time-in-college students)
  - ▲ Up 4 percentage points over this time last year – pushing for a strong finish this summer
    - Graduation rate of 2021 cohort hit 50% by end of Spring (earliest point in FAU history)
- **6-year graduation rate** (full-time and part-time Pell-eligible students)
  - ▲ Up 1 percentage point over this time last year
    - Poised for a bump in 2026, as 2020 cohort is tracking 3 percentage points ahead
- **3-year graduation rate** (full-time and part-time Florida College System AA students)
  - ▲ Up 1.5 percentage points over this time last year



## 2. Florida Atlantic's student success strategy



# Cross-functional teams for driving continuous improvement

- + 34 percent points in 4-year graduation rate since 2014
- Pell students outperform others
- APLU Degree Completion Award, 2023
- American Council on Education / Fidelity Investments Institutional Transformation Award, 2024

## Team-based analytics

- Strategic Workgroup for Ascending to the Top (S.W.A.T. Team) – est. 2014
- Mobile S.W.A.T. – est. 2017
- Executive S.W.A.T. – est. 2018
- Faculty S.W.A.T. – est. 2019



# STUDENT SUCCESS

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# AI-driven analytics for proactive care and maximized resources



## Focus levels - forecast likelihood of success

- Manage student populations
  - Steer custom content to social media
  - Prioritize one-on-one time with advisors versus self-guided sessions and group advising
- Launch proactive interventions
  - Request early alert feedback from instructors
  - Target students for tutoring and mentoring
- Support individual students
  - Offer incentive-based scholarships to accelerate those who are predicted to benefit the most
  - Connect students with academic coaching before they experience academic difficulty



### 3. Transformational initiatives



## Technology recently implemented for wraparound student success



**Digital marketing**  
Registration Campaigns



**Customer relationship management**  
Admissions Communications Portal



**Academic planning**  
Online Flight Plans



**AI-driven advising platform**  
Success Network



**Admissions support**  
AI Recruiter



**Online educational tools**  
Skill Building Micro-credentials



# Comprehensive financial aid strategy for every student in need



1:1 sessions, workshops, and modules to reduce student debt and increase savings

Rapidly providing resources to address unexpected financial crises for students and their families



Targeted incentive-based awards to boost retention and graduation rates



Keeping students focused on school by filling gaps in financial aid packages



# Innovative educational experiences and academic support services

- **Education Reimagined** – Faculty redesign courses to include active learning and collaboration, facilitated by Learning Assistants (LAs)
- **First Year Experience Expansion** – Courses that introduce freshmen to Florida Atlantic, collegiate life, and their future faculty in their majors
- **Academic Coaching Expansion** – Now available to upper division business majors, coaches provide real time interventions and build skills
- **Structured Study Groups** – Using the Study Buddy function in Navigate360, peer-led study groups review course material together and solve problems



education **reimagined.**

FAU.EDU/**QEP**



# Nationally-recognized initiatives to reinvent the classroom

## Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)

- Instructors complete 6-week courses
- Florida Atlantic is a national leader in completions, including those who receive the Certificate in Effective Course Instruction, endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE)

## PL **AI** GROUND

- Offered by the award-winning Center for Online and Continuing Education and Office of Information Technology
- Faculty experiment with AI tools, course assignments, training, and professional development courses



**PL **AI** GROUND**

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