

Beginning in 2013, Dalhousie University embarked on a process that analyzed over 10 years of student data to determine student risk factors, both pre-and post-entry, with the aim of increasing student persistence. Through this analysis, the work of various consultants and research on theory and best practice, programming was created that was centered around creating an advising and transition curriculum, known as “On Track”. On Track consists of three distinct programs: Start on Track, Stay on Track and Back on Track. Each aspect is aimed at supporting students by helping them to identify and develop their strengths, while making the most of their curricular and co-curricular experiences. Each aspect of programming is grounded in research, and has identified, measurable learning outcomes. It is a way to intentionally talk about the supports of developmental advising, as well as indicate student change and impact. Success is determined through various metrics, including an examination student persistence. In the pilot year of the program, Back on Track had a significant effect on both the success and persistence of students who completed the program. As one advisor puts it: *“I think On Track is a life-changing program for advisors and students alike. My students made me a better advisor by challenging and inspiring me every day.”* And from a student: *“This is possibly the best advising experience I've ever had since I started to go to school. It feels incredibly nice to have some support and understanding here in university”.*