

Transition to University Program

Jurisdiction: Prince Edward Island

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Level: Post Secondary

Theme: Transitions and linkages

Description of Practice:

Development of a transition-to-university program providing enhanced supports to ensure a successful start to a university career. Two of the main categories of participants are:

1. students from different backgrounds and cultures who need time to adjust to a campus university environment
2. students whose high school grades do not reflect their academic potential.

Background:

The Transition Program was introduced in September 2003 to meet the needs of some groups of students previously under-represented at University, and who may have experienced initial difficulty in adjusting to the new environment.

Development:

Research was conducted into the experiences of Transition Programs offered elsewhere in Canada, and the program has been steadily modified based on the experiences and success rates achieved by participants.

Evidence:

The retention and grade point average of participants has been significantly higher than that achieved by students in similar categories that had not participated in the Program. The results for mature students in particular have been very strong, with average GPA at the end of their first year in excess of 3.0.

Adaptability:

Understanding of the particular needs and situations of specific communities is important in such a program, as is the need to individualize the program. Self-understanding, and development of clear individual objectives in learning, is essential to ensure that each participant can benefit from the program

Further information:

See <http://www.upei.ca/transition/>