

Board of Trustees
Academic and Student Affairs Committee
February 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Zoom / no physical location

The public is invited to view the meeting on YouTube. The link to the Board of Trustees YouTube page can be found the Board website: <https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/>

AGENDA

Public session

9:00am - 9:15am Tab 1	Student representatives discussion
9:15am - 9:30am Tab 2	Faculty representatives discussion
9:30am - 10:00am Tab 3	Transfer ME: University of Maine System - Maine Community College System partnership update
10:00am - 10:30am Tab 4	Student success update: Proactive advising and retention gains
10:30am - 10:45am Tab 5	ASA work plan report: Student mental health resources
10:45am - 11:00am Tab 6	Discussion item: Financial implications of new academic programs
11:00am - 11:10am	Break
11:10am - 11:20am Tab 7	Update on 90-credit applied bachelor's degree programs
11:20am - 11:25am Tab 8	Informational item: University of Southern Maine program degree name change / M.S. in School Psychology to Ed.S (Educational Specialist) in School Psychology

11:25am - 11:30am

Scheduling note: February 24 ASA meeting (tenure)

Tab 9

11:30am - 11:40am

Executive session

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee will enter executive session under the provision of MRSA Section 405 6-A.

Note: Times reflects estimates of the length of presentations or discussion on a given topic. An item may be brought up earlier, or the order of items changed, to allow for effective deliberation of matters before the Committee.

11:40am - 11:45am

**Tenure at time of hire, University of Southern
Maine**

Tab 10

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Student representatives discussion

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY: N/A

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Board and student engagement

BACKGROUND:

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee invites student representatives to the Board of Trustees to bring forward discussion items relevant to their university communities and the University of Maine System.

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Faculty representatives discussion

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY: N/A

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Board and faculty engagement

BACKGROUND:

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee invites faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees to bring forward discussion items relevant to their university communities and the University of Maine System.

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Transfer ME: University of Maine System (UMS) - Maine Community College System (MCCS) partnership update

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X **BOARD ACTION:**

BOARD POLICY: N/A

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Advancing transfer goals in the 2022-27 University of Maine System Strategic Plan

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Heather Ball, UMS Director of Student Success and Transfer Initiatives, and Jamie Ballinger, UMS Director of Academic and Enrollment Initiatives, working closely with MCCS colleagues, have led the implementation of the Transfer ME agreement signed by Chancellor Malloy and President Daigler in July 2024. They will give a short presentation and answer questions from trustees, faculty representatives, and/or student representatives.

Attachment
[UMS_MCCS Transfer ME ASA Update](#)



Transfer ME: University of Maine System - Maine Community College System Partnership Update

January 2025



Alignment to Strategic Plan



Student Success Action 5: UMS will strengthen Maine Community College System (MCCS) and Early College pathways to our universities by March 2024.

Student Success Goal 5.1: UMS academic leaders will establish pathways with our MCCS and Early College partners, beginning with identifying UMS programs most sought after by MCCS and Early College students.

Student Success Goal 5.2: UMS will review transfer agreements and work with MCCS to improve transfer processes and outcomes. This goal will be measured by incremental improvement in transfer outcomes.



MCCS/UMS Partnership Update

Structural Challenges

1. Communication
2. Transfer agreements
3. Transfer advising



Goals

1. Improve cross-system collaboration
2. Build advising support network
3. Facilitate seamless transfer admissions
4. Provide clear path to degree completion



Goal One: Improve Cross-system Engagement

Joint MCCS/UMS communication initiatives

- Weekly communication between systems, quarterly meeting of advisors
- Dedicated central office staff at UMS and MCCS
- Representatives from all MCCS and UMS institutions



Goal Two: Build Advising Support Network

Team of informed professionals at MCCS and UMS

- Trained on pathways and opportunities
- Communicate regularly with students
- Facilitate supportive hand-off between MCCS and UMS



Goal Three: Seamless Transfer Admissions

- **Transfer Agreements (Articulations)**
 - 143 active, current articulations across 14 campuses
 - Dashboard communication
 - Best practices in articulation management
- **Transfer agreements guide Transfer ME**
 - Pathway for students in 95 MCCS degree programs to receive Direct Admissions offers to UMS

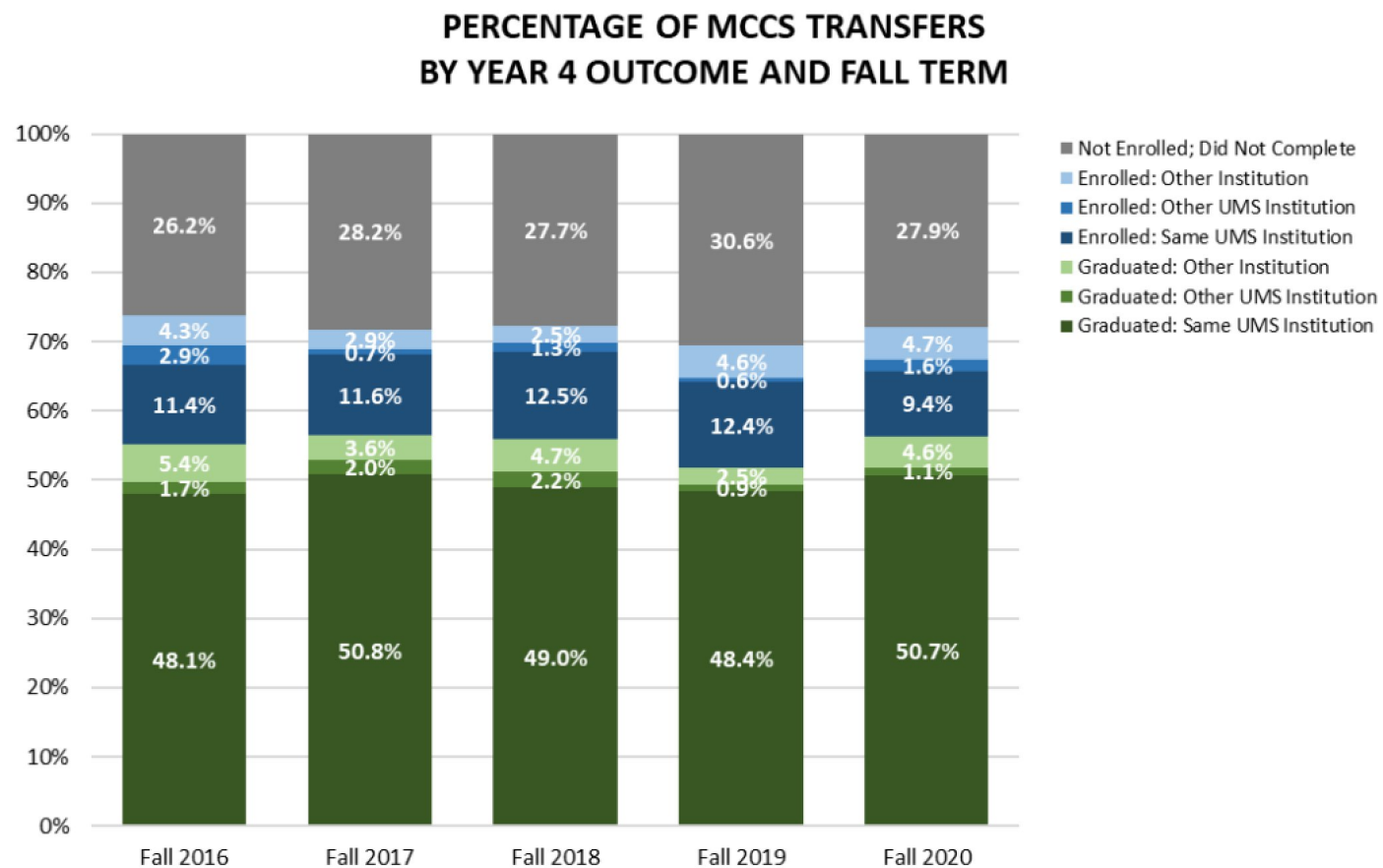


Goal Three: Seamless Transfer Admissions

- **Builds on existing transfer pathways**
 - GPA & coursework requirements
 - Joint advising from both UMS and MCCS
 - Seamless transfer after completing the associates
- **MCCS most sought-after majors**
 - Biological Sciences
 - Business
 - Computers & Technology
 - Education
 - Health Services
 - Liberal Studies
 - Psychology, mental health, and social services
 - Additional options to be added in 2025



Goal Four: Path to Degree Completion





Contacts

Heather Ball, Director of Student Success and Transfer Initiatives: hball@maine.edu

Jamie Ballinger, Director of Academic and Enrollment Initiatives: jamie.ballinger@maine.edu

www.maine.edu/transferme/

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Student success update: Proactive advising and retention gains

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY: N/A

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Advancing goals for student success and retention in the 2022-27 University of Maine System Strategic Plan

BACKGROUND:

Dr. Scott Marzilli, University of Maine (UM) Associate Provost for Student Success and Innovation, will lead a short presentation on a set of technologies and communications supporting advising and gains in retention at our universities.

Attachment

[ASA Presentation 2025](#)



Student Success Update: Proactive Advising and Retention Gains

Dr. T. Scott Marzilli

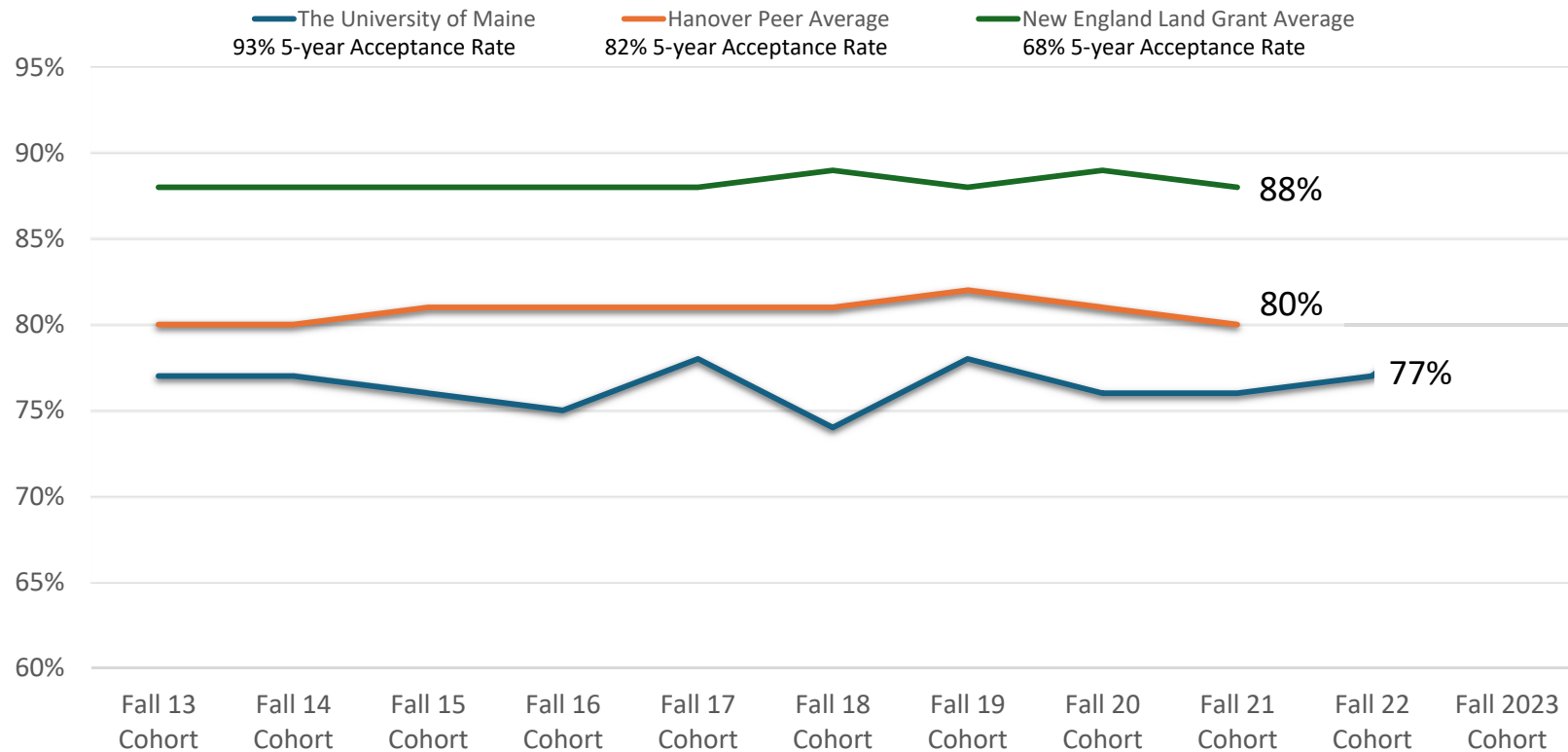
Associate Provost for Student Success and Innovation

The University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias



UMaine's Retention Data

Retention Rate Last 10 Years





THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

UMaine's Historical Pre-Enrollment Risk Factors

4.1

**Pre-Enrollment
Risk Factors**

High School GPA

First Generation

Pell

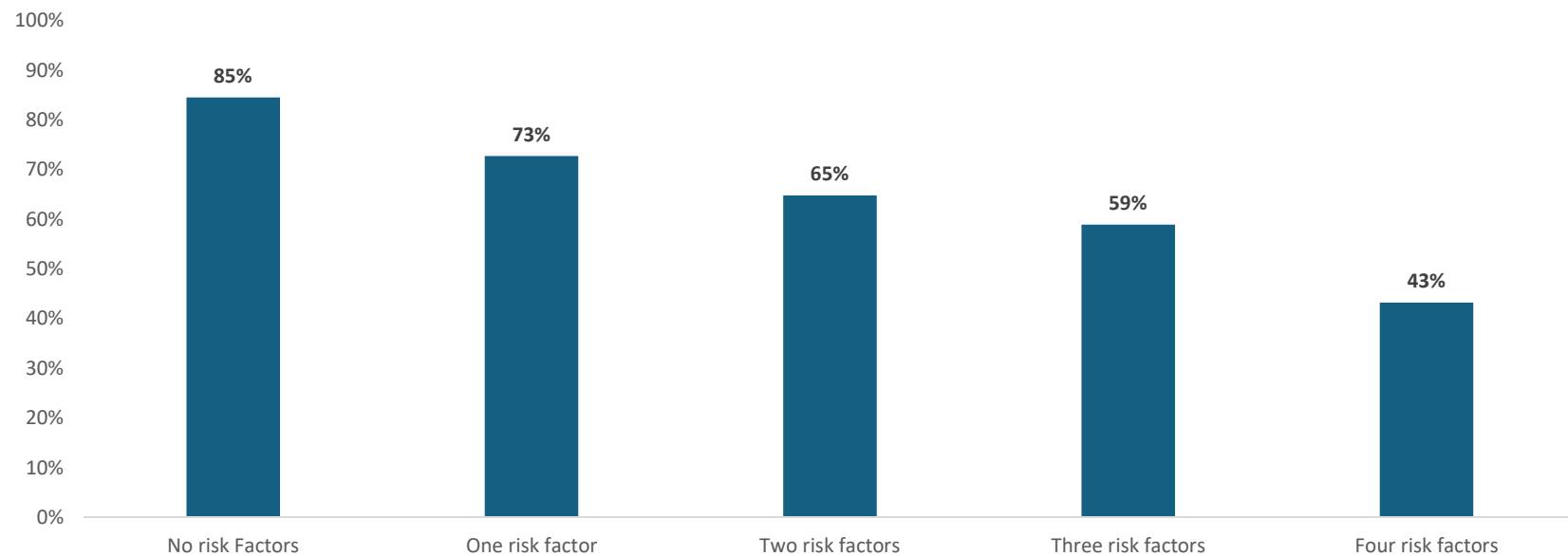
Rural



UMaine's Retention Data: Compounding Risk Factors

4.1

First-to-Second Year Retention
(First-time, full-time cohorts 2017 - 2021 cohorts)





2023-24 Goal: Reduce Performance Gaps for First-Year Students

4.1

What We Intended to Accomplish:

- Provide high-quality support for ALL first-year students
- Early identification of students who are struggling and provide proactive support
- Tap into faculty's eyes and ears in the classroom where the “rubber meets the road”
- Establish Student Success Teams for each first-year student that collectively support every student's unique needs

Important Note: The initiative aimed to reach all first-year students rather than specific subsets (e.g., Pell-eligible, first-generation). A well-designed program will naturally allocate greater resources to those with the highest need.



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Black Bear Early Alert Campaigns

4.1

2 – Week Early Alert

Identify students starting off on shaky ground – from day 1

Get students back on track before more serious concerns arise

Become the student's advocate – assist them with technology, passwords, etc.

6 – Week Early Alert

Functions as a more traditional midterm grade report

Supports students that have been identified as “at risk of failing”

Proactively connects students with available support resources



Black Bear Early Alert Campaign Summary Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

4.1

81 Faculty and Staff Providing Support

181 Instructors Participated

742 First-Year Students Supported

4,074 Individual Support Actions

Supporting Our Most Vulnerable



One or more pre-enrollment barriers



No pre-enrollment barriers



75% of individual support actions were provided to students with barriers to success



Black Bear Early Alert Campaign Summary Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

4.1

Progress Report Completion



55% of instructors provided progress reports for fall 2023 early alert campaigns

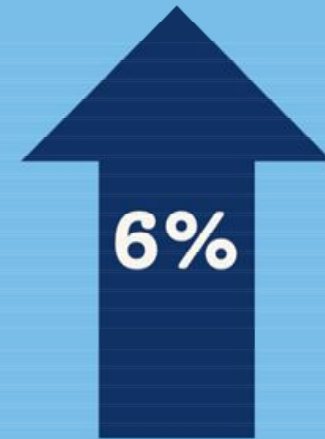


63% of instructors provided progress reports for spring 2024 early alert campaigns

Improvement in Term 1 GPA



3% increase in term 1 GPA for all first-year students*



6% increase in term 1 GPA for first-year students with multiple barriers



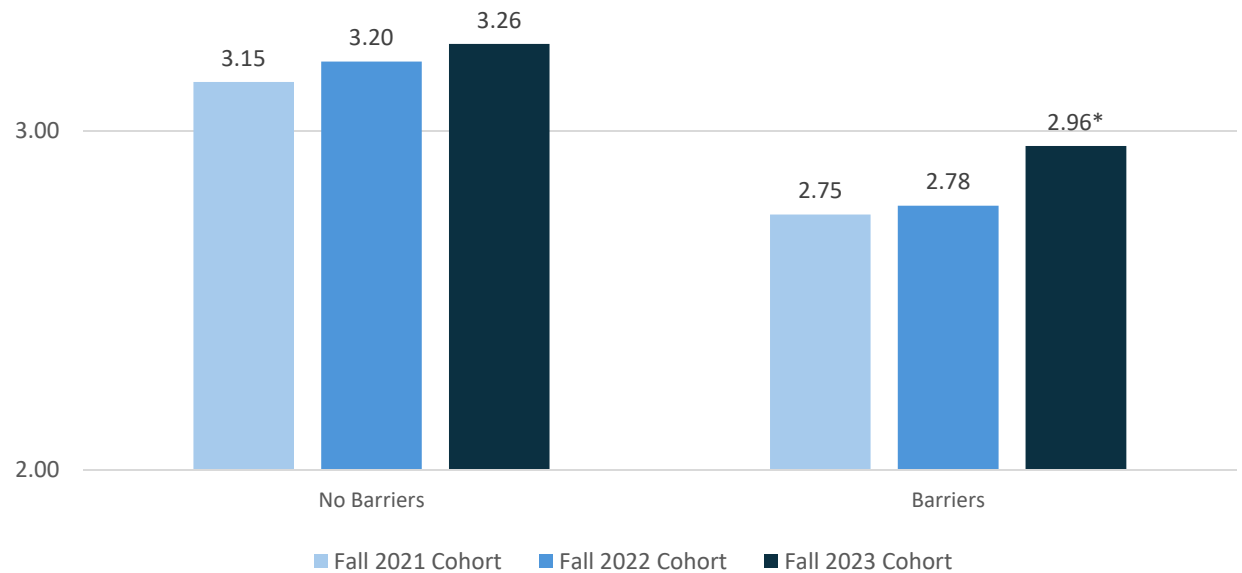
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UMaine's First-Year Cohort Success

4.1

**Reducing
Performance
Gap Results**

Average Fall and Spring GPA for First-Year Full-Time Students With and Without Barriers to Success, by Cohort



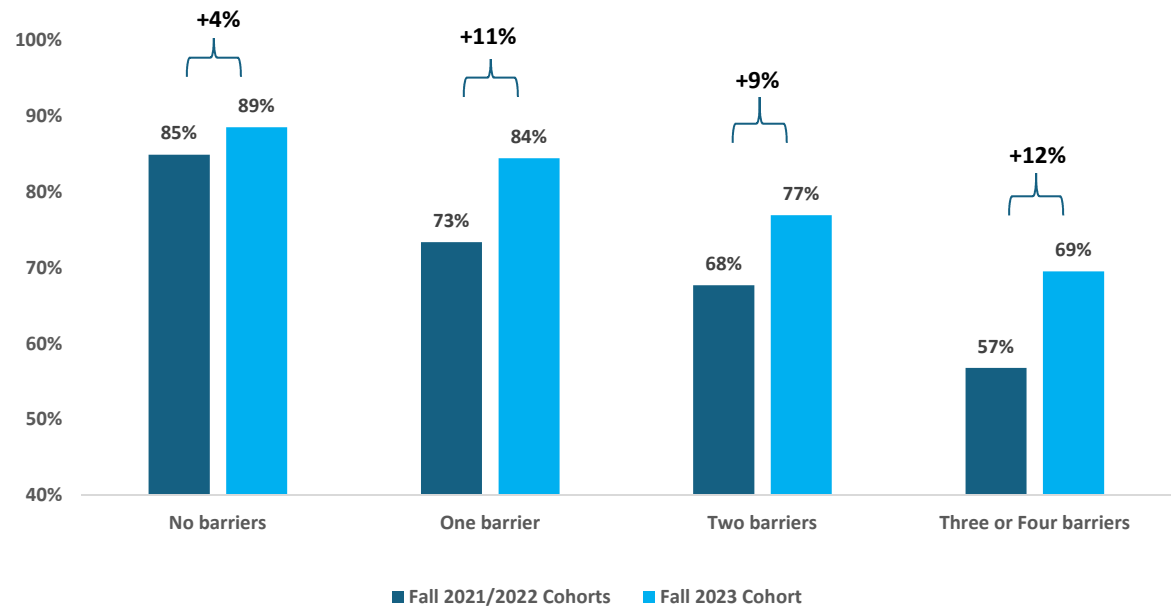


UMaine's First-Year Cohort Success

4.1

Reducing Performance Gap Results

First-to-Second Year Retention
First-time, full-time fall cohorts 2021-2023

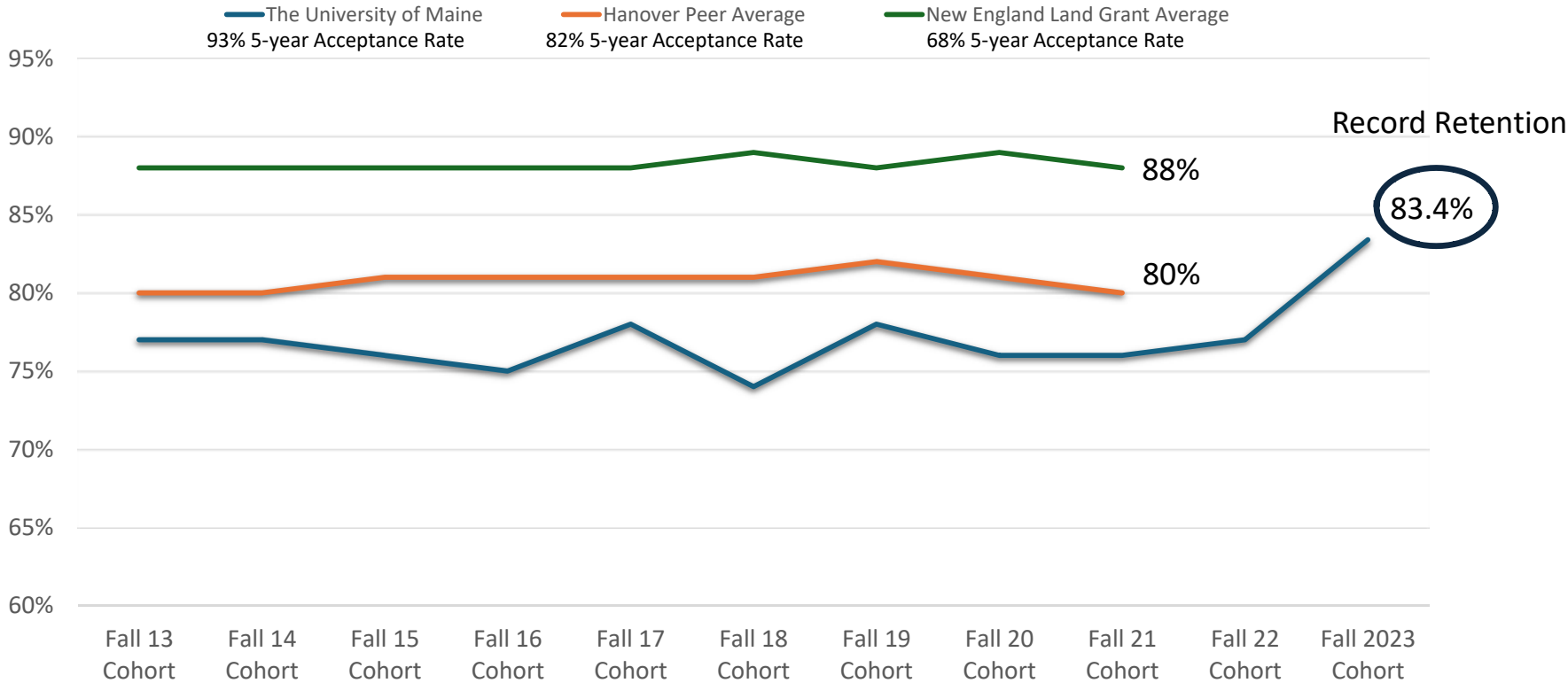




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UMaine's Retention Data

Retention Rate Last 10 Years





Thank You

Questions?

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

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AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Academic and Student Affairs Committee work plan: Student mental health resources

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY: N/A

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Report prepared in fulfillment of the 2024-25 Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee work plan

BACKGROUND:

Vice Chancellor St. John and Heather Ball, UMS Director of Student Success and Transfer Initiatives, will review the status of student mental health resources within the System in keeping with the Committee's 2024-25 work plan.

Attachment
[Student Mental Health Report](#)

Report on UMS student mental health resources

Academic and Student Affairs Committee / February 2025

Chief student affairs officers from every UMS university and Maine Law attended a retreat organized by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs in June 2024. The day's agenda focused on student mental health needs and resources. As part of their preparation, the group compiled an [inventory of current mental health resources](#) across UMS. The compilation (updated January 2025) catalogues staff, in-house services, external and contracted services, counseling (adjacent services), assessment/evaluation, and software resources.

Angela Fileccia, Director of the University of Maine (UM) Counseling Center, joined the group to share the work and findings of UM's Task Force on Mental Health and Wellbeing (spring 2024). Comprised more than 20 staff, faculty, and students, the task force identified current mental health challenges facing students, faculty, and staff, as well as guidelines and best practices to expand to the UM campus community.

Together, the chief student affairs officers considered their own inventory of mental health resources, and the summary findings of the UM task force, as both context and point of departure for a detailed discussion about the various mental health challenges students are experiencing.

The group discussed a variety of strategies to address mental health needs and challenges for faculty and staff, including the development of campus-level onboarding processes to orient new employees to the university community, benefits, behavioral health programs, and wellness resources; professional development opportunities for managing stress, dealing with distressed students, and learning about area and university resources; the potential for adopting a mental health wellness program for faculty and staff; and launching or reinstituting on-campus employee assistance programs/behavioral health services.

The group also distilled a set of recommendations for addressing student mental health challenges and needs, including offering competitive compensation to recruit campus-based counselors; offering an academic module or course on the science of well-being for first-year and transfer students across UMS; developing skills-based interventions and programs to teach social, emotional, and coping skills; providing initial and ongoing training and support for students' use of Brightspace and other learning management systems; expanding telehealth; and securing a health services/medical management solution for each university and Maine Law.

Following a thoughtful and thorough discussion of recent patterns and trends of mental health and behavioral challenges at our institutions, the group identified two key areas of action:

1. Selection of a systemwide telehealth vendor; and
2. Developing faculty and staff onboarding and professional development related to mental health and wellbeing of faculty, staff, and students.

The chief student affairs officers, Vice Chancellor St. John, and a UMS Faculty Governance Council representative attended presentations for a systemwide telehealth vendor in December 2024 and came together in January 2025 to identify a vendor. Once a vendor is in place, the group's focus will turn to faculty/staff onboarding and professional development resources.

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Discussion item: Financial implications of new programs

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY: N/A

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Board engagement and transparency

BACKGROUND:

Trustee MacMahon and Vice Chancellor St. John will explain, and invite discussion about, a process for identifying the costs associated with new academic programs as well as projecting revenue for the same.

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: 90-credit applied bachelor's degree programs update

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY: N/A

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

Board engagement and transparency; academic innovation

BACKGROUND:

Vice Chancellor St. John will share an update on the development of the 90-credit applied bachelor's degree programs pilot cohort and answer questions from the trustees, Board faculty representatives, and Board student representatives.

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Informational item: University of Southern Maine program degree name change / **M.S.** in School Psychology to **Ed.S** (Educational Specialist) in School Psychology

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X **BOARD ACTION:**

BOARD POLICY:

305.1 Program Approval, Review & Elimination Procedures

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

This change reflects our universities' collaborative strengthening of academic program name recognition and resultant marketing/recruitment opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

The University of Southern Maine's Master of Science in School Psychology program has requested that the program degree designator be changed from the Master of Science (M.S.) to the Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) in School Psychology. This change aligns with a national trend away from the M.S. in favor of the Ed.S. degree and reflects the advanced coursework required within the program. This degree designator will align USM's degree title with national professional and market trends. No curricular modifications accompany this name change.

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Scheduling note: February 24 ASA meeting (tenure)

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY: Board Policy 310: Tenure

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION: N/A

BACKGROUND:

Vice Chancellor St. John will note the addition to the 2024-25 Academic and Student Affairs Committee calendar of a meeting devoted to tenure. The meeting will be held on Monday, February 24.

University of Maine System
Board of Trustees

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

NAME OF ITEM: Tenure at time of hire, University of Southern Maine

INITIATED BY: David M. MacMahon, Chair

BOARD INFORMATION: X

BOARD ACTION:

BOARD POLICY:

Board Policy 310: Tenure

UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:

NA

BACKGROUND:

The University of Southern Maine has requested that Dr. Karen Wilson be awarded tenure at the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Science within the College of Science, Technology, and Health at the University of Southern Maine, effective September 1, 2024, in accordance with Board of Trustee Policy 310. Dr. Wilson's credentials have been reviewed by the faculty of the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Southern Maine and received their full support.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

That the Academic and Student Affairs Committee forwards this item to the March 9-10, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting for approval of the following resolution:

That the Board of Trustees accepts the recommendation of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and approves tenure at time of hire, Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Science with tenure to be effective September 1, 2024.

Attachment

USM Tenure at Time of Hire (*Confidential*)