

FACTSHEET

PREPARED FOR SUCCESS

HOW ADULT UPGRADING GRADUATES SUCCEED IN THE FIRST SEMESTER OF POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS

What is PREPARED FOR SUCCESS?

PREPARED FOR SUCCESS (PFS) is an annual study conducted by the College Sector Committee for Adult Upgrading (CSC). It examines the postsecondary outcomes of students who have moved on from upgrading programs to full time postsecondary programs at their colleges.

How long has this study been conducted?

The PFS study has been conducted annually since 2001, or 17 years.

What is the purpose of PFS?

The purpose of this study is to document the positive impact that academic upgrading has on the success of students who enter postsecondary programs.

What has this study shown?

Year after year, PFS has shown that individuals who have received prior training in college academic upgrading programs:

- achieve high marks in postsecondary programs;
- have the necessary commitment to complete their education; and
- make the right program choices — evidenced by the low rate of program change.

Academic upgrading programs continue to provide thousands of dedicated, well-prepared, successful students to Ontario's public colleges.

Who provides the data for this study?

All 24 Ontario public colleges are asked to participate each year. In most years, all 24 colleges contribute data. Exceptions include 2010-2011 (23 colleges) and 2015-2016 (22 colleges).

What are the highlights of the 2015-2016 study?

- A total of 3,364 upgrading graduates enrolled in postsecondary programs (an increase of 294 students over the previous year), with two fewer colleges reporting data.
- Algonquin College leads the province with 616 students, representing 18% of the total number of upgrading students in Ontario continuing on to postsecondary.
- The most popular program cluster continues to be Health Sciences; though Business, Social Sciences and Technology show gains this year. Health Sciences also shows the highest pass rate at 86%.
- The highest average GPA is in the Trades and Skills cluster at 3.33.

What conclusions were drawn from the 2015-2016 study?

With a high rate of re-enrolment in a second semester (73% average), a low rate of program change (5% average), an average GPA of 3.09 after the first semester, and an average pass rate of 79% in the first semester, academic upgrading graduates are high-achieving, low-attrition contributors to the Ontario public college system.

Well-prepared, high-performance and career-focussed, these students are poised to become highly skilled workers, contributing significantly to the provincial economy.

Where can I find out more?

For more information, please visit the CSC website at www.csc.edu