2021 STUDENT RETENTION STRATEGY
Version Date: 1 July 2021
Next Review by: 30 June 2022

UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

The University of Divinity Student Retention Strategy builds a series of targets to measure improvements for student retention. It uses several domains drawn from the Higher Education Standards Panel's *Final Report – Improving Retention, Completion and Success in Higher Education* (2018) domains data, admissions, student progress, pathways and learning environments. Work has already been successfully completed by the Academic Board and others: Academic Programs (AP), School of Graduate Research (SGR) and Learning Environments Committee (LEC). The Target Rate for retention (all awards) is 80%.

Due to the COVID pandemic and related issues a report on student retention was not presented to the Academic Board for review in 2020 with significant shifts in the sector in student retention. The Academic Board established a Working Group from its membership to review the Student Retention Strategy and its key tasks to determine fit for purpose requirements. This group will bring their findings to the March 2022 meeting of Academic Board. The Student Retention Strategy is reviewed annually in June by the Academic Board and reported to University Council.

1.   ACTIONS – CURRENT

	Domain and Action	Entity/Status
1.3	**Data**: Add completion and retention targets (HDRs)	SGR: No formal work to date.
1.2	**Admission**: Consider establishing student readiness questionnaire	AP: No formal work to date.
1.3	**Student Progress**: Review follow-up procedures for attriting students	AP, Colleges: Working Group
1.4	**Learning Environments (LE):** Evans Review/improve student experience	SGR: Work initiated.
1.5	**LE:** Develop online academic study skills modules	LEC: Not initiated.

2.   ACTIONS – COMPLETED

	Domain and Action
2.1	**Data**: Retention Target established, baseline monitored
2.2	**Data**: Review targets, add completion target (coursework awards)
2.3	**Data**: Review definition of retention in alignment with TEQSA and DET
2.4	**Admission**: Review English Language Standards (Admissions Policy)
2.5	**Admissions**: Course advisor training established
2.6	**Admissions**: Review of Admissions process/implementation
2.6	**Student Progress**: Establish early intervention strategy at all Colleges
4.5	**Student Progress**: Annual student interview
4.6	**Student Progress**: Student records cleardown/activity baseline established
4.7	**Student Progress**: Established nested pathways for undergraduate awards
4.9	**LE:** Student Support Services Policy established and implemented

3.   ACTIONS – FUTURE

	Domain and Action	Entity
3.1	**Admission**: Review Admissions process (2022)	AP
3.2	**Student Progress**: exit interviews indicators of attrition/completion (2021)	Working group
3.3	**Pathways:** Clarify nested pathways postgraduate awards (2020-2022)	Course Reviews
3.4	**LE:** UG early assessment/intervention	LEC
3.5	**LE:** PG learning environment early assessment/intervention (2021)	LEC
3.6	**LE:** University-wide student support with mental health training (2021)	LEC
3.7	**LE:** Alumni career advice and mentoring (2021)	Working group