



Siyaphumelela 2019

Progress Towards Realizing the
Vision of Student Success

23 June 2019

Student Success

Student success results, *inter alia*, from the University having provided students with a **personal, rigorous and enriching learning experience** that:

- a) has culminated in the achievement of their academic goals in a timely manner, and
- b) fully prepares them for the future, including future careers

(Achieving the Dream, 2017)

Student success is more than simply a matter of metrics

Student Success

At UP two of the key drivers of student success within the broad framework just presented are:

- the **FLY@UP** Project (student success at university)
- the **Ready-for-Work** Project (student success post-university)

Student Success

The following are two linchpin initiatives that are key to the success of the afore-mentioned projects:

- Hybrid Approach to T&L
- Data-based decision making (Tshebi Teaching & Learning Data Analytics Project)

The critical role of Deputy Deans: Teaching and Learning

The Hybrid Project

In 2018:

- There were, on average, more than 40 000 logins daily on Blackboard (branded as *clickUP* at UP)
- More than 5000 tests conducted on clickUP
- At undergraduate level, 94.43% of modules used the LMS (up from 81.95% in 2014)
- Approximately 67% of all undergraduate modules use Bb Grade Center

Hybrid Learning at UP

What is hybrid learning?

The University of Pretoria uses a hybrid learning environment. This means you will attend contact classes and practical sessions, and also work online in your subjects.



UP is serious about hybrid learning

As a registered student you will have access to the following across all campuses:

- more than 6 000 computers in labs and libraries
- help desk e-reqs
- TuksPrint
- Laptop support
- free Wi-Fi

You will also have access to free software like:

- your own lifelong Tuks Gmail account to remain in contact with UP
- Microsoft Office 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access) to do your assignments on your own computer
- Google products: Web store, Docs, Sheets, Slides, YouTube and Drive with unlimited storage to do your assignments and store your work in the cloud.

You are responsible for your own learning

Hardware

- Although UP provides computers with Internet access on campus, you will also need access to an internet-enabled laptop/computer to complete assignments and/or tests when you are off-campus. You can also stay late on campus to complete your assignments.
- **Notes:** Computer requirements for a laptop/computer may differ between faculties. A smartphone/tablet with Android or iOS operating system is optional.
- If you have a smartphone/tablet, install the Blackboard Student App.
- Internet access: Budget for approximately 1-3 Giga of data per month for study purposes. This might vary according to the requirements of your programme.
- A Flash drive (32-64 GB) to transfer files and/or backup data is optional.

Software

You will need:

- a browser to access the university's online library and Learning Management System (clickUP) such as:
 - Google Chrome
 - or Mozilla Firefox
 - or Apple Safari
- a PDF reader that is freely available online
- an antivirus program, e.g. Windows Defender, Avast, etc.

Advantages for your studies

Hybrid learning gives you:

- the best of contact and online learning
- 24/7/365 access to information
- convenience: also study at your own pace, time and place
- self-study opportunity
- the chance to develop skills necessary for your future work environment
- the opportunity to learn better by
 - allowing you to revisit content and videos until you understand
 - extending your learning and contact with your lecturers, other students, and content beyond the physical classroom space
 - preparing for class and assessments
 - keeping you on track
 - taking responsibility for your own learning.

Typical hybrid learning activities

Contact classes

Practical sessions in labs, clinics, hospitals, fieldwork, etc.

Online activities, such as:

- receiving announcements from your lecturers
- viewing study guides and other information
- accessing class notes, videos and other content
- submitting assignments online; most will check for similarity to other documents to prevent plagiarism
- doing online self tests to determine your understanding of the work
- viewing your marks
- viewing your lecturer's contact detail and office hours



Tshebi Data Analytics

In 2018:

- Tshebi started a focus on the ‘high-risk’ modules in each Faculty.
- Faculties are currently in the process of examining their own data and presenting their findings at the Tshebi meetings.
- In this way, patterns of non-performance are revealed as well as success patterns based on, *inter alia*, gender, family income, race, or first-generation status.



**Blackboard
Analytics
for Learn**



FLY@UP

FLY@UP's Vision

The University endeavours to motivate and inspire **students to take responsibility for their own success**, including **graduating in minimum time**.

The University provides students with the necessary support to graduate on time largely through harnessing existing resources on campus.

FLY = the **F**inish **L**ine is **Y**ours



FLY@UP

- Student activities (library activities, activities at the Student Centre Piazza, Student Well-being project, Buddies project...)
- Online Orientation module (UPO) & FSAs
- Lecturer involvement
- **Support staff involvement**
- **Marketing initiatives**
- Oversight by FLY@UP Committee

Ready-for-Work Project



**YOU NEED MORE
THAN A DEGREE**

Plan your
career

Prepare for the
workplace

Find a job

Enrol on clickUP for the
Ready for Work Programme

The **Ready-for-Work** project prepares students for success in the world of work by providing essential skills over and above academic competence.

The project aims to extend curricular activities to include skills and attributes relevant to the current and future world of work.

Students are encouraged to start preparing for the world of work from their first year...

The Results

- Greater appreciation of the importance of student success (**at university and post-university**)
- Greater appreciation of the value of the hybrid approach to teaching and learning (on the part of both students and staff)
- Strengthening of the UP (institutional) narrative that teaching excellence and student success were and remain key elements of its *raison d' être*
- **More students are graduating in minimum time:** A difference of 6% in the proportion of students completing a 3-year degree in minimum time (i.e. 3 years) between the 2014 and 2016 cohorts