

ONCAT Executive Summary

This ONCAT research project is based off the ONCAT funded project (2015-23) that allowed students who were suspended from the university to remediate at a community college over the summer, while earning credits toward a college certificate.

The University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) and Durham College (DC) collaborated to develop an alternative pathway from suspension. This alternative pathway is called the Durham College General Arts and Science- Student Success Pathway, or GAS-S for short.

The pathway allows successful students to be eligible to earn a general arts and science certificate concurrently with the continuation of their University degree after suspension. The pathway specifically addresses life skills related to academic success and communication to improve the student's preparedness for returning to Academia in the fall without losing valuable time towards obtaining their academic goals.

For this reflective research paper, a literature review focusing on student engagement, retention and success was completed and set the framework for reviewing the GAS-S program. Qualitative and quantitative data was collected from several cycles of the GAS-S program, and an analysis was completed with a focus on describing the experience of several groups of participants. Within this analysis, the researchers focused on interpreting the data collected around a student's decision-making process when it came to either continuing at the college or university and the students' subsequent performance. This paper closes with a discussion about lessons learned and the implications from the findings on the development of additional future pathways and learning supports for students at UOIT.