In its Strategic Plan, Bates Technical College has set ambitious goals for student success. This scorecard shows how we’re doing. The individual scores measure our progress in key areas of student success — retention, persistence, completion, and post-graduation success. We use the results to help us focus our efforts to improve.

Retention
Retention measures whether students who start at Bates keep coming back to continue their programs. Our Strategic Plan (Goal 2, Objective 1) encourages us to “Identify and implement new or enhanced strategies to retain a diverse student population.” Here’s our progress:

The line-graph traces the yearly percentage of students who are retained from fall to winter quarter. The baseline (or lowest acceptable result) is 81%, and the desired target is 90%. Actual results range from mid-80% (2011 to 2015) to a low of 73% (2017), stabilizing at 80% in 2018 and 2019.
Persistence

Persistence means that students not only return to Bates each quarter, but, over time, make consistent progress toward their goals. Our Strategic Plan tracks three measures of student progress — getting good grades (Goal 2, Objective 4) and completing math and English (Goal 3, Objectives 1 and 2):

Indicator: Percent of students with a 2.00 quarter GPA or higher

The line-graph traces the yearly percentage of students whose quarterly grade point average attained 2.0 or higher. The baseline (or lowest acceptable result) is set at 79.9%, and the desired target is 90%. The actual results were 79.9% in 2016, 77.7% in 2017, 79.8% in 2018, 75.8% in 2019, and 71.3% in 2020.

Note: Professional/technical students with at least a 2.00 quarter GPA.
The line-graph traces the yearly percentage of students who pass college-level mathematics in their first year of enrollment. The baseline (or lowest acceptable result) is set at 19.9%, and the desired target is 25%. The actual results were 19.9% in 2016, falling to 14.9% in 2017, and remaining just above 20% since then.
The line-graph traces the yearly percentage of students who pass college-level English in their first year of enrollment. The baseline (or lowest acceptable result) is set at 9.3%, and the desired target is 22%. The trend line shows a steady increase from 9.3% to 16.5% between 2016 and 2019, falling to 15.6% in 2020.
Completion can include earning a certificate, a degree, or both. Our Strategic Plan (Goal 2, Objective 2) focuses on completions as a key measure of equity as well as success, calling on us to “Decrease the equity gaps between students based on specific, identified groups,” included those historically underrepresented in higher education.

The line-graph traces the yearly gap in completion percentages between historically-underrepresented (HU) students and non-HU students. Since no gap is acceptable, the baseline is set at 2016’s figure of -12.8%, and the desired target is to reduce that number to -6%. The actual results were -8.9% in 2011, -12.3% in 2012, -8.8% in 2013, -10.7% in 2014, -14.9% in 2015, -12.8% in 2016, and -8% in 2017.
Post-Graduation Success

As a workforce-focused college, Bates defines post-graduation success by one primary measure — employment. It’s Goal 1, Objective 1 of our Strategic Plan. We see student employability as a direct indicator that our curriculum is current and in compliance with state and industry requirements.

Indicator: Increase percent of graduates employed

The line-graph traces the yearly percentage of graduates employed. The baseline is set at 72%, and the desired target is 85%. Two data-points are graphed, with the trend-line rising from 72.1% in 2016-17 to 77% in 2017-18.