

# Session D2:

## Frafald og fastholdelse

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Paper 22

### Examining student perceptions of teaching and study environment systematically to initiate retention initiatives

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#### Program text

A survey study developed to systematically track students' perception of teaching and study environment longitudinal and correlate this retrospectively with their retention or dropout.

#### Abstract

University dropout and retention appears to be a continuing pertinent research area within the field of educational science. However, systematic inquiries of dropout reasons are in short supply. Recent international research on student success suggests a connection between dropout and students' perceptions of teaching and study environment. Therefore, we launch this project aiming at producing statistical knowledge about correlations between student's dropout and their perception of teaching and study environment.

Based on a systematic literature review of in-school factors related to dropout, we have designed a survey- and register study, that will systematically track students' dropout rates and correlate them retrospectively with the students' longitudinal perception of teaching and study environment.

The project will run for three years and follow students with two yearly surveys and collection of register data regarding their study progression (passed exams etc.).

The project is aimed at students at The Faculty of Humanities, University of Southern Denmark. In its first round, the survey had a response rate of 54% among first-year students.

We wish to present and discuss preliminary findings from our literature review, survey development process and the first survey round. Results from the latter includes students being overall happy with their studies and having low dropout intentions (at this point in time). However, these students will (if they resemble the previous years' cohorts) end up with a significant dropout rate. Our longitudinal design will track if, when and how dropout intentions and perception of teaching and study environment changes.

In the longer term survey results will be used to create specific retention initiatives and staff development activities to increase the quality of the study programmes.

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#### Literature

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