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Background
Students who are more engaged in class are more likely to succeed, but sometimes, life gets in the way. Inspire for Faculty shows student engagement and performance trends side by side so faculty can see who needs a little extra attention.

Why Use Inspire for Faculty?

- Empower faculty to target interventions to the right students at the right time
- Understand the drivers of success and risk for a course, section, or student
- Break down engagement behaviors to facilitate conversations about specific actions the student can take to improve his or her likelihood of success

Need ideas to get started? Check out “10 Things You Can Do with Inspire for Faculty.”

Key Functionality

- Uses a heat map to inform faculty early in the term about student engagement levels and the connection between class (or section-level) engagement and successful course completion
- Enables early triaging of students in need of support and identifies student engagement levels
- Clarifies the connection between class engagement and successful course completion
- Facilitates conversations with students about what they can do to improve their likelihood of passing and what they can do to increase their engagement in the course
- Informs faculty about key course dynamics to help them tailor their strategies for improving student engagement and outcomes
- Recommends targeted interventions for students in need and enables faculty to contact students directly from the app
- Facilitates conversations with students about their current level of engagement or behavior in the course
- Enables faculty members to take a more holistic intervention approach by including students’ advisors in communications

The Data Science

At Civitas Learning, we have the brightest people working on what matters most to our products: data science. Our iterative work with diverse institutions has demonstrated
that there is no one-size-fits-all predictive model for higher education. In order to bring the right data, to the right people, in the right way, at the right time, we build robust institution-specific models that accurately reflect the population of an institution and can deliver personalized recommendations to faculty. At a high level, the process goes as follows:

- Collect historical data from an institution
- Create models (student engagement model) based on the institution's historical data (successful course completion model in future)
- Receive an updated feed to retrain the models as needed
- Receive a nightly feed from the institution and operationalize the data and the workflow
- Refresh the data on a nightly basis to make sure that the most up to date data is used
- Arm faculty at the front lines education with powerful insights that inform the design of effective interventions delivered at the right time, in the right way
- Empirical testing and iteration allows institutions to better understand what is working and for whom, tune decision models, and provide proof of the progress of student success efforts

**Engagement Score**

Civitas Learning generates a **successful course completion** score for each course at an institution. This is based on historical SIS and LMS data for that particular institution and course. Success criteria for completion are an A, B or C for undergraduate courses and A or B for graduate courses. We then take out the SIS features and only use LMS features for the student engagement score. This allows faculty members to see only those factors they can impact, such as student engagement.

- Model generates scores on a 0-1 scale based on LMS Z-Score Features
- Model magic distributes scores if they're all tightly clustered
- Center scores so the average is around 0.5
- Multiply scores by 10 to get App SES (on a 0-10 scale)
- Bucket scores into 5 groups (Very Low/ Low/ Moderate/ High/ Very High)
- We do not enforce that 20% of students be in each bucket of engagement

Note: Model distribution and centering is at the section level for non-standardized curriculum institutions and at the course level for standardized-curriculum institutions

**Getting Started**

**Accessing the Application**

civitaslearning.com/inspire-for-faculty
The Inspire for Faculty link will be accessible through D2L.

**Support**

The “?” icon launches a support form for any questions or application issues faculty might experience. That form will generate a ticket that the Civitas Learning support team will receive and address.

**Section List**

The section List contains sections specific to each faculty member. Click on a section to review the engagement overview, student list, and student detail pages.
Overview

Engagement Overview

The faculty member is able to see an overview of his or her course section, mapping students from low engagement to high engagement in real time. The heat map gives faculty the ability to quickly see where students need help at that point in time.

Student engagement scores are based on institution-specific LMS behaviors that our data scientists have found predictive of successful course completion at particular points in the term.

The data powering the application updates every night. If a student’s engagement score improves or worsens, they will move engagement buckets.

Recommended Outreach

The faculty member is able to browse and select from recommended outreach items, groupings of students exhibiting behaviors indicative of high or low engagement to whom to reach out to. Recommended Outreach provides faculty members with guidance on students that may need to be contacted based on outreach strategies that Civitas Learning and our partners have found to be common and effective.

Factors used to generate Recommend Outreach include:
- Low engagement
- High engagement but low grade average
- Lack of previous contact

Student List

Faculty members navigate to the student list to choose from a variety of ways to sort and filter. For example, at the beginning of the term, faculty may filter for “first online” to see those students for whom this is their first online course. She may then send a bulk email with tips for success in online classes.
She may want to pay special attention to those students who are retaking the course or sort for students whose engagement has recently dropped. For positive reinforcement, she may send a weekly email to students who have improved their engagement.

One of the greatest issues students face in online courses is feeling “invisible.” We’ve had incredible feedback from students who received engagement-based outreach from faculty. One student at a Beta partner institution shared that he was about to withdraw from the course until he received a message from his professor and felt “she noticed.”

**Engagement Score**

Faculty can select one or more engagement buckets to sort by.

**Groups for Filtering**

Faculty can create student groups by Status, Grade, and Change in Engagement Score.

- **Status:**
  - First term
  - Continuing
  - Retaking Course
  - First Online Course

- **Grade**
  - Below 70
  - 70-79
  - 80-89
  - 90-100

- **Change**
  - Above Avg to Below Avg
  - Moderate to Below Avg
  - Moderate to Above Avg
  - Below Avg to Above Avg
Targeted Email Functionality

The Recommend Outreach grouping and Filtering functionality allows faculty members to start a contextually applicable conversation with multiple students at once, increasing the efficiency of communication and increasing the individual attention students are able to receive, thereby increasing the overall engagement of the targeted students. Students will each receive a personalized email, allowing them to start a one-on-one dialogue with the instructor.

Student Detail Page

Faculty can review individual student details to target outreach.

Student Information

On the left hand side of the screen, the faculty can reference key information about the student, including contact information for his or her advisor.

Engagement Score

The student’s current engagement score and corresponding bucket (very low, low, moderate, high, very high)

Engagement Change

The student’s change in engagement score (upward, downward, or no shift) and when that change occurred.

Current Grade

The student’s grade at that point in time.
Metrics

A list of the specific LMS activities that most heavily influence the student’s engagement score. A student may have good “attendance: reflected by his or her frequently logging into the course, but not engaging with the content or peers as much as other students in the course.

Performance

Performance graphs unveil trends in engagement and course grade that the student has exhibited throughout the term.

Outreach History

Faculty can review a complete history of communications sent through Inspire for Faculty. This can serve as a reminder about what they’ve already communicated to the student or wish to use similar language to communicate with another student in a similar situation.