



## Evidence for Enhancement: Improving the Student Experience

### Learning Analytics hot topic: Predicting the future

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Predictive models are clearly very powerful and have the potential to assist significant positive change. However, it is important to note that they are often based on historic data, and changes in student demographics may have an impact on the validity of the model (West et al, 2016). Models need to be reviewed to ensure their accuracy is maintained. A predictive model, and actions taken as a result, may change the learning environment and remove some of the barriers that students would previously have faced. Likewise, analysis may indicate that elements of course material need to be redesigned or enhanced to assist learners. These may lead to more learners succeeding, which might require predictive models to be amended to account for these changes.

This is an emergent issue in the field, and there is not much literature available to investigate further at present. The main point to be made here is that predictive models need to be fit for their purpose and therefore subject to continuous review and revision.

### References

West, D., Huijser, H., Heath, D., Lizzio, A., Tooley, D., Miles, C., . . . Bronniman, J. (2016). Higher education teachers' experiences with learning analytics in relation to student retention. *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology*, 32(5).