Student retention is a common problem within the Post-Secondary education market. The identification and mitigation of potential drop out students is often a high priority to reduce the “churn” that can put additional pressures on a school’s admission department. While this is a highly mercenary mindset of the administration, it can also be argued that preventing drop outs and ensuring continuous registration of students empowers them to complete their degree more efficiently and leads to better outcomes for the student.

Within this project, I intend to analyze and determine the indicators of a student’s likelihood to register for classes in the following semester given their registration in the current semester. To help predict potential drop outs. However, one the caveats to this is that graduates also don’t register in the following semester, so I will need to bake into my model the idea of only flagging those students who aren’t potential graduates as potential drop outs. The most easily accessible indicators I will have access to include the student’s academic program (and features of the program such as how structured it is, how many credits required to complete and the need for external certification), the prior registration behavior, course performance, financial aid and existing debt levels, total money spent on degree to date, and housing assignments. I hope that using these features to be able to predict by the end of the Add/Drop period for a Spring or Fall term who will register for the following Fall/Spring