



Student Guide to Learning Analytics

Introduction

This guide sits alongside DBS' [Learning Analytics Policy](#). We want you to understand exactly what data is being collected, how it is being processed and what we will be doing with the information. This document provides these details and will be updated as our use of learning analytics develops.

Statement of Principles

1. Collection and use of data will comply with GDPR and privacy legislation at all times.
2. DBS recognises the limitations of data analysis and the biases that may be contained therein.
3. DBS will take appropriate steps to ensure that data is accurate, verified and rigorously analysed by qualified persons.
4. Use of data analytics will be with the intent to understand, support and improve the learner experience.
5. Data relating to learning analytics will not be used to sanction negative behaviours by learners or staff.
6. DBS will never react to individual records or apparent short-term trends without completing due diligence and with full consideration of wider impacts or consequences.
7. The learning analytics policy will be kept under review on an on-going basis.

What is learning analytics?

Learning analytics is a methodology that applies the principles of data analytics to student learning. It aims to provide accurate and actionable insights into the learning process through the exploration, modelling and aggregation of relevant data sources and to provide an evidence base for optimising the conditions in which learning can flourish.

As a learner at DBS, through your engagement with your learning we already collect data and use it to review aspects of our programmes and manage the use of our resources more efficiently. However, using this data for learning analytics to provide you, your lecturers and support staff with additional information to support your learning is relatively new.

DBS puts your data into a 'dashboard' which allows you or your lecturer to view your data and identify any anomalies. If anomalies are identified, interventions may be put in place for individual learners.

The Student Engagement Dashboard is available via Moodle or the student portal.

How can learning analytics help me?

Learning analytics can show you how your learning is progressing. This can be useful information throughout your studies.

The Dashboard shows the following information:

- Library Info - The number of books you have borrowed from the library, as well as the class average.
- Attendance - Your average attendance, as well as the class average.
- The number of credits you have completed and the number of credits you have left to complete. If you are enrolled on a non-credit bearing programme this will be blank.
- MOODLE engagement data - Total clicks in MOODLE, average number of clicks per login, and average duration in MOODLE per login, as well as class averages.
- CA Submission - The number of pieces of continuous assessment you have submitted via MOODLE, as well as the class average.
- Attainment - Your marks are also displayed, though these are provisional and must be confirmed by the Examination Board, and until confirmed, may change.
- Personal Details - These are the personal details we have recorded for you in our student information system. If these details are incorrect you can update some of them yourself, or you may need to contact your Programme Coordinator.

Based on your data, we may communicate with you suggesting additional support or resources that could help your studies.

How can learning analytics help my lecturer?

Learning analytics also helps you by giving your lecturer or support staff rich information on your learning, which they may use to discuss your progress in meetings or contact you to check you feel you are on track, or to arrange a meeting to review your progress.

It is important to note that the dashboard only provides *indicators* of progress and there will always be a degree of inaccuracy. However, the dashboard helps us to prioritise those learners who are most likely to require additional help. The types of help that will be available will be formalised more fully as we roll out our learning analytics systems, and are likely to include, among other things:

- Recommendations of additional class resources
- Referral to specific study skills programmes
- General advice about managing workloads.

We will share more with you as the range of interventions is developed.

Metrics derived from data sources input into the learning analytics system (dashboard) will not be used for assessment purposes. However, some of the data sources that feed into the learning analytics systems may be used separately for assessment purposes and for the monitoring of attendance.

Looking after your data

Your personal information is safe and secure. It will only be used in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (2018) and more specifically the College's Data Protection Policy and the Privacy Notice.

Only those members of staff who work in the Student Engagement and Success Unit and those members of staff who have a professional requirement to support you are permitted to view the analytics about you individually.

Legal basis used for including data in Learning Analytics

The legitimate interest basis applies to the data processing as learning analytics relates to the College's core learning and teaching functions plus how we support student retention, progression and attainment.

AS per AQR 2025