USM is participating in the Foundations of Excellence (FoE) project, which originally was funded by Lumina and Pew. The result of that project was a set of *Dimensions* that, if followed, positively influence student retention.

USM is undertaking a self-study process, analysis of data, and identification and prioritization of action steps to improve the student experience. Committees will be charged with examining current practices at USM and will assign grades to USM’s performance on the FoE *Dimensions*.