

Memo

To: Academic Advising Council
From: Ryan Allison
Edited by: Matt Carlton, Statistics Department
Date: 8/12/2011
Re: 2011 Freshman Success Program – Follow-up Analysis

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I. Introduction

This memorandum documents the continuation of the statistical analysis for the 2010-2011 Freshman Success Program (FSP) through Fall 2011. The information contained in this memo is meant to assist in measuring the effectiveness of the program in retaining Cal Poly freshmen and increasing GPAs of students on academic probation (AP).

A preliminary memo (5/26/11, R. Allison) was written describing the self-efficacy results from the first survey and change in GPA from fall to winter quarter; the performance of the 283 students that attended the workshop after being on AP from Fall 2010 was tracked and analyzed. This memo describes the changes and trends at the end of the 2010-2011 academic year. In this memo we present mean GPA trends by college, numbers of students able to raise their quarter GPAs above 2.0, and enrollment rates over the course of the year. Self-efficacy was not assessed in spring quarter and, as such, is not addressed in this analysis.

II. Summary

We find that continuing into spring quarter, the FSP workshop has a positive effect on the percent of students maintaining a cumulative GPA above 2.0. Further, students from the 2010-2011 FSP performed comparably to last year's "treatment" (i.e., workshop) group, which performed significantly better than the last year's "control" (i.e., non-workshop) group. The FSP Workshop treatment also has a positive effect on one-year retention; in fact, slightly more students were retained to Fall 2011 than from the previous year's workshop group.

III. GPA and Academic Probation Results

Figure 1 shows the trend of GPAs of the students on AP over the course of the 2010-2011 school year. Note that following the FSP workshop in winter, mean term GPAs rose above 2.0, except in CENG. However, students tended to earn a marginally lower term GPA in spring quarter, which is consistent with the findings from the 2009-2010 students; again, CENG was the lone anomaly.

Table 1 displays these same mean term GPAs by college, along with the aggregate for this year's workshop participants and the comparison numbers from last year's statistical experiment. Note that this year's FSP students performed comparably with last year's treatment group, which performed significantly better than the control group of students.

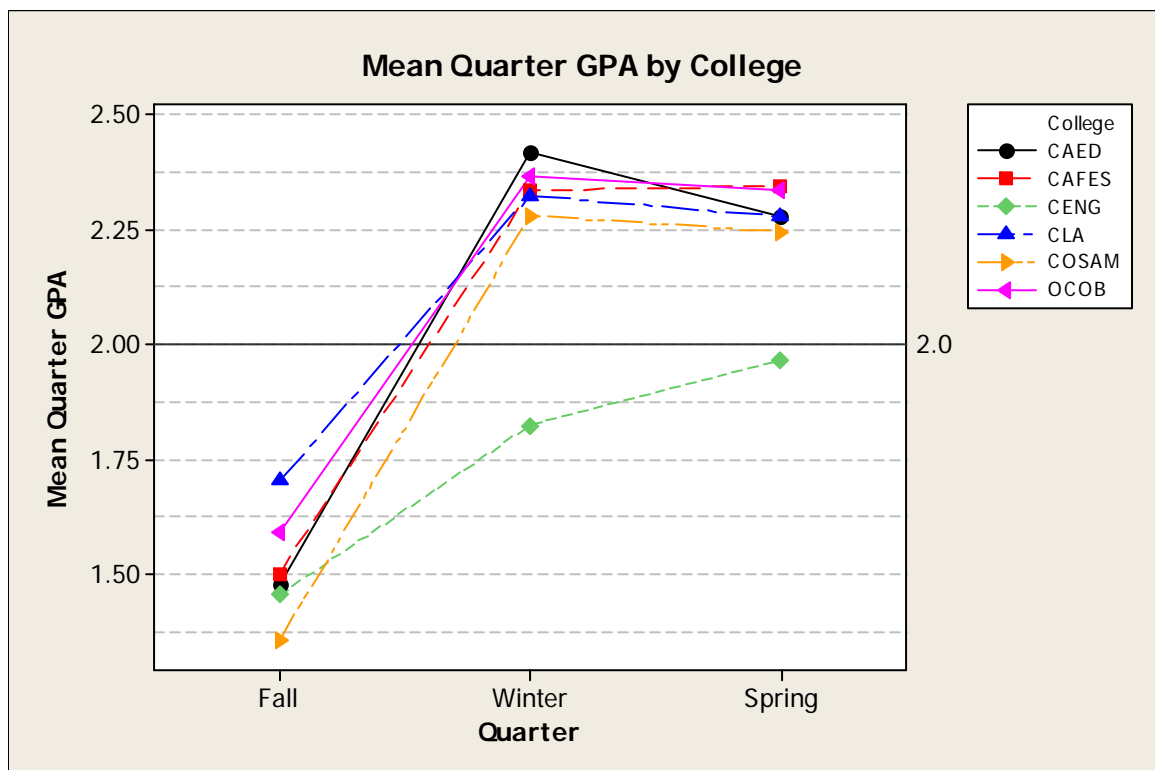


Figure 1 – Mean term GPA performance by college over the 2010-2011 school year.

<i>Mean GPA Trends</i>		Fall	Winter	Spring
College	CAED	1.477	2.416	2.278
	CAFES	1.480	2.353	2.343
	CENG	1.454	1.822	1.966
	CLA	1.695	2.321	2.277
	COSAM	1.354	2.279	2.244
	OCOB	1.590	2.207	2.332
	2011 Aggregate	1.47	2.11	2.21
	2010 Treatment	1.41	2.28	2.24
	2010 Control	1.39	2.04	2.13

Table 1 – Students’ GPAs by college and quarter, plus comparison to last year’s results.

As Table 2 illustrates, a majority (70.7%) of the students that were on AP were able to raise their cumulative GPAs above 2.0 for spring quarter, compared to the previous 49.8% of students at the end of Winter 2011. (It should be noted that since the 20 students that withdrew from the university prior to Spring Quarter, they are not subject to GPA analysis for this quarter.) Once again, results from this year’s FSP were comparable to last year’s workshop group and, thus, significantly better than those who did not attend a workshop last academic year.

		# Students GPA Above 2.0	# Students GPA Below 2.0	# Students Withdrawn Prior to Spring	Total Students	% Students GPA Above 2.0
College	CAED	11	3	1	15	78.6%
	CAFES	37	10	6	53	78.7%
	CENG	38	28	3	69	57.6%
	CLA	24	13	1	38	64.9%
	COSAM	36	14	5	55	72.0%
	OCOB	40	9	4	53	81.6%
	2011 Aggregate	186	77	20	283	70.7%
	2010 Treatment	98	35	22	155	73.7%
	2010 Control	73	45	39	157	61.9%

Table 2 – Students’ academic standing after spring quarter, plus comparison to last year’s results. In the table, GPA refers to Spring 2011 cumulative GPA. Percents in the far right column are out of those students who were enrolled Spring 2011.

Table 3 summarizes retention into Fall 2011 for the students who participated in the FSP workshop, separated by college. For further enrollment and retention information, including those students who did not attend the workshop, please refer to Table 4 in the appendix.

		Enrolled Fall 2011	Not Enrolled Fall 2011	Total	% Retained
College	CAED	12	3	15	80.0%
	CAFES	37	16	53	69.8%
	CENG	44	25	69	63.8%
	CLA	29	9	38	76.3%
	COSAM	42	13	55	76.4%
	OCOB	45	8	53	84.9%
	2011 Aggregate	209	74	283	73.9%
	2010 Treatment	106	49	155	68.4%
	2010 Control	95	62	157	60.5%

Table 3 – Students’ fall quarter enrollment by college.

Figure 2 further explores enrollment rates. This graph shows that the enrollment rate for this year’s FSP participants is slightly higher than for last year’s, which is markedly higher than the “control” group. Enrollment for fall quarter was counted as whether a student has enrolled for fall quarter as of July 22, 2011, and thus is subject to change as students’ enrollment status changes (due to denial of dismissal appeals, monetary-based decisions, etc.).

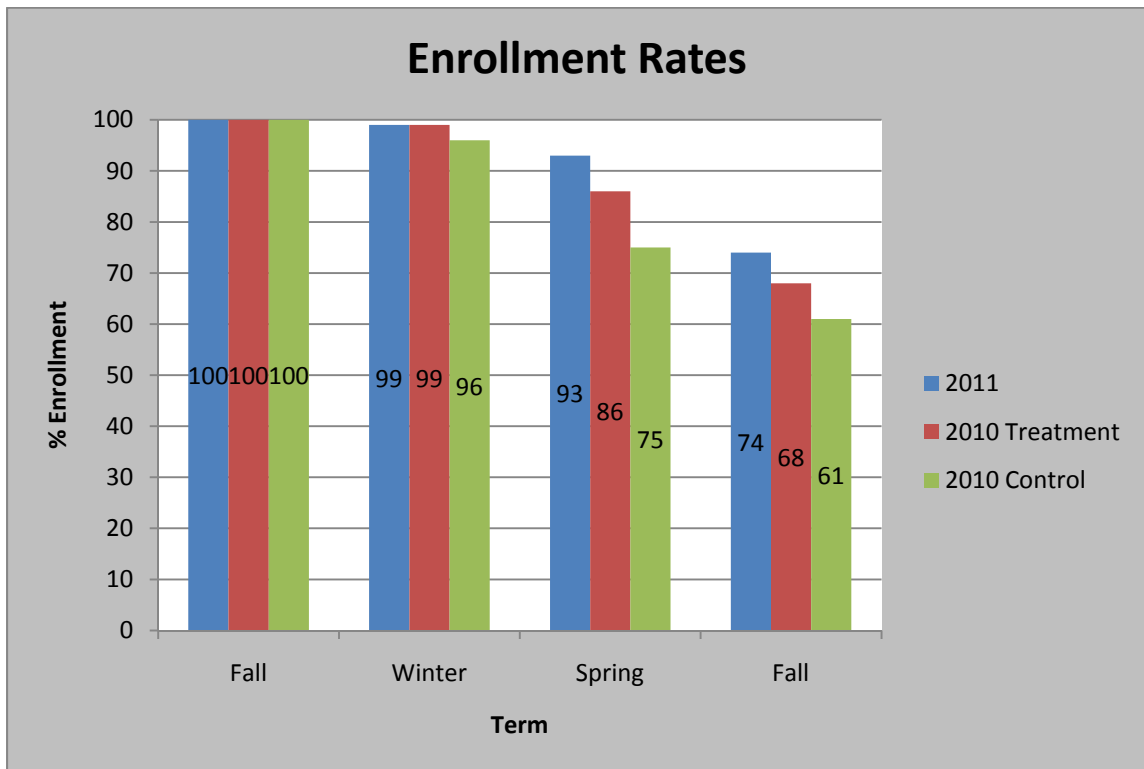


Figure 2 – Percent of enrollment by group and quarter.

IV. Appendix

A small discrepancy from the last memo was found in that two students had enrolled for Spring Quarter, and thus were counted as retained. However, as the students did not finish Winter Quarter, they did not earn a GPA, bringing the total to 263 students that completed Winter Quarter compared to the 283 that attended the FSP workshop.

For reference, Table 4 summarizes the GPAs of the 25 students who were enrolled Winter 2011 but did not attend a workshop. Note that only 28% (7/25) of the students that did not attend a workshop are both off AP and are enrolled for Fall 2011.

Off AP	Number of Students	# Enrolled Fall 2011	GPA Category	GPA
No	12	3	Fall 2010	1.667
			Winter 2011	1.744
			Spring 2011	1.296
			CP Cum	1.659
Yes	10	7	Fall 2010	1.852
			Winter 2011	2.018
			Spring 2011	2.517
			CP Cum	2.179
N/A - Withdrawn	3	0	Fall 2010	1.235
			Winter 2011	0.500
			Spring 2011	N/A
			CP Cum	1.210

Table 4 – GPA summary for students enrolled Winter 2011 that did not participate in the FSP workshop.