

Memo

To: Academic Advising Council
From: Ryan Allison
Edited by: Matt Carlton, Statistics Department
Date: 4/19/2012
Re: Freshman Success Program

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I. Introduction

This memorandum documents the statistical analysis for the Freshman Success Program (FSP) for Winter 2012. 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).

Freshmen who were on AP for their first quarter at Cal Poly (Fall 2011) were required to attend an FSP workshop. Our analysis investigates the effects of the workshop on students' GPAs, retention in spring quarter, AP status, and self-efficacy. This memo reports the results on all variables except self-efficacy; those results will be presented in a subsequent addendum.

We note that, in total, 366 first-time freshmen were on AP after Fall 2011 (excluding those students who withdrew from the university after the Fall 2011 term; as these students were not retained, they have been removed from analysis). Thirteen out of the 366 freshmen did not attend a workshop. Since these students did not receive the workshop "treatment," these students have also been removed from any analysis. This gives a total of 353 students in the analysis.

II. Summary

The FSP workshop had a significant effect in increasing the mean Winter GPA for all colleges, similar to the 2011 group and the 2010 treatment group. Details appear in Section III. Much of the analysis including average GPAs, percent retention to Spring 2012, and percent of students getting off AP follows similar patterns to FSP participants from previous years. An addendum based on the self-efficacy results is to come following this memo.

III. GPA and Academic Probation Results

<i>Summary Statistics (Average Scores)</i>	2012	2011	2010*
Mean Change in GPA	0.578	0.640	0.563
% Retained into Spring	95.2%	93.6%	94.0%
% Off AP	47.3%	49.8%	49.0%
Mean Winter Cum GPA	1.914	1.900	1.990

Table 1 – Summary statistics for the Winter 2012 FSP participants, and comparative statistics for the Winter 2011 FSP participants and the 2010 treatment group.

*Note: This excludes the 2010 Control Group, as they did not receive a "treatment," by design.

Table 2 summarizes retention into Spring 2012 for students who participated in the FSP workshop, separated by college.

		Enrolled Spring 2012	Not Enrolled Spring 2012	Total	% Retained
College	CAED	20	1	21	95.24%
	CAFES	77	4	81	95.06%
	CENG	77	4	81	95.24%
	CLA	29	3	32	90.63%
	COSAM	86	3	89	96.63%
	OCOB	47	2	49	95.92%
	Total	336	17	353	95.18%

Table 2 – Retention data (Spring 2012) for students that participated in the FSP workshop.

Table 3 summarizes the AP status of workshop participants. Note that 167 out of 353 (47.31%) students were able to get off AP at the end of Winter 2012. This is comparable to last year's percentage of 49.82%.

<i>AP Breakdown for 2124 Term</i>		Off AP	Still On AP	Total	% Off AP
College	CAED	12	9	21	57.14%
	CAFES	44	37	81	54.32%
	CENG	33	48	81	40.74%
	CLA	13	19	32	40.63%
	COSAM	40	49	89	44.94%
	OCOB	25	24	49	51.02%
	Total	167	186	353	47.31%

Table 3 – AP status summary (at beginning of Spring 2012) for students that participated in the FSP workshop.

Table 4 shows the mean Fall 2011 term, Winter 2012 term, and Winter 2012 cumulative GPAs of students that participated in the FSP workshop. All colleges showed statistically significant improvements in the mean change in GPA from fall to winter after the FSP Workshop. Note that, as in previous years, the mean winter term GPA (2.095) is significantly higher than for fall (1.517), yet the mean cumulative GPA (1.916) is still low enough to be classified under AP.

		Fall 2011 GPA	Winter 2012 GPA	Cum GPA	Change in term GPA
College	CAED	1.545	2.289	2.082	0.744
	CAFES	1.515	2.340	1.976	0.825
	CENG	1.559	1.892	1.887	0.333
	CLA	1.398	2.256	1.864	0.858
	COSAM	1.490	1.987	1.890	0.497
	OCOB	1.570	2.037	1.877	0.467
	Aggregate	1.517	2.095	1.916	0.578

Table 4 – GPA summary of FSP participants.