

# Course Selection with the Use of an Online Survey: A Small College Initiative

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# Overview

- History of FYE and course registration at Guilford College
- Course selection form
- Course placement process
- Assessments
- Benefits
- Challenges
- Revisions
- Question and answer

# History of FYE at Guilford College

- Interdisciplinary Studies 101 (IDS 101)
  - Began in 1969
  - Team taught by faculty from multiple departments
  - Full year course
- First Year Seminar (FYS 101)
  - Began in 1992
  - Interdisciplinary seminar course
- First Year Experience (FYE 101)
  - Began in 1998
  - Interdisciplinary seminar course including extended orientation content

# History of FYE at Guilford College

- FYE 101 with Separate Extended Orientation Course (FYE 102)
  - Began in 2006
  - Interdisciplinary course (FYE 101)
    - Faculty selected topic
  - Extended orientation content moved to intentionally linked one-credit course (FYE 102)
    - 100 % of students enrolled in learning communities

# History of Course Registration

- “Gold Card” 1998-2006
  - Students completed and mailed
    - Illegible
    - Lost or damaged mail
    - Advantage to students closer to Guilford College

<small>Postmark Date</small>	<small>For Registrar Use Only:</small>		
<b>GUILFORD COLLEGE GOLD REGISTRATION FORM - FALL 2006</b>			
<i>Return by July 5</i>			
Name: _____		G# _____	
<small>E-mail (to contact you with questions about your registration):</small>			
<small><b>FYE:</b> List your First Year Experience choices in order of preference. (Print legibly)</small>			
	<small>Code #</small>	<small>Title</small>	
1st Choice			
Co-requisite Lab		FYE Lab	
2nd Choice			
Co-requisite Lab		FYE Lab	
3rd Choice			
Co-requisite Lab		FYE Lab	
<p><small><b>English 101, English 102, or Historical Perspectives:</b> Your verbal SAT, ACT, and/or AP scores will be used as general predictors to determine your placement in English 101, English 102, or Historical Perspectives. Please review the Course Registration Guide for placement criteria, select your course date/time preferences, and enter the preferences below.</small></p> <p><small><b>Note:</b> If the diagnostic writing that you provide during the first week of classes suggests that you would be better served by a course other than what your score predict, we will meet with you and possibly shift you to a different course.</small></p>			
	<small>Code #</small>	<small>Dept. #</small>	<small>Title (if Historical Perspective)</small>
1st Choice			
2nd Choice			
3rd Choice			
<p><small><b>Other Preferred Courses:</b> List four other courses in order of preference. Remember, Foreign Language and Quantitative Literacy placement tests will be taken during CHAOS, but you may select those courses. Any changes will be made after the first FYE class on Friday during CHAOS.</small></p>			
	<small>Code #</small>	<small>Dept. #</small>	<small>Title</small>
1st Choice			
2nd Choice			
3rd Choice			
4th Choice			
5th Choice			

# History of Course Registration

- Direct registration in BannerWeb 2007-2009
  - Students entered course registration from home
  - Call in registration assistance in Admissions and First-Year Center
  - Multiple registration errors
  - Required increased advising efforts
- Online Course Selection Form 2010

# Course Selection Form

- SurveyMonkey.com
  - “Unlimited Annual Account”
  - Approximately \$200 annually
- Four sections
  - Faculty Advisor Information
  - FYE 101 Choices
  - Foreign Language Placement Exam
  - First Semester Course Choices

# Course Selection Form: Faculty Advisor Information

- Student information about themselves
  - Academic strengths
  - Areas needing development
  - AP Courses
  - Academic interests
  - Activity interests
  - Study abroad interests
  - Personal information
    - Favorite book
    - Last book read



# Course Selection Form: FYE 101 Choices

- Descriptions of each FYE 101 section
  - 22 sections
- Rating scale
  - Really Like It
  - Like It
  - Don't Like It
- Did not rank choices
  - Reduced discontent with FYE course selection

# Course Selection Form: Foreign Language Placement Exam

- Explanation of language requirement
- Emphasis of Academic Honor Code
- Link to exam
- Login information including password

# Course Selection Form: Fall Semester Course Choices

- Link to list of appropriate courses for first-year students
- Choice of eight courses
  - Required students to select five
  - Some chose courses that were not offered or were not appropriate

# Course Selection Form: Obtaining the Information

- Using SurveyMonkey.com to send e-mail
  - Separate collectors for each week of student deposits
  - Excel spreadsheet saved as CSV (Comma Separate Variables) file
    - E-mail address
    - First name
    - Last name
    - Student ID
  - Message included student name and link to form
  - Reminders weekly

# Course Placement Process

- Downloaded data from SurveyMonkey in Excel spreadsheet
- Developed a mail merged document in Word to abstract the information for each student
- Placed in FYE 101 section
  - Nearly all in section rated “Really Like It”
  - No students in section rated “Don’t Like It”
- Placement in English based on SAT/ACT

# Course Placement Process

- Placed in Foreign language based on score
- Placed in other courses based on interest, major, and how well they performed in high school
  - Especially science majors
- Registered students for required courses
  - Student Success Program
  - Bonner Scholars
  - Quaker Leadership Scholar Program
- Registered students for appropriate courses

# Assessments

- Faculty adviser feedback
- Student Satisfaction Surveys
  - Third week
  - Twelfth week
- Semester GPA

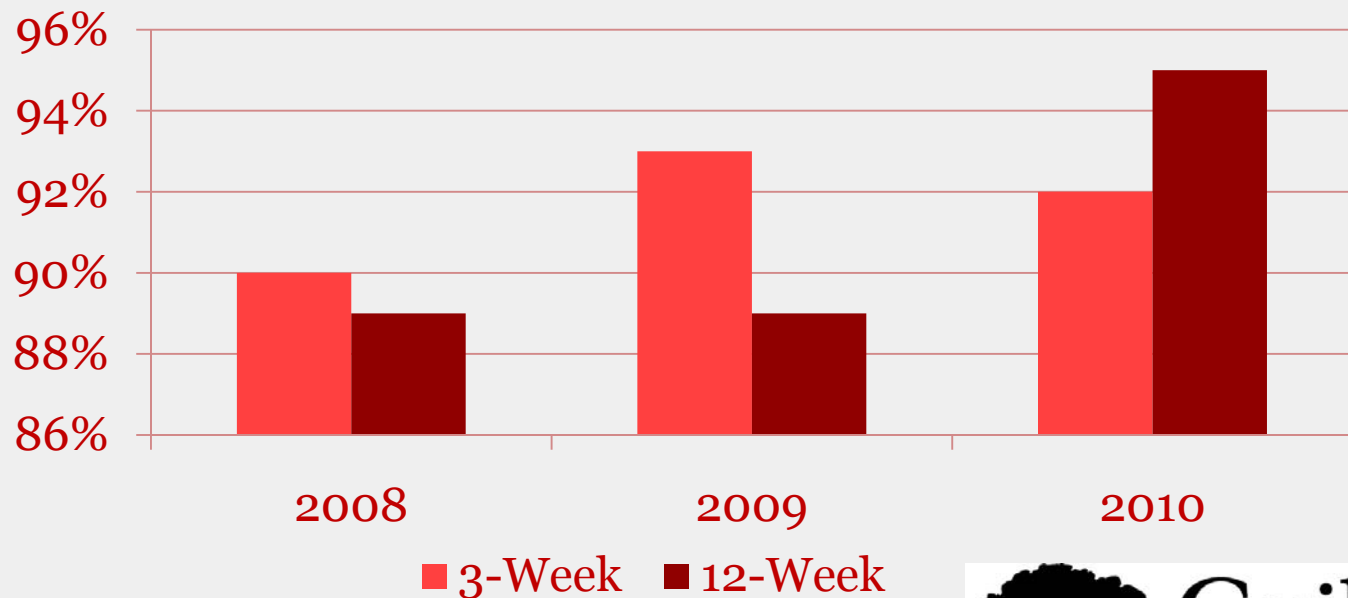
# Benefits

- Fewer changes to schedules in the first week of classes
- Faculty advisers saw benefits
  - “An improvement over past years!”
  - “I think it worked great overall! I didn't have any students who had incomplete schedules, which was great.”
  - “It was a welcome relief! Please, please, please, continue doing it this way.”



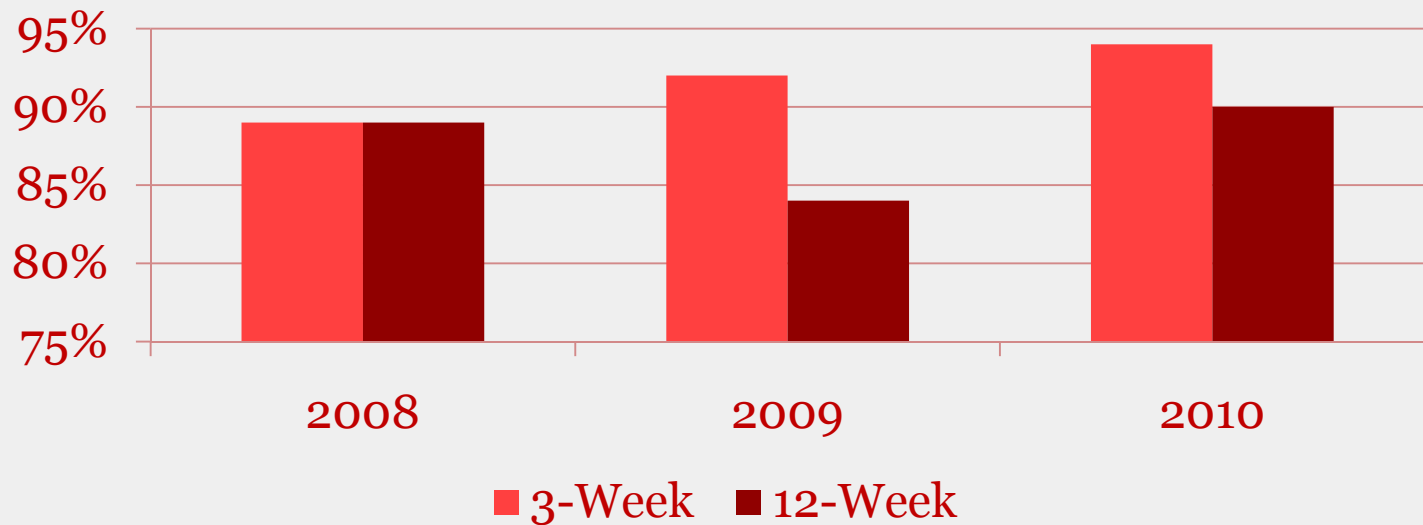
# Benefits

- Student satisfaction surveys
  - Feel prepared for academics



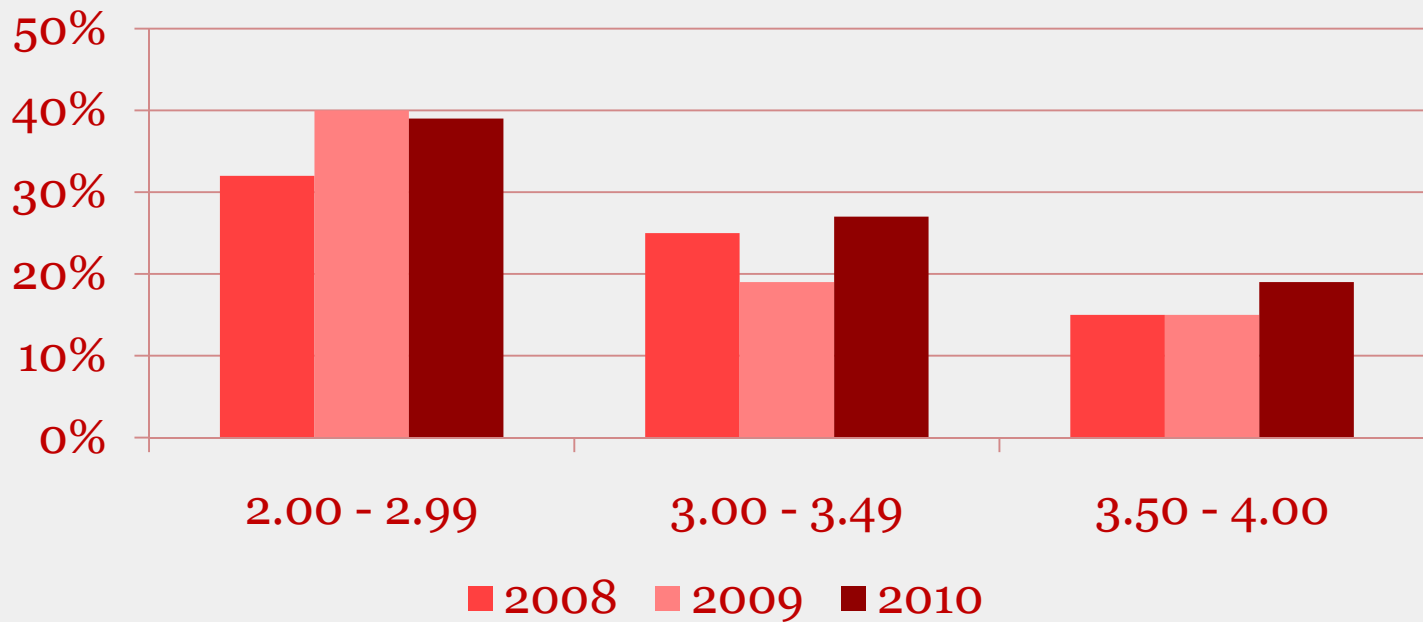
# Benefits

- Student satisfaction surveys
  - Enjoy classes



# Benefits

- Semester GPA



# Challenges

- Form designer needs to know HTML
  - Emphasis on specific items
- Need correct e-mail addresses
  - Students do not always check the e-mail they give on their applications
- Students selecting courses not offered or inappropriate

# Challenges

- Time commitment
  - Placement requires about 1 hour per 6 students
- Gender balancing in Living Learning Communities
- Courses closing
  - Keeping track of filled course
- Not registering directly to Banner
  - Sent completed forms to Registrar's Office

# Revisions

- Additional Faculty Advisor Information
  - Learning more about the students
  - Open-ended item
    - “Tell us a little a bit about yourself.”
- AP Exam in English or Psychology
  - Request scores rather than course

# Revisions

- Revision of Course Choices
  - Better descriptions of FYE 101
    - Highlight Learning Communities
    - Highlight Living Learning Communities
  - Requiring selections from core requirements
    - Each division (Arts, Business, Policy and Sport Studies, Humanities, Natural Science, Social Science)

# Questions

- Contact information
  - [firstyear@guilford.edu](mailto:firstyear@guilford.edu)
  - (336) 316-2127