



Enhancing Student Success in Summer Bridge: Highlander Early Start Academy (HESA)

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Question

Turn to someone sitting next to you and discuss the following:

What is the biggest challenge/frustration you've faced with a Summer Bridge or Transition Program?

Learning Outcomes

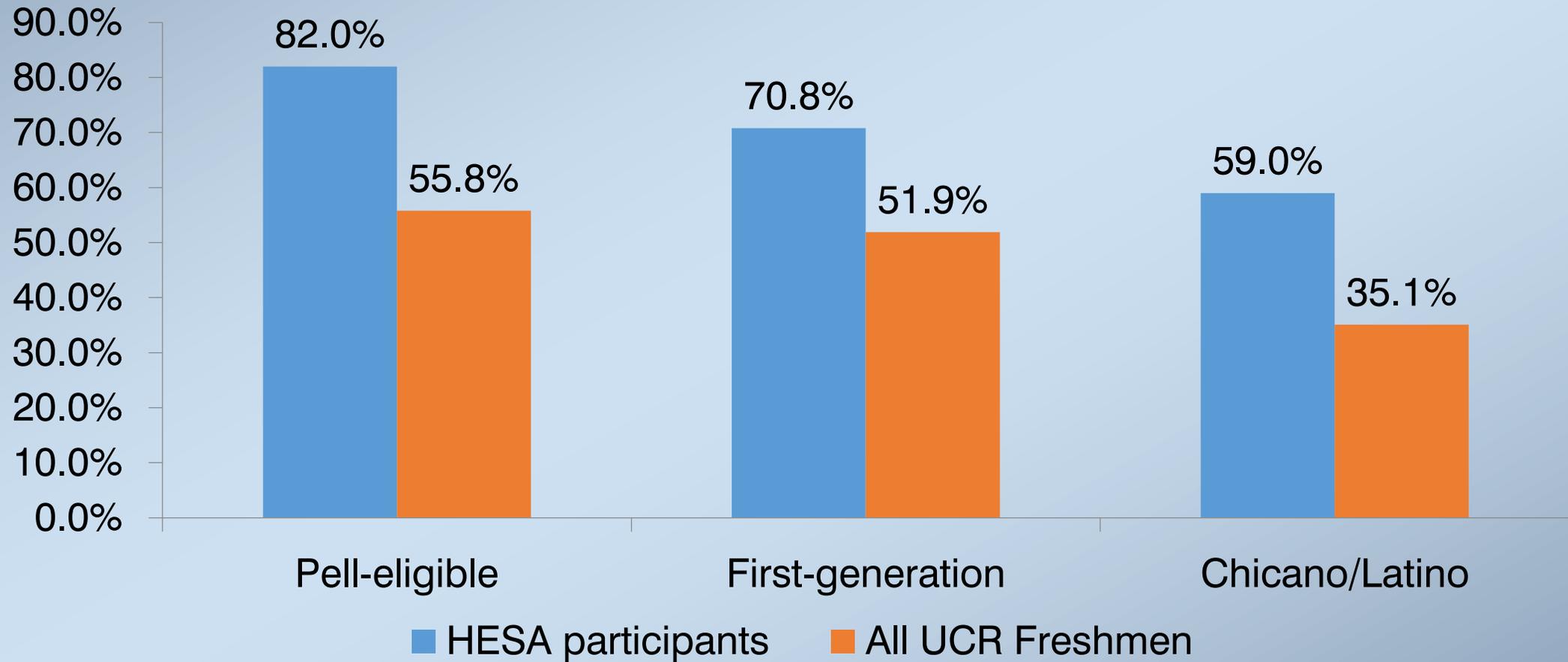
- Participants will gain an understanding of UCR and the population our Summer Bridge program serves
- Participants will learn about the UCR Summer Bridge redesign that was implemented in 2015
- Participants will be presented with data & best practices that informed our decisions
- Participants will be given helpful information on some key elements that they may be able to implement on their campus
- Participants will be presented with data on the redesigns' effectiveness

UC - Riverside

Public, 4-year Institution

- 1 of the 10 University of California campuses
- 20,000+ undergraduate population
- 5,200+ incoming freshmen class (largest in the entire UC system)
 - Approximately 40% of our incoming freshmen will place into preparatory Math and/or English
- Hispanic-Serving Institution
 - 35%+ of students identify as Hispanic/Latino

UCR's Unique Summer Program



UCR's Unique Summer Program

- For Incoming Freshmen
- Complete preparatory Math or English to begin Calculus or English Composition in the Fall.
- Enrollment based purely on placement scores for Math or English
 - All incoming freshmen must take a placement exam unless they have a 3+ on an AP exam or have transfer credit.
- Supported by office of Summer Sessions & Financial Aid
 - Summer is a student's 1st quarter for Financial Aid.
- Strong Peer Mentor & Community Building focus.
- Strong Campus Support from Senior Level Administrators and Colleges

Summer Bridge Program 2000-2014

- Data consistently showed students performed better in Summer Bridge than their counterparts who took the same course in the Fall.
- Unfortunately, the data also showed that Summer Bridge students had lower overall grades in the following course, as well as their overall Fall quarter GPAs, than their counterparts who did not participate in Summer Bridge.
 - Students were matched to a counterpart based on HS GPA, Math/English Placement Exam scores, and Gender
- Based on this data a move was made in January 2015 to implement a major redesign of Summer Bridge for Summer 2015 to increase rigor and support in order to address more long term success.

Developing the Redesign

- Implemented a robust evaluation comparing students to a matched group of incoming freshmen (based on HS GPA, Math/English Placement Exam scores, and Gender)
- University Innovation Alliance
 - UT Austin & Georgia State University models
- Best Practices in Summer Transition Programs & Serving Underprepared and Underrepresented students
- Increase rigor and raise expectation levels
- Collaborate with campus partners (colleges, advisors, academic departments, financial aid, etc)

Major Program Changes

- Name change from Summer Bridge to Highlander Early Start Academy (HESA)
- Additional course (breadth course)
- Intensive Academic Advising in Summer
- Reduction of Peer Mentor ratio
- Funnel into Freshmen Learning Communities
- Scholarship for Performance
- Early Start Seminar (Flipped Classroom model)

Highlander Early Start Academy Objectives

- To increase the number of 1st year students who begin college-level Calculus or English Composition in their first fall quarter.
- To improve academic performance in preparatory courses taken in summer.
- To ensure fall quarter grade point averages (GPAs) that are equal to or greater than control or matched comparison groups.
- To secure 1st and 2nd year retention rates that are equal to or greater than control or matched comparison groups.
- To develop a sense of community and have knowledge of campus resources through advising, peer mentoring, and the Early Start Seminar

Past & Present Program Comparison

Summer Bridge 2000-2014

- 7 week program
 - On campus residence is optional
- 1 academic course (preparatory Math or English)
 - 5 units
 - Introduction to University Life Seminar
- 1:40 Peer Mentor Ratio
- Financial Aid based on units and Expected Family Contribution

Highlander Early Start Academy 2015 & 2016

- 7 week program
 - On campus residence is optional
- 2 academic courses (preparatory Math or English AND a Breath Course)
 - 8 or 9 units
 - Early Start Seminar
- 1:20 Peer Mentor Ratio
- Financial Aid based on units and Expected Family Contribution
 - Scholarship through private foundation
 - 2.5 GPA & 15+ units a quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring)
- Academic Advising
- Funnel into Freshmen Learning Communities

Evaluation Results

- A survey of students during HESA showed:
 - High levels of participation in community building activities
 - Participants were generally comfortable with the amount of work assigned in their (now larger) number of courses
 - The Early Start Seminar provided useful information on student success
 - Almost all participants attended an advising session
 - Changes in confidence in the ability to succeed and ability to focus on school were limited, but participants tended to start at high levels

Evaluation Results

	Current GPA Fall 2015, all classes	Fall Units	English 004 Grade	Math 005 Grade	Math 008A Grade	History 015 Grade
Control group (applied but did not participate)	2.72 (85)	14.35 (85)	2.14 (58)	2.84 (9)	1.59 (17)	- (0)
All HESA	2.63 (144)	14.14 (144)	2.18 (78)	3.18 (48)	2.61 (18)	2.97 (134)
Matched Freshmen	2.55 (133)	13.95 (133)	2.21 (77)	2.38* (30)	1.78 (24)	-- (0)
Matched HESA	2.60 (133)	14.14 (133)	2.17 (71)	3.20* (45)	2.41 (17)	2.96 (124)

HESA students have grades that are similar to control groups in same courses and are taking similar numbers of units

Evaluation Results

	Current GPA Fall 2015, all classes	Fall Units	English 004 Grade	Math 005 Grade	Math 008A Grade	History 015 Grade
Freshmen in Same Courses	2.61 (1,356)	14.12 (1,356)	2.09 (921)	2.69* (322)	2.40 (246)	2.66 (7)
All HESA	2.65 (144)	14.22 (144)	2.18 (78)	3.18 * (48)	2.61 (18)	2.97 (134)
Scholarship	3.04* (53)	15.96* (53)	2.34* (32)	3.55* (13)	3.24* (8)	3.15* (51)
No Scholarship	2.39** (93)	13.11* (93)	2.07* (46)	3.06* (35)	1.90* (12)	2.86* (86)

HESA students have higher grades in same courses and are taking more units, especially the group that earned scholarships

Evaluation

- We saw success in terms of community building and increasing student's confidence
- Outcomes for fall grades and enrolled units are bit more mixed when we compare all HESA students to control groups however the scholarship group does very well by both metrics
 - We will know about one year retention rates within the next week or two. (Fingers crossed)

Lessons Learned

- For Summer 2016
 - Block scheduling for English or Math WITH Breadth course AND Early Start Seminar and Community Building Activities
 - Develop better protocols for Academic Advising
 - Develop better protocols to get students enrolled in the Freshmen Learning Communities
 - Scholarship for summer performance added
- Summer 2017
 - Need new funding for Scholarship
 - Financial Aid protocol for Dream Act students
 - Options for Breadth Requirement

Questions

Turn to that same someone sitting next to you and discuss the following:

What did you do, or could you do, to address the challenge/frustration you've faced with a Summer Bridge or Transition Program?

Was it successful?

Has this presentation given you any ideas/take aways for solutions?

Contact

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