

Update on Highlander Early Start Academy Participants for Summer 2016 in Fall 2017

This memo provides an update on students that participated in the Highlander Early Start Academy (HESA) at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) in the summer of 2016. HESA allowed incoming freshmen to complete preparatory English (ENGL 004) or math (MATH 005 or MATH 006A) courses during the summer so that they could begin college-level coursework in their first fall quarter. They also attended seminars focused on college success skills and participated in peer mentor led community building activities. Using data from Institutional Research databases through the start of fall term 2017, several observations can be made:

- The one year retention rate for all HESA students is about five percentage points higher than for students who took preparatory English or math coursework in the fall of 2016. The difference is also about the same for those who applied to HESA but could not be accommodated. The decision to accept students was based on a random lottery of all applicants, which should provide some protection against the more obvious kinds of bias caused by differences (like level of motivation) between participants and non-participants in student success programs.
- Those students who earned scholarships through HESA, by earning high grades while taking a full course load, had cumulative GPAs that averaged 0.40 grade points higher than students who did not earn scholarships. The one year retention rate for the scholarship group is about two percentage points lower, although we do not have any information about why students left campus.
- When HESA participants are disaggregated by the courses they took in the summer of 2016 those who took English coursework have retention rates that are about seven percentage points higher than those who took either math course. Those who took MATH 006A had the highest cumulative GPA.

One year retention rates and cumulative GPAs for HESA participants and various comparison groups

| | One Year Retention | Cumulative GPA (through Spring 2017) |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Freshmen in Same Courses in fall 2016 | 86.8% (2,150) | 2.77 (1,867) |
| All HESA | 91.8% (134) | 2.68 (123) |
| Applied but did not Participate | 85.4% (198) | 2.67 (169) |
| All HESA | 91.8% (134) | 2.68 (123) |
| HESA Scholarship | 91.1% (90) | 2.81 (82) |
| HESA No Scholarships | 93.2% (44) | 2.43 (41) |
| One year retention rates and cumulative GPAs for HESA participants by course taken in summer 2016 | | |
| ENGL 004 | 95.8% (71) | 2.65 (68) |
| Math 005 | 87.0% (45) | 2.68 (39) |
| Math 006A | 88.9% (18) | 2.81 (16) |