

Effects of Educational Planning on Later Success

Background

The educational planning course at Cypress College, COUN-140, is an orientation to college life and should result in the production of an individualized student educational plan. In order to evaluate the success of this course and the educational plans that are developed, the current analyses looked at whether enrollment in COUN-140 influenced success in courses taken later at Cypress College, as well as whether enrollment in COUN-140 was related to graduation rates.

Sample

A cohortⁱ of first-time freshman who had taken COUN-140 between Fall 2004 and Summer 2007 was constructed. Course enrollments for all students for the same timeframeⁱⁱ were combined with this cohort.

Success in Later Courses

Is success influenced by taking COUN-140?

Yes. Students who took COUN-140 were more likely to be successful in their later courses than students who did not take COUN-140 (even if they did not pass COUN-140).

	Total Number of Students	Success Rate
Did not take COUN-140	206,909	65.9%
Took COUN-140	16,137	68.9%
Total	223,046	66.1%

Is success influenced by passing COUN-140?

Yes. Students who passed COUN-140 were more likely to be successful than students who did not take COUN-140, or students who took COUN-140 but did not pass. Students who did not take COUN-140 were more likely to be successful in later courses compared to students who enrolled in COUN-140 but withdrew or did not pass.

	Total Number of Students	Success Rate
Did not take COUN-140	206,909	65.9%
Succeed in COUN-140	13,719	71.7%
Did not succeed in COUN-140	2,148	53.3%
Total	223,046	66.1%

ⁱ Many of these students enrolled in the course more than once, so this was unduplicated by the last term in which the course was taken.

ⁱⁱ For students who had taken COUN-140, only courses taken *after* the COUN-140 course were included. Because this meant that all of the first-time freshmen in the COUN-140 course were now continuing or returning students, all first-time freshmen who had not taken COUN-140 were excluded.

Awards

Are graduation ratesⁱⁱⁱ influenced by taking COUN-140?

Yes; students who took COUN-140 were more likely to graduate than students who did not take COUN-140.

	No Award	Award
Did not take COUN-140	30,877	2,857
Took COUN-140	1,344	152

Are graduation rates influenced by passing COUN-140?

Yes. Students who passed COUN-140 were more likely to have earned an award than students who were not successful in that course. Students who were successful in COUN-140 were also more likely to graduate in the timeframe than students who did not take the educational planning course. However, students who did not take COUN-140 were more likely to graduate than students who were unsuccessful in it. There were few withdrawals, which suggested that withdrawals may not be substantially responsible for the negative influence of failing COUN-140.

	No Award	Award
Did not take COUN-140	30,877	33,734
Succeed in COUN-140	1,069	145
Did not succeed in COUN-140	275	7

Conclusion

Students who were successful in the education planning course at Cypress College were more likely to be successful in their later coursework compared to students who did not take COUN-140, and students who took the planning course but were not successful in it. Similarly, students who passed COUN-140 were more likely to graduate than students who did not take the course or students who failed the course. Overall, it seems that passing COUN-140 is highly beneficial for students. Alternatively, circumstances that prompt students to take the course but fail or withdraw from it are detrimental to students' overall educational success.

ⁱⁱⁱ The proportions of COUN-140 students having earned a degree by summer 2008 were analyzed by looking at the proportion of graduates out of the students enrolled in the target timeframe. This timeframe may be short for students from the later part of the target timeframe.