

College Now Student Success

How well do College Now students do in subsequent classes taken at LBCC, in the same subject area? Program coordinators wanted to be sure that students taking College Now were as prepared to go on to more advanced classes in the same subject areas, as those students taking the same classes at LBCC. Populations compared in the Spring 2005 study are listed below.

1. Students who had earned an A or B in either WR121 or MTH111 when taken as a College Now class in high school.
2. Students who had earned an A or B in either WR121 or MTH111 when taken at LBCC.

The start year for students to have taken their initial class was the 2001 academic year. The students had two subsequent academic years to register in a successive writing or math class. When a student in either of these groups registered for, and received a grade in a successive writing or math class, they were counted in the data.

Writing 121

Data show College Now students as earning an average of 3.12 grade points (calculated on a 4.0 point scale) in their next writing class, while non-College Now students earned an average of 2.75 grade points in their next writing class. To make sure no bias existed, based on which high school students graduated from, this analysis was re-calculated using only high schools represented in both the College Now and non-College Now student groups. These College Now students earned an average of 3.22 grade points in their next writing class, and non-College Now students in this population earned an average of 2.70 grade points in their next writing class. Using summary statistics, 90.2% of College Now students passed their next writing class, while only 80.5% of non-College Now students passed (passing is defined as a grade of C or better). That's a 10% difference!

Math 111

After analyzing data on the writing classes, the same populations were re-examined for MTH111 and subsequently taken mathematics classes. These data show College Now students as earning an average of 3.2 grade points in their next mathematics class, and non-College Now students earning an average of 2.48 grade points in their next mathematics class. Looking only at the students having graduated from the high schools found in both groups, College Now students earned an average of 3.2 grade points in their next mathematics class, while non-College Now students earned an average of 2.73 grade points in their next mathematics class. Using summary statistics, 70.0% of College Now students passed their next math class, while only 59.1% of non-College Now students passed. That's another 10% difference!

Health Occupations Student Persistence

A related question is whether students move into health coursework at LBCC after participation in high school health occupations classes. In the 2001 academic year, 180 high school students participated in the health occupations courses. Of these, 79 (43.9%) came to LBCC after high school, and 19 (24.1%) of these chose to enter additional classes in health occupations. The percentage of students entering LBCC directly from local high schools has averaged 30% over the past five years, making it reasonable to assume that HSHO classes are influencing students' decisions to go on to higher education after high school.