

Supplemental Instruction Success Rate Comparison (08/09 AY)

Introduction

In order to better understand the impact of Supplemental Instruction (SI) program upon student success, an examination was conducted. The examination was a comparison of success rates for students who enrolled in SI supported courses to those students who enrolled in non- SI supported courses.

Below are the findings from this examination:

Success rate comparison of SI and Non-SI sections for Fall 08/Spring 09 combined

	Non-SI		SI	
	Count	%	Count	%
Non-success	405	56.2%	81	47.1%
Success	316	43.8%	91	52.9%

Success rate comparison of SI and Non-SI sections by term

Termnum		Non-SI		SI	
		Count	%	Count	%
Fall 08	Non-success	251	61.2%	41	44.6%
	Success	159	38.8%	51	55.4%
Spring 09	Non-success	154	49.5%	40	50.0%
	Success	157	50.5%	40	50.0%

Summary

In order to properly interpret this data, several weaknesses of this examination must be acknowledged. While there are differences in success rates between SI and non-SI courses, these success rates could be caused by multiple factors independent of the intervention. For example, factors like instructor training or experience level may be contributing to these differences rather than the intervention itself. In future more detailed examinations, some of these factors can be controlled for, nevertheless, they need to be acknowledged in the current study.

These limitations aside, there seems to be a considerable difference between success rates in SI and non-SI classes. Most of these differences can be accounted for by the lower success rate in Fall 08 in the non-SI classes (38.8%). The difference between that rate and the SI-group (55.4%) was considerable (16.6%).

There are of course many explanations which could potentially account for this difference. The intervention might have contributed to these differences. Additionally, something about the non-SI courses this term may have affected these differences.