

Executive Summary: Admissions Assessment Pilot for Conditional Enrollment

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Executive Summary

The College was not able to reach its goal of identifying 75% of first mod failures within a population of 25% of total starts. Given this limitation, there is no clear path forward for the selective application of conditional enrollment. First mod success rates did not improve indirectly from increased rigor in admissions assessment.

Assessment Pilot

The College executed an admissions assessment pilot for the modular program students who started in 1Q12. New assessment tools were added and the MyLabs readiness assessments were administered prior to enrollment. The new process offered six objective assessments intended to predict student success in the first mod, defined as persistence with a grade of C or better in one or both courses and no more than three days absent.

Results

692 of the College's 1Q12 modular starts had scores recorded for at least four of the six assessments (526 had scores for all six assessments). The first mod failure rate for all subjects was 20%, consistent with previous experience.

Two of the new assessments (Behavioral Survey and Applicant Interview Rubric) were not predictive of first mod success. The new Academic Achievement score was predictive, as were the MyLabs math and English assessments as well as the Wonderlic SLE. While four of the six assessments demonstrate a statistically significant relationship with first mod success, the predictive ability of the assessments was not generally complementary – severely limiting the productive application of a composite score.

Some composite assessment selections demonstrate fail rates as high as 50%, but with populations too small for practical application. The highest fail rate identified for a useful population is 30% - statistically significant but below a reasonable threshold for compulsory change in contract terms.

Actions

The Admissions Assessment committee and Senior Management have acted to discontinue the Behavioral Survey and Applicant Interview Rubric. The lack of relationship with first mod success rate indicates no near term use for the assessments. There are sufficient data from these two assessments to evaluate their predictive value for program completion over time.

MyLabs math and English assessments have been moved back to the period between enrollment and start. Restoring these assessments to their original place in the admissions process is consistent with the purpose of developing individual study plans for academic readiness. As noted, there was no indirect improvement in first mod success rates with the increased rigor prior to enrollment introduced by moving the assessments.

In addition to these actions, the College is considering a revision to its refund policy or applying conditional enrollment terms to all new students.