

Cuyamaca College First-Year Experience (FYE) – Writing Center Student Comparison Report

*Office of Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
8/15/2016*

First-Year Experience (FYE) – Writing Center Student Comparison Report Description

This report compares the English and ESL course success and retention outcomes of First-Year Experience (FYE) students who used the Cuyamaca College Writing Center to students who did not use the Center in Fall 2014 or Spring 2015. In Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, there were 300 FYE student enrollments in English coursework (including reading courses) and 18 in ESL coursework (including reading and lab courses). Additionally, course success and retention outcomes have been disaggregated by gender, race/ethnicity, and disability status for students in this cohort of FYE students who took English coursework at Cuyamaca College in Fall 2014 or Spring 2015. Due to the low number of FYE student enrollments in ESL coursework, analyses were not disaggregated by demographic subgroups for those courses.

Definitions & Cohort Criteria

First-Year Experience (FYE) Students – Students who participated in the First-Year Experience (FYE) program at Cuyamaca College in Fall 2014 and/or Spring 2015.

Writing Center Users – FYE students who were tracked as having used Cuyamaca College Writing Center services in Fall 2014 and/or Spring 2015 while they were enrolled in an English or ESL course, had a valid student ID number, and who did not report using the Writing Center for a course at Grossmont College (i.e., tutoring was for Cuyamaca College-based coursework).

Comparison Students – Cohort students who did not utilize Writing Center services during the term they were enrolled in ENGL-090.

Summary of Findings

In general, FYE students who utilized Writing Center services in Fall 2014 and/or Spring 2015 demonstrated higher course success and retention rates in their English and/or ESL courses compared to FYE students who did not utilize those services. This trend held true even when disaggregated into demographic subpopulations (the one exception being for course success for African-American/Black and White students in English courses in Spring 2015; however, these subgroups were only comprised of three students each).

These results should be interpreted with caution as generalization of the findings should not be inferred from data regarding the outcomes of smaller subgroups. Additionally, causality cannot necessarily be concluded from these findings. While Writing Center usage is likely having a positive effect on students' academic outcomes, it could also be the case that more academically-minded and academically-motivated students are the ones who opt into using these types of services and may already have a higher likelihood of success than their counterparts.

English Course Success and Retention Rates

Table 1: Overall English Course Success Rates by Writing Center Usage, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%
Overall	Fall 2013	18	17	94.4	152	105	69.1	170	122	71.8
	Spring 2014	27	18	66.7	103	62	60.2	130	80	61.5
	Total	45	35	77.8	255	167	65.5	300	202	67.3

Table 2: Overall English Course Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%
Overall	Fall 2013	18	18	100.0	152	143	94.1	170	161	94.7
	Spring 2014	27	24	88.9	103	82	79.6	130	106	81.5
	Total	45	42	93.3	255	225	88.2	300	267	89.0

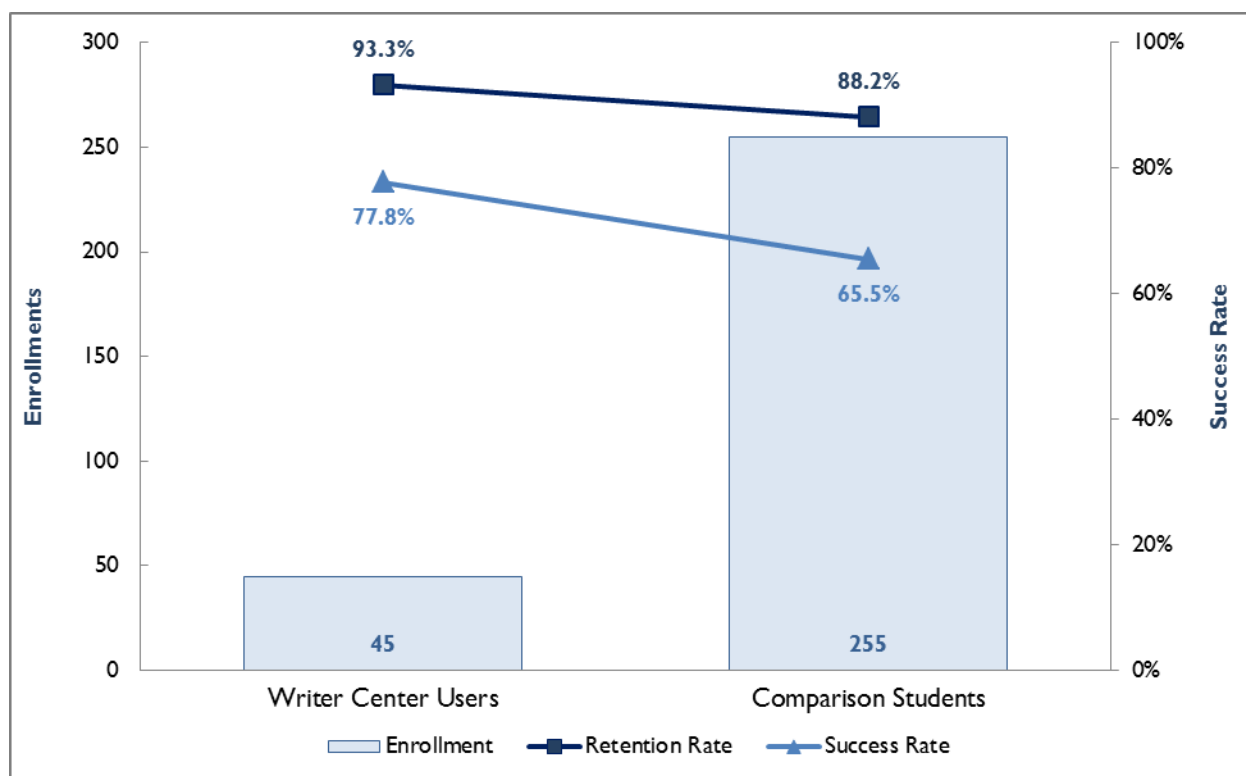
Figure 1: Overall English Course Success & Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

Table 3: Overall English Course Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage and Gender, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%
Female	Fall 2013	14	14	100.0	76	54	71.1	90	68	75.6
	Spring 2014	14	10	71.4	58	40	69.0	72	50	69.4
	Total	28	24	85.7	134	94	70.1	162	118	72.8
Male	Fall 2013	4	3	75.0	74	49	66.2	78	52	66.7
	Spring 2014	13	8	61.5	44	22	50.0	57	30	52.6
	Total	17	11	64.7	118	71	60.2	135	82	60.7

Table 4: Overall English Course Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage and Gender, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%
Female	Fall 2013	14	14	100.0	76	73	96.1	90	87	96.7
	Spring 2014	14	12	85.7	58	46	79.3	72	58	80.6
	Total	28	26	92.9	134	119	88.8	162	145	89.5
Male	Fall 2013	4	4	100.0	74	68	91.9	78	72	92.3
	Spring 2014	13	12	92.3	44	35	79.5	57	47	82.5
	Total	17	16	94.1	118	103	87.3	135	119	88.1

Table 5: Overall English Course Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage and Race/Ethnicity, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%
African American/Black	Fall 2013	4	4	100.0	8	6	75.0	12	10	83.3
	Spring 2014	3	1	33.3	6	4	66.7	9	5	55.6
	Total	7	5	71.4	14	10	71.4	21	15	71.4
Asian	Fall 2013	0	N/A	N/A	9	8	88.9	9	8	88.9
	Spring 2014	2	2	100.0	7	6	85.7	9	8	88.9
	Total	2	2	100.0	16	14	87.5	18	16	88.9
Hispanic	Fall 2013	10	9	90.0	107	67	62.6	117	76	65.0
	Spring 2014	18	12	66.7	72	38	52.8	90	50	55.6
	Total	28	21	75.0	179	105	58.7	207	126	60.9
Two or more	Fall 2013	1	1	100.0	12	11	91.7	13	12	92.3
	Spring 2014	1	1	100.0	6	5	83.3	7	6	85.7
	Total	2	2	100.0	18	16	88.9	20	18	90.0
White	Fall 2013	3	3	100.0	15	12	80.0	18	15	83.3
	Spring 2014	3	2	66.7	11	8	72.7	14	10	71.4
	Total	6	5	83.3	26	20	76.9	32	25	78.1

Table 6: Overall English Course Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage and Race/Ethnicity, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%
African American/Black	Fall 2013	4	4	100.0	8	8	100.0	12	12	100.0
	Spring 2014	3	3	100.0	6	5	83.3	9	8	88.9
	Total	7	7	100.0	14	13	92.9	21	20	95.2
Asian	Fall 2013	0	N/A	N/A	9	8	88.9	9	8	88.9
	Spring 2014	2	2	100.0	7	6	85.7	9	8	88.9
	Total	2	2	100.0	16	14	87.5	18	16	88.9
Hispanic	Fall 2013	10	10	100.0	107	100	93.5	117	110	94.0
	Spring 2014	18	15	83.3	72	56	77.8	90	71	78.9
	Total	28	25	89.3	179	156	87.2	207	181	87.4
Two or more	Fall 2013	1	1	100.0	12	12	100.0	13	13	100.0
	Spring 2014	1	1	100.0	6	5	83.3	7	6	85.7
	Total	2	2	100.0	18	17	94.4	20	19	95.0
White	Fall 2013	3	3	100.0	15	14	93.3	18	17	94.4
	Spring 2014	3	3	100.0	11	9	81.8	14	12	85.7
	Total	6	6	100.0	26	23	88.5	32	29	90.6

Table 7: Overall English Course Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage and Disability Status, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%
DSPS	Fall 2013	4	4	100.0	6	5	83.3	10	9	90.0
	Spring 2014	4	3	75.0	8	5	62.5	12	8	66.7
	Total	8	7	87.5	14	10	71.4	22	17	77.3
Non-DSPS	Fall 2013	14	13	92.9	146	100	68.5	160	113	70.6
	Spring 2014	23	15	65.2	95	57	60.0	118	72	61.0
	Total	37	28	75.7	241	157	65.1	278	185	66.5

Table 8: Overall English Course Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage and Disability Status, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%
DSPS	Fall 2013	4	4	100.0	6	6	100.0	10	10	100.0
	Spring 2014	4	4	100.0	8	5	62.5	12	9	75.0
	Total	8	8	100.0	14	11	78.6	22	19	86.4
Non-DSPS	Fall 2013	14	14	100.0	146	137	93.8	160	151	94.4
	Spring 2014	23	20	87.0	95	77	81.1	118	97	82.2
	Total	37	34	91.9	241	214	88.8	278	248	89.2

ESL Course Success and Retention Rates

Table 9: Overall ESL Course Success Rates by Writing Center, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%	Total Enrollments	Successful #	%
Overall	Fall 2013	4	3	75.0	8	7	87.5	12	10	83.3
	Spring 2014	5	5	100.0	1	0	0.0	6	5	83.3
	Total	9	8	88.9	9	7	77.8	18	15	83.3

Table 10: Overall ESL Course Retention Rates by Writing Center, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

		Writing Center Users			Comparison Students			Total Enrollments		
		Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%	Total Enrollments	Retained #	%
Overall	Fall 2013	4	4	100.0	8	7	87.5	12	11	91.7
	Spring 2014	5	5	100.0	1	0	0.0	6	5	83.3
	Total	9	9	100.0	9	7	77.8	18	16	88.9

Figure 2: Overall ESL Course Success & Retention Rates by Writing Center Usage, 2014-15 FYE Cohort

