

Summer Bridge

The Educational Opportunity Program's Summer Bridge is a five week (3 week residential/2 week commuter) program designed to assist incoming first generation, low-income students in their transition from high school to college.

Students enrolled in a 4-unit course and participated in seminars, workshops, and activities geared toward strengthening their academic skills, building confidence in establishing the student-faculty partnership, developing friendships, experiencing university life, and becoming familiar with the campus environment prior to their first term.



Desired Outcomes

The program goals are: 1) to positively impact participants' perceptions of and confidence in their own academic and social preparedness and readiness for college; 2) to provide students the opportunity to experience and gain appreciation for the rigors and expectations of university life; and 3) to build students' sense of belonging in the university.

Expected outcome: After participating in Summer Bridge, participants will indicate an increased confidence in their knowledge, skills, and ability related to 15 specific learning outcomes, with a minimum of 85% frequency in the combined *Moderately Agree* to *Strongly Agree* response categories.



Methodology

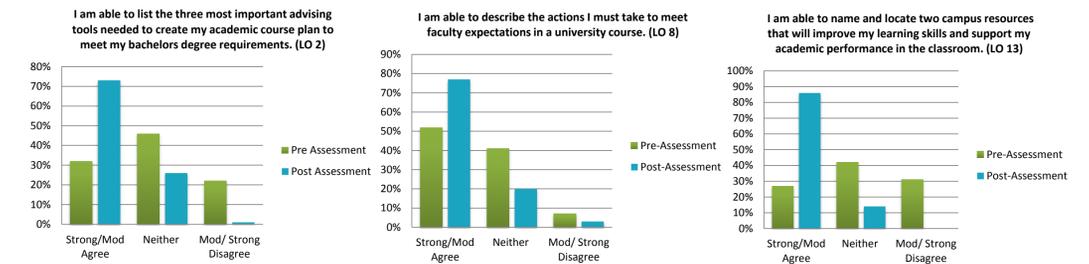
A total of 537 incoming EOP freshman students were invited to participate in Summer Bridge, out of which 107 (20%) participated in the program.

Online pre and post assessments were administered to all participants before and after participating in the program. Students were asked to rate their level of agreement with statements related to the learning outcomes. Additionally, students were asked to indicate the three most important things they learned during the program.

Other measures used were course grade, advising seminar participation, and academic success challenge weekly worksheets, which were evaluated once the program ended.

Results

Question (Learning Outcome):	Pre Assessment %				Post Assessment %				Total Responses	Greatest shift in expected direction
	Mod. Agree + Strongly Agree %	Neither Agree or Disagree %	Mod. Disagree + Strongly %	Total Responses	Mod. Agree + Strongly	Neither Agree or Disagree %	Mod. Disagree + Strongly	Total Responses		
Pre and post assessments were given to EOP Summer Bridge participants. Pre Assessment N=115 Post Assessment N=104. *Some questions did not have completed responses so the frequency per question differs										
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following: I am confident in my ability to resolve differences with others in a university/residential community. (LO 3)	106	7	2	115	97	6	1	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I am able to identify the conditions that will best support my ability to study and learn in a residential community. (LO 1)	92%	6%	2%	100%	93%	6%	1%	100%		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I feel confident living away from home. (LO 1)	105	9	1	115	97	7	0	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I am able to list the three most important advising tools needed to create my academic course plan to meet my bachelors degree requirements. (LO 2)	91%	8%	1%	100%	93%	7%	0%	100%		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I am able to describe the significance of knowing university policy and taking responsibility for my own education. (LO 7)	89	24	2	115	85	18	1	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I am able to list at least two Cal Poly Pomona online campus resources to help me learn about University policy and regulations. (LO 6)	77%	21%	2%	100%	82%	17%	1%	100%		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I am able to read and interpret my Award Summary on Bronco Direct to determine how much financial aid I am eligible to receive. (LO 3)	37	53	25	115	76	27	1	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I am able to describe the difference between a subsidized and unsubsidized loan as part of my financial aid. (LO 4)	32%	46%	22%	100%	73%	26%	1%	100%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I know how to use university library resources to find high quality information to write a college level paper. (LO 9)	104	8	3	115	91	12	1	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I am able to define academic integrity and know its importance in and outside of the classroom. (LO 11)	90%	7%	3%	100%	88%	12%	1%	100%		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: I am able to identify at least three forms of academic dishonesty. (LO 10)	28	58	28	114	73	27	4	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	25%	51%	25%	100%	70%	25%	4%	99%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to create a weekly time/task planner using the PERS Learning Cycle. (LO 12)	75	18	21	114	92	9	3	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to describe at least two strategies which will help me make informed decisions in my life based on my MBTI Personality Type code. (LO 5)	66%	16%	18%	100%	88%	9%	3%	100%		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	57	20	37	114	94	9	1	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to describe at least two physical health related behaviors which influence college students' ability to reach and maintain optimum academic performance. (LO 14)	50%	18%	32%	100%	90%	9%	1%	100%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to describe at least two signs or behaviors important for healthy emotional well-being. (LO 15)	32	44	37	113	87	16	1	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	28%	39%	33%	100%	84%	16%	1%	101%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	59	46	8	113	80	21	3	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	52%	41%	7%	100%	77%	20%	3%	100%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	79	25	9	113	93	10	1	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	70%	22%	8%	100%	89%	10%	1%	100%		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	74	35	4	113	69	33	2	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	65%	31%	4%	100%	66%	32%	2%	100%		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	21	57	35	113	61	42	1	104		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	19%	50%	31%	100%	59%	40%	1%	100%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	31	47	35	113	89	15	0	100%		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	27%	42%	31%	100%	86%	14%	0%	100%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	16	50	46	112	95	7	1	103		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	14%	45%	41%	100%	92%	7%	1%	100%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	29	52	31	112	69	33	1	103		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	26%	46%	28%	100%	67%	32%	1%	100%	*	
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	51	48	13	112	66	36	1	103		
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement: I am able to name and locate two campus resources that will improve my learning skills and support my academic performance in the classroom. (LO 13)	46%	43%	12%	100%	64%	35%	1%	100%		



Academic performance in courses:

- EWS 140 - 57 students enrolled; grading scale was A through F
 - 27(47.3%) received A 15(26.3%) received A- 12(21%) received B
 - 2(3.5%) received B 1(2%) received C
- ESE 5- 55 students enrolled; grading scale was CR (passing)/NC or RP(not passing)
 - 38(69%) received CR 17(31%) received RP
- ESM 12 - 13 students enrolled; grading scale was CR (passing)/NC or RP(not passing)
 - 13 (100%) received CR
- ESM 11- 28 students enrolled; grading scale was CR (passing)/NC or RP(not passing)
 - 25(89%) received CR 3(11%) received RP
- ESM 10- 8 students enrolled; grading scale was CR (passing)/NC or RP(not passing)
 - No grades available at time of printing

Discussion

Based on the results of the pre & post assessment, Summer Bridge 2014 participants demonstrated:

- increased confidence in their level of preparedness and readiness for meeting college demands and expectations, both in and out of the classroom;
- increased knowledge of campus policies, procedures, and resources which will assist them in their transition to Cal Poly Pomona and future success;
- increased knowledge of tools and strategies for personal and time management to maintain a healthy life balance, as well as physical and mental well-being

Participants did not show a great increase in their confidence to live away from home and succeed in a residential community. We believe they may have overestimated their confidence in the pre-assessment perhaps believing this would increase their chances of being invited to participate in the program. While in the program, a few students expressed feeling homesick.

In general, performance in courses was successful. There is a concern, however, with the RP (not passing) rate for the ESE 5 course. This is something to explore and collaborate with the English department to find ways on how we can increase student performance for next year.

Implications for Practice

Summer Bridge is a very successful transition program that provides students with knowledge and skills to utilize as they transition to Cal Poly Pomona to be successful. Students develop a sense of belonging and establish supportive networks that give them confidence in their ability to succeed. That said, below are some areas for improvement:

- Evaluate pre and post assessment items to make sure they measure all areas we are targeting with the learning outcomes
- Collaborate with the English department to evaluate the causes of students' performance and develop intervention services that aim at reducing the rate of the RP grade
- Incorporate "one-minute" assessment activities during seminars and lectures to gain immediate feedback on student learning and suggestions for improving such program components

What Students Shared

I feel **twice as confident and motivated** since I started this program. I am beyond words on just how much **this program has propelled me into the direction** I was meant to go.



It has made me realize **I am in the right place**, right where I deserve to be with the right people and family (SSEP)

I learned that I need to **take advantage and utilize all my resources** and manage my time wisely.

Not only have we **learned valuable lessons** that many don't know before coming here, but we have **created friendships** that will last for a lifetime.

I've become **open minded** to other peoples perspectives. **I learned from my peers** and it has helped me **grow as a person**.