Are our international undergraduates struggling academically?

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Today’s goals

International undergraduates:

• Who are they?
• Do they prefer specific majors over others?
• Do they succeed academically in specific courses and/or majors but not in others?
• Do standardized tests predict their academic success?
• What is their performance in SDCC English courses?
• What is their performance in UC San Diego writing courses?
Who are they?—non-immigrants; exclude PR, AM, AP, AS, OT, RF, and domestics

FALL QUARTERLY SNAPSHOTS (BY ED LEVEL)*

- *Values exclude OPT.
  Data source: Data Warehouse 10-20-12
Do they prefer specific majors over others?—yes, but not only ones that emphasize mathematics
Are they struggling academically in general?—no

Data source: Data Warehouse 1-3-12
Are they struggling academically in general?—no

Data source: Data Warehouse 1-3-13
Do they succeed academically in specific courses and/or majors but not in others?—generally succeed

FA11 NFRS & TRAN FA11 academic marks
Do they succeed academically in some courses/majors and not in others?—generally succeed

MATH

FA11 NFRS & TRAN FA11 academic marks
Do standardized tests predict their academic success?—only SAT math consistently predicts quarterly GPAs

Table 3. Significant Predictors of GPA from the Correlation Analyses

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What is their performance in SDCC English courses?—generally struggling; average grade ~D+ in FA11

F1 NFRS students’ SDCC English courses during their first quarter at UC San Diego:

- FA07: 3.00
- FA08: 2.03
- FA09: 2.67
- FA10: 2.27
- FA11: 1.67

F1 NFRS students with D or F in SDCC English courses during their first quarter at UC San Diego:

- FA07: 0%
- FA08: 20.6%
- FA09: 5.6%
- FA10: 10.5%
- FA11: 42.0%

Data source: Data Warehouse (5-14-12)
What is their performance in UC San Diego writing courses?—average grade ~B- in FA11
What is their performance in UC San Diego writing courses?—average grade ~B- in FA12

Data source: Data Warehouse 1-8-13
Conclusions

✓ UC San Diego’s international undergraduates, regardless of major...
  • generally succeeding in UC San Diego courses
  • generally struggling in SDCC English courses
  • generally succeeding in UC San Diego writing courses

✓ Standardized tests used for admissions purposes do not consistently predict these students’ academic performance (except SAT math).
What is their performance in SDCC English courses?—generally struggling