

## Update on Highlander Early Start Academy Participants, Summer 2015 participants in Fall 2016

This brief provides an update on the Highlander Early Start Academy (HESA) at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) just over one year after that program ended in the summer of 2015. HESA allows incoming UCR freshmen to complete preparatory English or math during the summer quarter so that they may begin college-level calculus or English coursework in their first fall quarter. We now have data on how they fared in their first year and who returned to UCR for a second year. The table below presents key statistics for all HESA participants (in bold), disaggregates that group into those that did and did not earn scholarships (in blue), and then presents statistics for three comparison groups (in grey, with additional details in footnotes). Important findings include:

- HESA participants' overall one year retention rate is 95%, higher than any other group by 1-2%.
- HESA participants' overall accumulated almost ten more units than any of the other comparison groups during their first year. (It would seem that some, but not all, of this could be attributed to the units they took in the summer of 2015.)
- HESA participants' overall have cumulative GPAs that are very similar to comparison groups, although the group of students who applied but could not be accommodated had GPAs, on average, about 0.10 points higher.
- The group of HESA students who earned scholarships had exceptionally high one year retention rates, at 98%, GPAs above the all campus average, at 3.00, and had earned a larger number of units as well, at 68.

	One Year Retention	Units accumulated, through spring 2016	Cumulative GPA, through spring 2016
<b>All HESA Participants</b>	<b>95.14%</b> <b>(144)</b>	<b>63.91</b> <b>(137)</b>	<b>2.76</b> <b>(137)</b>
<b>HESA participants, by scholarship status</b>			
Earned Scholarship	98.11% (53)	67.81 (52)	3.00 (52)
Did not earn Scholarship	93.41% (91)	61.53 (85)	2.62 (85)
<b>Non participants, various groups for comparative purposes</b>			
All Freshmen in Same Courses	90.87% (1,303)	55.22 (1,184)	2.78 (1,184)
Matched Freshmen <sup>1</sup>	93.62% (141)	54.67 (132)	2.76 (132)
Applied but did not Participate <sup>2</sup>	92.94% (85)	56.55 (79)	2.87 (79)

<sup>1</sup> This group is made up of incoming freshmen who matched HESA participants in terms of high school GPA (within 0.25 grade points), earned the same scores on both the math and English placement exams, and identified as the same gender and took the same courses in the fall. This group may provide some control for a variety of unobserved characteristics that correlate with student success.

<sup>2</sup> This group applied to HESA in the summer of 2015 but, because of space constraints, could not be accommodated. Students who apply for programs like HESA may have higher levels of motivation so this comparison group may provide some control for motivation.