



RESEARCH BRIEF

OIR

Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Initiatives

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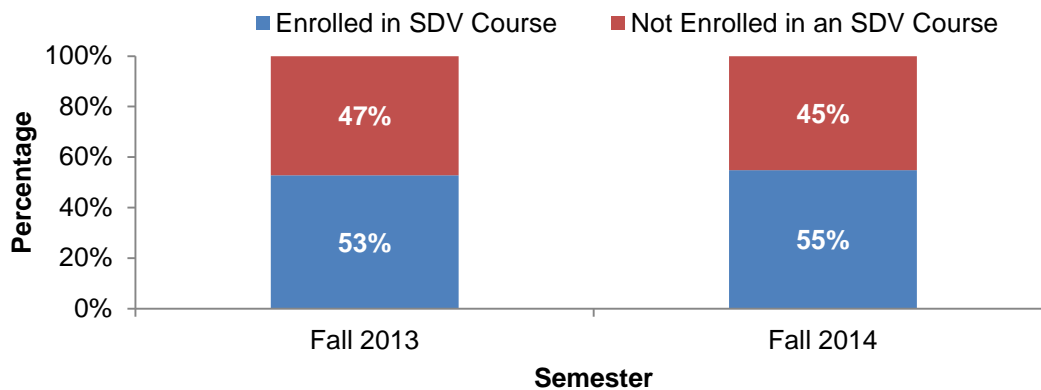
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Implementation of Mandatory Enrollment in Student Development: Fall 2014

As part of NOVA’s efforts to increase student success outcomes, NOVA enacted six policy changes in Fall 2014, one of which requires all GPS students¹ to enroll in Student Development (SDV) 100/101 within their first year at NOVA. In Fall 2013, 53 percent of GPS students (4,422 students) enrolled in an SDV course, compared to 55 percent (4,928) in Fall 2014 (see Figure 1 and Table 1, next page). These results indicate that the Fall 2014 renewed enforcement of the mandatory SDV policy had a slight impact. However, as students are required to take the course within their first 15 credits (not their first semester), the full effect of this policy change may not be seen until the completion of the Spring semester.

One of the primary concerns in enforcing the SDV enrollment policy was the ability to offer a sufficient number of sections of the course on each campus in order to meet the greater demand. The marginal increase in students enrolling in SDV in their first semester means that the remaining 45 percent of the Fall 2014 GPS student population (4,095 students who did not enroll in an SDV course in their first semester at NOVA) will need to take an SDV course in the coming semester(s). In order to enforce the policy fairly and successfully, NOVA will likely have to make additional adjustments to SDV course availability and increase capacity to continue to accommodate this increase in demand.

Figure 1. GPS Students Who Enrolled in SDV 100/101 in Their First Semester at NOVA: Fall 2013 and Fall 2014



¹NOVA’s GPS population: Recent high school graduates or GED recipients between the ages of 17 and 24 who have never previously attended college (unless it was dual enrollment during high school), who are not members of the College Pathway Initiative program, and are not transient students.

Table 1 and Figure 2 present the number and percentage of GPS students who enrolled in SDV (SDV 100 or SDV 101) in their first semester at NOVA by campus. The proportion of GPS students who took SDV increased at four campuses (Alexandria, Annandale, Manassas, and Woodbridge) and decreased at two campuses (Loudoun and Medical Education). The Annandale and Woodbridge Campuses had the highest proportion of GPS students who enrolled in SDV in Fall 2014 (67 percent at each campus; 1,739 students at Annandale and 861 students at Woodbridge). At the Loudoun Campus, the overall number of GPS students increased, but a lower percentage enrolled in SDV (50 percent in Fall 2013 versus 42 percent in Fall 2014).

Table 1. GPS Students Who Enrolled in SDV 100/101 in Their First Semester at NOVA by Campus: Fall 2013 and Fall 2014

Campus	Fall 2013			Fall 2014		
	GPS Students	Enrolled in SDV 100/101		GPS Students	Enrolled in SDV 100/101	
		#	%		#	%
Alexandria	1,380	642	46.5	1,353	667	49.3
Annandale	2,628	1,618	61.6	2,587	1,739	67.2
Loudoun	1,654	826	49.9	2,326	977	42.0
Manassas	1,382	513	37.1	1,394	629	45.1
Medical Education	92	68	73.9	83	55	66.3
Woodbridge	1,260	755	59.9	1,280	861	67.3
Total	8,396	4,422	52.7	9,023	4,928	54.6

Figure 2. GPS Students Who Enrolled in SDV in Their First Semester at NOVA by Campus: Fall 2013 and Fall 2014

