



RESEARCH BRIEF

OIR

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GPA and Retention Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students Enrolled in SDV 100: Fall 2013

College Success Skills (SDV 100) is a student success course at NOVA that provides students with knowledge and skills related to time-management, studying, and decision-making, as well as information about NOVA policies and resources. This Research Brief presents the average cumulative grade point average (GPA) and the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of first-time to NOVA students who enrolled in SDV 100 during Fall 2013. These student success outcomes were compared to those of all other first-time students enrolled in Fall 2013. In addition, data for each group are disaggregated by student demographic characteristics (gender and race/ethnicity).

Overall results suggest that students who enrolled in SDV 100 in Fall 2013 earned a higher average cumulative GPA and were retained at higher rates compared to all other first-time students.

Table 1 compares the average cumulative GPA of students enrolled in SDV 100 in Fall 2013 with the average cumulative GPA of all other first-time students. The average cumulative GPA of students enrolled in SDV 100 was higher (2.23) than that of the comparison group (1.94).

Table 1. Average Cumulative GPA of First-Time Students: Fall 2013

Enrolled in SDV 100		Not Enrolled in SDV 100	
#	Average GPA	#	Average GPA
4,794	2.23	8,850	1.94

Table 2 presents the average cumulative GPA of students enrolled in SDV 100 and all other first-time students by gender. The average cumulative GPA for male and female students enrolled in SDV 100 was higher than that of their counterparts (males: 2.09 vs. 1.83; females: 2.38 vs. 2.05) in Fall 2013.

Table 2. Average Cumulative GPA of First-Time Students by Gender: Fall 2013

Gender	Enrolled in SDV 100		Not Enrolled in SDV 100	
	#	Average GPA	#	Average GPA
Male	2,515	2.09	4,288	1.83
Female	2,279	2.38	4,562	2.05

Table 3 (see next page) displays the average cumulative GPA of students enrolled in SDV 100 and all other first-time students by race/ethnicity. In Fall 2013, the average cumulative GPA of students within each of the racial/ethnic groups who enrolled in SDV 100 was higher than that of their counterparts.

Table 3. Average Cumulative GPA of First-Time Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2013

Race/Ethnicity	Enrolled in SDV 100		Not Enrolled in SDV 100	
	#	Average GPA	#	Average GPA
White	2,121	2.28	4,850	2.14
Black	831	1.90	1,614	1.69
Asian	796	2.52	1,252	1.79
Hispanic	970	2.13	905	1.46
Native American	11	1.78	20	1.65
Other	65	2.52	209	2.26

Table 4 presents the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of students enrolled in SDV 100 and all other first-time students. Students who enrolled in SDV 100 during Fall 2013 returned to NOVA at a higher rate in Spring 2014 (83%) compared to all other first-time students (65%).

Table 4. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-Time Students: Fall 2013 to Spring 2014

Enrolled in SDV 100		Not Enrolled in SDV 100	
#	%	#	%
3,964	82.7%	5,789	65.4%

Table 5 shows the Fall-to-Spring retention rates by gender for students enrolled in SDV 100 and all other first-time students. Both males and females who enrolled in SDV 100 returned to the College at higher rates than all other first-time students (males: 82% vs. 65%; females: 84% vs. 66%).

Table 5. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-Time Students by Gender: Fall 2013 to Spring 2014

Gender	Enrolled in SDV 100		Not Enrolled in SDV 100	
	#	%	#	%
Male	2,049	81.5%	2,783	64.9%
Female	1,915	84.0%	3,006	65.9%

Table 6 displays the Fall-to-Spring retention rates by race/ethnicity for students enrolled in SDV 100 and all other first-time students. Students within each of the racial/ethnic groups who enrolled in SDV 100 in Fall 2013 returned to NOVA the following semester at higher rates than their counterparts.

Table 6. Fall-to-Spring Retention Rates of First-Time Students by Race/Ethnicity: Fall 2013 to Spring 2014

Race/Ethnicity	Enrolled in SDV 100		Not Enrolled in SDV 100	
	#	%	#	%
White	1,698	80.1%	3,027	62.4%
Black	688	82.8%	1,046	64.8%
Asian	705	88.6%	903	72.1%
Hispanic	807	83.2%	657	72.6%
Native American*	7	63.6%	14	70.0%
Other	59	90.8%	142	67.9%

*The size of this racial/ethnic group (n=7) is not large enough to make accurate comparisons.