



RESEARCH BRIEF

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

The First Year Experience (FYE) at NOVA provides first-year students with academic, career, and social support during their first year of college. One component of the FYE initiative is completion of an FYE section of SDV 100: College Success Skills. These FYE SDV 100 sections include only first-year students and emphasize peer mentoring, career and major exploration, study skills, and other first-year student issues.

This Research Brief presents the average cumulative grade point average (GPA) of first-time to NOVA students who enrolled in FYE SDV 100 during Fall 2013 and the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of these students. These student success outcomes were compared to those of all other first-time students enrolled in Fall 2013. Additionally, data are disaggregated by gender and race/ethnicity. Due to the difference in the number of first-time students who enrolled in FYE SDV 100 and the number of those who were not enrolled, comparisons should be made with caution.

Overall findings indicate that students who enrolled in FYE 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 shows the average cumulative GPA for students enrolled in FYE SDV 100 in Fall 2013 and for all other first-time students. The average cumulative GPA of students enrolled in FYE SDV 100 was higher (2.34) than that of the comparison group (2.04).

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

Enrolled in FYE SDV 100		Not Enrolled in FYE SDV 100	
#	Average GPA	#	Average GPA
105	2.34	13,539	2.04

Table 2 presents the average cumulative GPA of students by FYE SDV 100 enrollment status and gender. In Fall 2013, the average cumulative GPA for female students enrolled in FYE SDV 100 was higher (2.96) than that of their counterparts (2.16). This was true for males as well, however the GPA of males enrolled in FYE SDV 100 (1.93) and that of those not enrolled (1.92) was nearly the same.

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

Gender	Enrolled in FYE SDV 100		Not Enrolled in FYE SDV 100	
	#	Average GPA	#	Average GPA
Male	63	1.93	6,740	1.92
Female	42	2.96	6,799	2.16

Table 3 displays the average cumulative GPA of students enrolled in FYE SDV 100 and all other first-time students by race/ethnicity. Among White, Asian, and Hispanic students, those who enrolled in FYE SDV 100 averaged higher cumulative GPAs than their counterparts.

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

Race/Ethnicity	Enrolled in FYE SDV 100		Not Enrolled in FYE SDV 100	
	#	Average GPA	#	Average GPA
White	53	2.40	6,918	2.18
Black*	8	1.26	2,437	1.77
Asian	17	3.02	2,031	2.07
Hispanic	23	2.20	1,852	1.80
Native American*	0	-	31	1.70
Other*	4	1.66	270	2.33

*The size of this racial/ethnic group is not large enough to make accurate comparisons.

Table 4 presents the Fall-to-Spring retention rates of students enrolled in FYE SDV 100 and all other first-time students. Students who enrolled in FYE SDV 100 during Fall 2013 returned to NOVA at a higher rate the following semester (87%) compared to all other first-time students (71%).

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

Enrolled in FYE SDV 100		Not Enrolled in FYE SDV 100	
#	%	#	%
91	86.7%	9,662	71.4%

Table 5 shows the Fall-to-Spring retention rates by gender for students enrolled in FYE SDV 100 and all other first-time students. Both males and females who enrolled in FYE SDV 100 returned to the College at higher rates than the comparison groups (males: 84% vs. 71%; females: 91% vs. 72%).

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

Gender	Enrolled in FYE SDV 100		Not Enrolled in FYE SDV 100	
	#	%	#	%
Male	53	84.1%	4,779	70.9%
Female	38	90.5%	4,883	71.8%

Table 6 displays the Fall-to-Spring retention rates by race/ethnicity for students enrolled in FYE SDV 100 and all other first-time students. Retention rates were higher for White, Asian, and Hispanic students who enrolled in FYE SDV 100 compared to all other first-time students among those groups.

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

Race/Ethnicity	Enrolled in FYE SDV 100		Not Enrolled in FYE SDV 100	
	#	%	#	%
White	46	86.8%	4,679	67.6%
Black*	6	75.0%	1,728	70.9%
Asian	16	94.1%	1,592	78.4%
Hispanic	19	82.6%	1,445	78.0%
Native American*	0	-	21	67.7%
Other*	4	100.0%	197	73.0%

*The size of this racial/ethnic group is not large enough to make accurate comparisons.