

**Summer CRUISE Student Outcomes
(July 2016)**

Project Background and Methodology

As one component of the Proyecto Éxito grant evaluation, the present study was conducted to examine the outcomes of the Summer CRUISE/Peer Navigator program in its first year at San Diego Mesa College. The Summer CRUISE/Peer Navigator program consists of three components:

- Peer mentors, called Peer Navigators, are assigned to each student. Each Peer Navigator works with one group of students during Summer CRUISE and throughout the school year.
- Students attend an in-person, multi-day event during which they get to know the Mesa College campus, meet other students, faculty, and staff, and learn about how to navigate and succeed in an academic program.
- After Summer CRUISE, Peer Navigators act as an on-going source of support and guidance for students. To facilitate regular communication, Peer Navigators reach out to their assigned students to see how they can be helpful to the students, to alert them about upcoming events, or to provide encouragement.

To assess the outcomes of the Summer CRUISE/Peer Navigator program, student demographics, course enrollment, and grade data were obtained from the SDCCD information system for students who 1) participated in Summer CRUISE and 2) were contacted by their Peer Navigator. The Student Success Coordinator provided the Institutional Research Office with a list of 137 students who met these two criteria. Of these students, 131 enrolled at Mesa College in Fall 2015, 4 enrolled in Spring 2016, and 2 never enrolled. Summer CRUISE participants were included in the following analysis if they had a valid end-of-term enrollment in any course offered at Mesa College in Fall 2015.

The project centered on the following research questions:

- Do students who participated in Summer CRUISE differ, demographically or academically, from first-time students who do not?
- Do students who participated in the Summer CRUISE/Peer Navigator program have better academic outcomes (retention, success, persistence, average GPA) than students who do not?
- Is the number of contacts with Peer Navigators, ethnicity, or gender positively related to the academic performance and persistence of Summer CRUISE participants?

To address these research questions, students were first grouped into two categories:

- Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students,¹ and
- Summer CRUISE participants who were returning or continuing students.

Twenty-eight Summer CRUISE students had a valid end-of-term enrollment in Fall 2015, but were not considered first-time students. As a result, they were excluded from the comparative analysis. As a comparison group for Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students, non-participating first-time students with a valid end-of-term enrollment in Fall 2015 were also included in the study. A total of 2,186 students were included in the comparison group. The data were further disaggregated by student age, ethnicity, gender, first generation status, units enrolled, academic standing, and number of two-way contacts² with Peer Navigators (if applicable). Enrollment, retention, success, persistence and average

¹ First-time students are defined as those who do not have an Associate's degree or higher, are not concurrently enrolled, are not returning, continuing, transfer, or high school students, and have not previously attended another institution of higher education.

² Students were grouped according to frequency of two-way contacts, including: zero to one, two to four, five to seven, and 8 or more.

GPA were calculated for each of the three groups above. A summary of the study's findings is provided on the following pages. Data tables illustrating detailed results are provided in Appendix A.

Summary of Findings

DEMOGRAPHICS

Summer CRUISE participants who enrolled in Fall 2015 as first time students differed in several ways from the comparison group (Table 1).

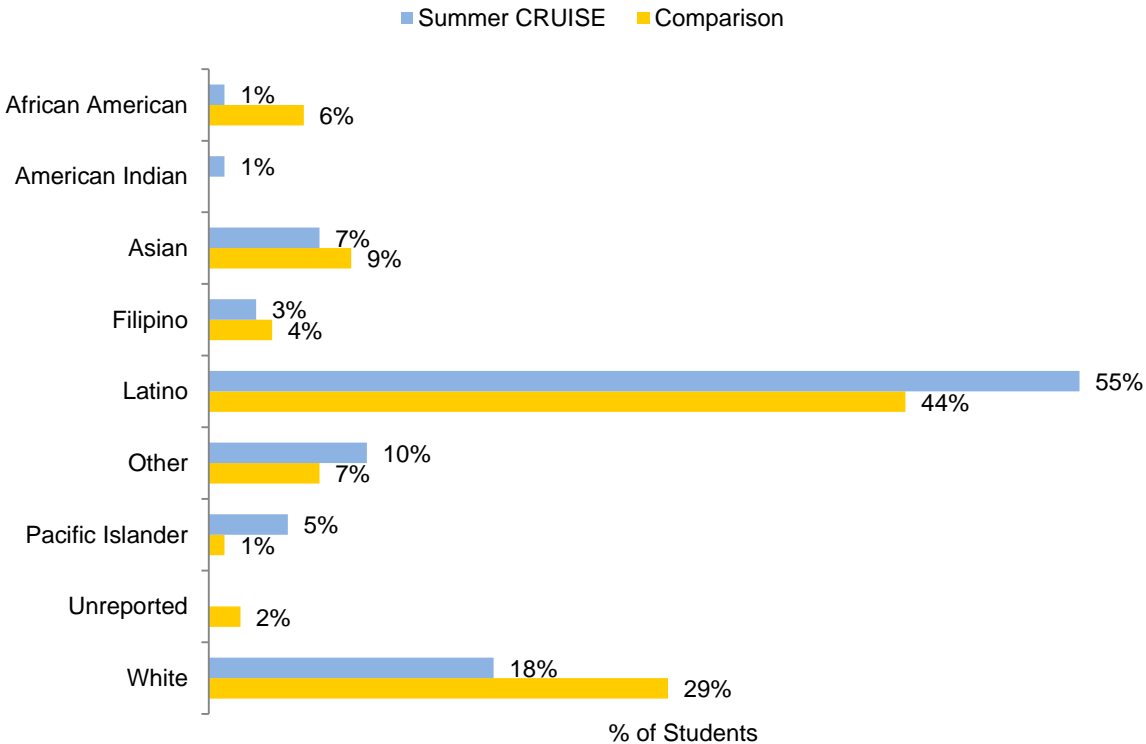
➤ **Age**

Summer CRUISE participants tended to be younger than students in the comparison group. They were more likely to be 18 to 24 years old, with nearly all 103 students falling into that age category.

➤ **Ethnicity**

Summer CRUISE participants were more likely to be Latino, Pacific Islander or Other than students in the comparison group. Conversely, Summer CRUISE participants were less likely to be African American or White.

**Figure 1. Fall 2015 First-Time Student Ethnicity
By Summer CRUISE Participation**



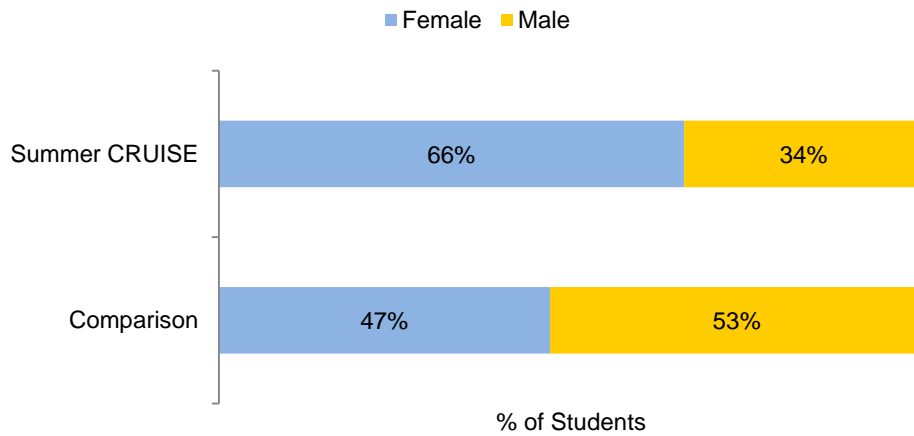
➤ **First Generation**

Summer CRUISE participants were more likely to be First Generation students than students in the comparison group. First Generation students were 41% and 27% of the Summer CRUISE and comparison group populations, respectively.

➤ **Gender**

Summer CRUISE participants were also more likely to be Female than students in the comparison group. Two-thirds of Summer CRUISE participants were women, compared to only half of those in the comparison group.

Figure 2. Fall 2015 First Time Student Gender By Summer CRUISE Participation



The twenty-eight students who participated in Summer CRUISE but were not classified as first-time students in Fall 2015 were similar in many ways to those participants who were first-time students (Table 14). The two groups had similar age, ethnic, and first generation proportions, however, CRUISE participants who were not first-time students were much more likely to be male. A little over half of CRUISE participants who were not first-time students were male, compared to 34% of those who were first-time students.

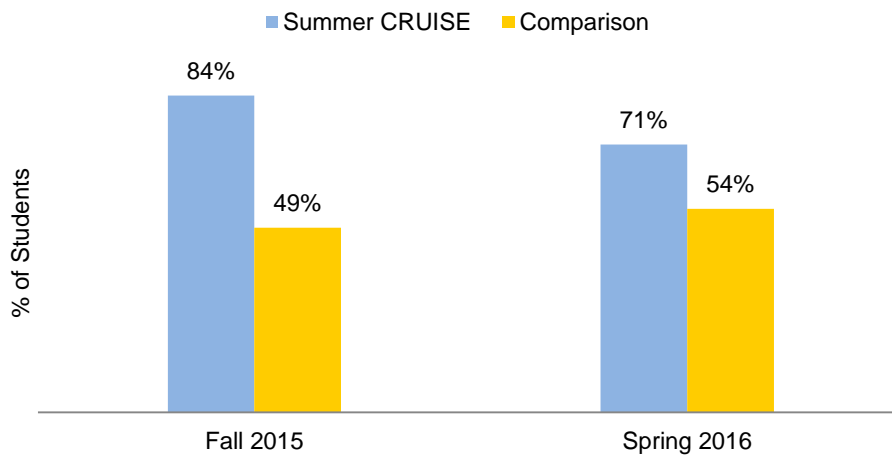
The demographic trends observed in Fall 2015 among Summer CRUISE participants (both first-time and not first-time students) and the comparison group also held true in spring 2016 (Tables 9 and 17).

ACADEMIC STATUS

➤ **Units Earned**

In Fall 2015, Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students were much more likely (84%) than the comparison group (49%) to be full-time students³ (Table 2). While this trend held true in Spring 2016, the difference between groups was smaller, with 71% of Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students enrolling in 12 or more units compared to 54% of the comparison group (Table 10).

Figure 3. Percent of First-Time Students Full-Time By Term



In both Fall 2015 and Spring 2016, Summer CRUISE participants who were not first-time students were also more likely to be full-time students, but less so than their peers who were first-time students (Tables 15 and 18).

➤ **Academic Standing**

After Fall 2015, there were no differences between the Academic Standing of students who participated in Summer CRUISE as first-time students and the comparison group (Table 2). After Spring 2016, however, Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students were more likely to be in Good Standing (76%) than the comparison group (69%) and were less likely to be on Academic Probation (10%) than the comparison group (17%; Table 10). Similar proportions of these groups were on Progress Probation or were Disqualified (Academic or Progress).

In addition, differences between Summer CRUISE students who were first-time students and those who were not first-time students were also observed (Table 15). Summer CRUISE students who were not first-time were somewhat more likely to be in Good Standing after Fall 2015 than those who were first-time students (96% to 83%, respectively). In Spring 2016, CRUISE participants who were not first-time students were still more likely than their Summer CRUISE peers who were first-time students to be in Good Standing (83% compared to 76%) and were less likely to be Academically Disqualified (0% compared to 8%; Table 18).

³ Full-time students are defined as those who are enrolled in 12 or more units in a given semester.

CONTACTS

Across Peer Navigators, the average number of one- and two-way student contacts were 12.6 and 5.2, respectively. Male and female students were in contact with their Peer Navigators with roughly the same average frequency (Table 8). However, this was not the case across ethnic groups (Table 7). African American, Latino, and Asian students had higher average two-way contacts with their Peer Navigators (7.0, 5.8, and 7.3, respectively), while American Indian, Filipino students and those who classify themselves as Other had fewer (0.0, 3.7 and 2.4, respectively).

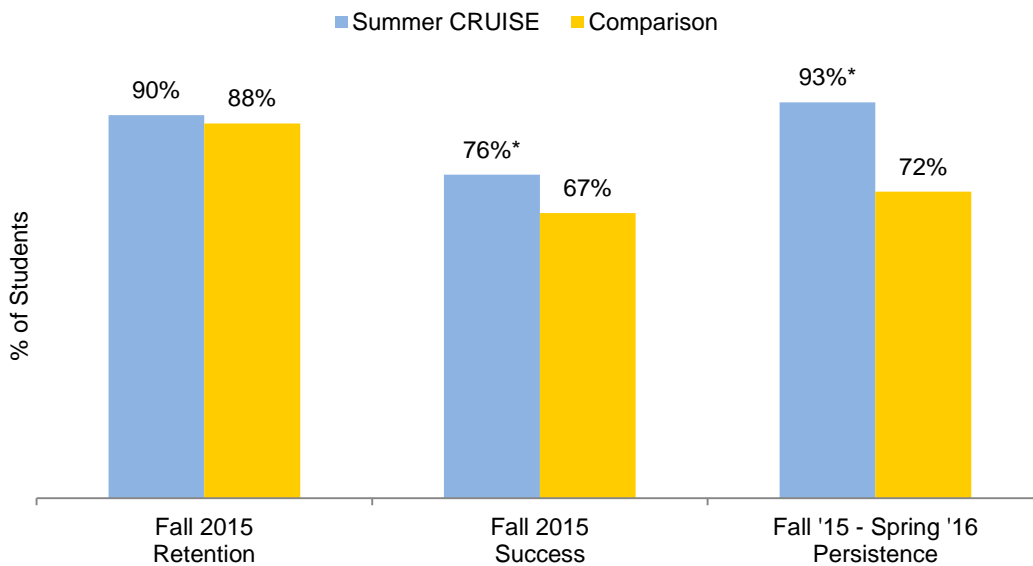
OUTCOMES

➤ **Retention, Success, and Persistence**

To examine overall first-time student outcomes at Mesa College by Summer CRUISE participation, a chi-square analysis was conducted with course retention, success, and persistence as outcomes of interest. Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students were retained in their classes to a similar degree as their peers in the comparison group. However, in Fall 2015, Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students were significantly more likely than the comparison group to both succeed (76% versus 67%) and persist to Spring 2016 (93% versus 72%). In addition, the average GPA for Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students was almost a third of a point higher (2.66) than the comparison group (2.35; Table 3).

Summer CRUISE participants who were not first-time students experienced higher retention (97%) and success rates (88%) and had a higher average GPA (3.02) than their peers who were first-time students, although they were slightly less likely to persist (86%; Table 16).

**Figure 4. Retention, Success, and Persistence
Of First-Time Students By Summer CRUISE Participation**



*Significant at the 99% confidence level.

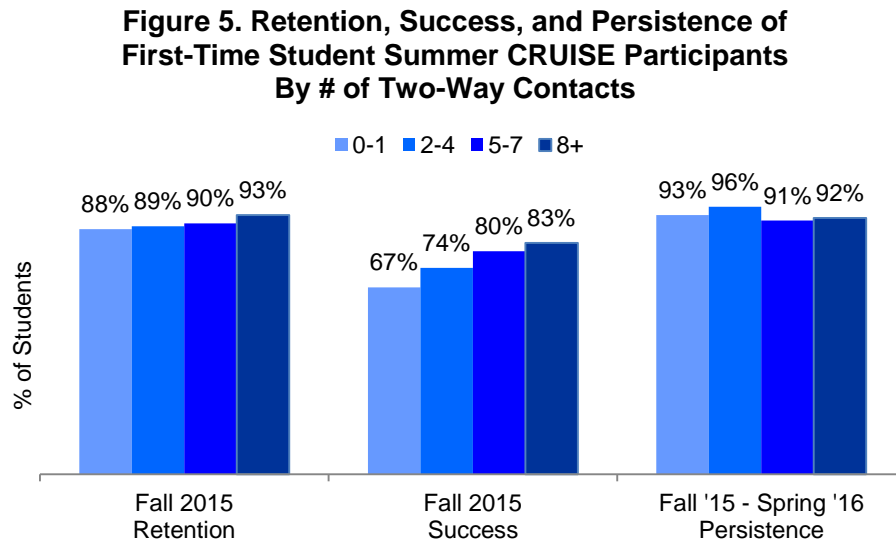
These trends held true in Spring 2016 as well, although there was less of a difference between Summer CRUISE students who were first-time students and the comparison group (Table 11), and between Summer CRUISE students who were and were not first-time students (Table 19).

➤ **Outcomes by Ethnicity, Gender, and Two-Way Contacts**

Among Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students, outcomes varied by ethnicity. African American, American Indian, and Pacific Islander students had lower success rates (33%, 50%, and 67%, respectively) and average GPAs (1.31, 1.31, and 2.60, respectively) than students in other ethnic groups (Table 4). Persistence rates were lowest among Filipino and Pacific Islander students at 67% and 80%. From Fall 2015 to Spring 2016, success rates decreased across all groups except White, Pacific Islander, and Other students (Table 12).

Outcomes among first-time students who participated in Summer CRUISE varied little by gender in Fall 2015 (Table 5). Female participants had slightly higher retention (+4%), persistence (+3%), and average GPA (+.06), while males were slightly more likely to succeed in their classes (+2%). In Spring 2016, however, there was a notable difference between the retention rate for male (86%) and female (95%) students. They had the same retention rate (72%), while the average GPA of male students was .13 points higher than the average GPA of female students (2.40; Table 13).

Retention and persistence rates varied little by the number of two-way contacts (Table 6). Success and average GPA, however, did vary. The success rates of Summer CRUISE participants who were first-time students in Fall 2015 increased from 67% for students who had zero to one two-way contacts with their Peer Navigator to 83% for students who had eight or more two-way contacts. In addition to increasing success rates, average GPA also increased with the number of two-way contacts from 2.36 for students with zero to one two-way contacts to 2.85 for students with eight or more two-way contacts.



Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the goals of the Summer CRUISE program to increase student connection with the campus, persistence, and ultimately academic performance, the present study was undertaken to examine student performance and persistence for Summer CRUISE participants and a comparison group of non-participants. In addition, Summer CRUISE participants were compared to non-participating students demographically and academically to identify any pre-existing differences between groups. In general, students who participated in Summer CRUISE tended to be younger than the comparison group and were more likely to be Latino, first generation, and female.

On the whole, Summer CRUISE participants tended to have better academic outcomes than their non-participating peers. Specifically, Summer CRUISE students had higher rates of persistence, course success, and, to a lesser degree, course retention. Furthermore, more frequent two-way contacts were also associated with higher levels of performance among Summer CRUISE participants.

The results of the present study provide a preliminary assessment of the impact of the Summer CRUISE program on student persistence and academic performance. However, it should be noted that there are numerous factors associated with student success, and the present study did not control for these factors. Thus, the findings of the study should be interpreted with caution. Future studies of program effectiveness should examine student outcomes controlling for the most salient factors linked to student success.

Recommendations

Even so, the present study's findings provide some additional information that may be useful for program planning. Specifically, based on the results of the study, the following actions are recommended for consideration by the Summer CRUISE program moving forward:

- Implement targeted outreach to increase the number of African American and male students that participate in Summer CRUISE.
- Establish minimum expectations for communication between Peer Navigators and Summer CRUISE participants.
- Provided targeted support to male students to facilitate course retention, particularly in the spring semester.
- To maintain or increase student persistence, create an end-of-year opportunity that facilitates continued student engagement with Mesa College through the summer.

APPENDIX A

Table 1. Fall 2015 First-Time Student CRUISE Participant and Comparison Group Demographics

Demographics		CRUISE Participant		Comparison	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age	Under 18	*	1%	21	1%
	18 - 24	99	96%	1961	90%
	25 - 29	*	1%	96	4%
	30 - 39	*	1%	69	3%
	40 - 49	*	0%	24	1%
	50 and >	*	1%	15	1%
Ethnicity	African American	*	1%	121	6%
	American Indian	*	1%	*	0%
	Asian	*	7%	190	9%
	Filipino	*	3%	84	4%
	Latino	57	55%	959	44%
	Other	10	10%	148	7%
	Pacific Islander	*	5%	15	1%
	Unreported	*	0%	34	2%
	White	19	18%	626	29%
First Generation Status	First Generation	42	41%	594	27%
	Not First Generation	61	59%	1592	73%
Gender	Female	68	66%	1036	47%
	Male	35	34%	1150	53%
<i>Total</i>		<i>103</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>2186</i>	<i>100%</i>

*Cell size less than 10 suppressed to protect student identity.

Table 2. Fall 2015 First-Time Student CRUISE Participant and Comparison Group Academic Status

Academic Status		CRUISE Participant		Comparison	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Units Earned	Full-time (12+ units)	87	84%	1061	49%
	Part-time (<12 units)	16	16%	1125	51%
Academic Standing	Academic Probation	11	11%	243	11%
	Good Standing	86	83%	1841	84%
	Progress Probation	*	6%	102	5%
<i>Total</i>		<i>103</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>2186</i>	<i>100%</i>

*Cell size less than 10 suppressed to protect student identity.

Table 3. Fall 2015 First-Time Student CRUISE Participant and Comparison Group Outcomes

Group	Fall 2015			Fall 2015 - Spring 2016 Persistence Rate
	Retention Rate	Success Rate	Term GPA	
CRUISE Participant	90%	76%	2.66	93%
Not Participant	88%	66%	2.35	72%

Table 4. Fall 2015 First-Time Student CRUISE Participant Outcomes by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Fall 2015			Fall 2015 - Spring 2016 Persistence Rate
	Retention Rate	Success Rate	Term GPA	
African American	83%	33%	1.31	100%
American Indian	100%	50%	1.31	100%
Asian	92%	85%	2.51	86%
Filipino	100%	92%	2.79	67%
Latino	90%	75%	2.63	96%
Other	85%	72%	2.66	90%
Pacific Islander	88%	67%	2.60	80%
White	91%	82%	2.92	95%
<i>Total</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>2.66</i>	<i>93%</i>

Table 5. Fall 2015 First-Time Student CRUISE Participant Outcomes by Gender

Gender	Fall 2015			Fall 2015 - Spring 2016 Persistence Rate**
	Retention Rate	Success Rate**	Term GPA	
Female	91%	75%	2.68	94%
Male	87%	77%	2.62	91%
<i>Total</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>2.66</i>	<i>93%</i>

**Significant to the 99% confidence level.

Table 6. Fall 2015 Summer First-Time Student CRUISE Participant Outcomes by Two-Way Contacts

# Two-Way Contacts	Fall 2015			Fall 2015 - Spring 2016 Persistence Rate
	Retention Rate	Success Rate	Term GPA	
0-1	88%	67%	2.36	93%
2-4	89%	74%	2.70	96%
5-7	90%	80%	2.78	91%
>=8	93%	83%	2.85	92%
<i>Total</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>2.66</i>	<i>93%</i>

Table 7. Fall 2015 First-Time Student Summer CRUISE Participant Average Contacts by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Average # of One- Way Contacts	Average # of Two- Way Contacts
African American	8.0	7.0
American Indian	13.0	0.0
Asian	13.3	7.3
Filipino	13.3	3.7
Latino	12.6	5.8
Other	12.7	2.4
Pacific Islander	13.4	4.4
White	12.5	4.9
<i>Total</i>	12.6	5.2

Table 8. Fall 2015 First-Time Student Summer CRUISE Participant Average Contacts by Gender

Gender	Average # of One- Way Contacts	Average # of Two- Way Contacts
Female	12.7	5.1
Male	12.5	5.5
<i>Total</i>	12.6	5.2

Table 9. Spring 2016 CRUISE Participants and Comparison Group Demographics

Demographics		CRUISE Participant		Comparison	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age	Under 18	*	0%	*	0%
	18 - 24	93	97%	1447	91%
	25 - 29	*	1%	70	4%
	30 - 39	*	1%	40	3%
	40 - 49	*	0%	13	1%
	50 and >	*	1%	10	1%
Ethnicity	African American	*	1%	84	5%
	American Indian	*	1%	*	0%
	Asian	*	6%	143	9%
	Filipino	*	2%	49	3%
	Latino	55	57%	715	45%
	Other	*	9%	109	7%
	Pacific Islander	*	4%	12	1%
	Unreported	*	0%	28	2%
	White	18	19%	436	28%
First Generation Status	First Generation	40	42%	440	28%
	Not First Generation	56	58%	1143	72%
Gender	Female	64	67%	779	49%
	Male	32	33%	804	51%
<i>Total</i>		96	100%	1583	100%

*Cell size less than 10 suppressed to protect student identity.

Note: In tables 9-13, Spring 2016 CRUISE participants include Fall 2015 first-time student CRUISE participants who persisted to the Spring 2016 semester. The comparison group includes first-time students who did not participate in Summer CRUISE and persisted to the Spring 2016 semester.

Table 10. Spring 2016 CRUISE Participants and Comparison Group Academic Status

Academic Status		CRUISE Participant		Comparison	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Units Earned	Full-time (12+ units)	68	71%	861	54%
	Part-time (<12 units)	28	29%	722	46%
Academic Standing	Academic Disqualification	*	8%	100	6%
	Academic Probation	10	10%	272	17%
	Good Standing	73	76%	1097	69%
	Progress Disqualification	*	0%	15	1%
	Progress Probation	*	5%	99	6%
<i>Total</i>		96	100%	1583	100%

*Cell size less than 10 suppressed to protect student identity.

Table 11. Spring 2016 CRUISE Participants and Comparison Group Outcomes

Group	Spring 2016		
	Retention Rate	Success Rate	Term GPA
CRUISE Participant	92%	72%	2.44
Not Participant	87%	68%	2.33

Table 12. Spring 2016 CRUISE Participant Outcomes by Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Spring 2016		
	Retention Rate	Success Rate	Term GPA
African American	83%	17%	1.00
American Indian	100%	25%	0.75
Asian	96%	65%	2.39
Filipino	100%	75%	2.11
Latino	90%	67%	2.24
Other	95%	86%	3.06
Pacific Islander	94%	88%	2.46
White	94%	87%	2.96
<i>Total</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>2.44</i>

Table 13. Spring 2016 CRUISE Participant Outcomes by Gender

Gender	Spring 2016		
	Retention Rate	Success Rate	Term GPA
Female	95%	72%	2.40
Male	86%	72%	2.53
<i>Total</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>2.44</i>

Table 14. Fall 2015 CRUISE Participants Demographics

Demographics		CRUISE Participant (Not First Time Student)		CRUISE Participant (First Time Student)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age	Under 18	*	11%	*	1%
	18 - 24	21	75%	99	96%
	25 - 29	*	4%	*	1%
	30 - 39	*	7%	*	1%
	40 - 49	*	4%	*	0%
	50 and >	*	0%	*	1%
Ethnicity	African American	*	4%	*	1%
	American Indian	*	0%	*	1%
	Asian	*	14%	*	7%
	Filipino	*	0%	*	3%
	Latino	12	43%	57	55%
	Other	*	14%	10	10%
	Pacific Islander	*	0%	*	5%
	Unreported	*	4%	*	0%
First Generation Status	First Generation	12	43%	42	41%
	Not First Generation	16	57%	61	59%
Gender	Female	13	46%	68	66%
	Male	15	54%	35	34%
<i>Total</i>		28	100%	103	100%

*Cell size less than 10 suppressed to protect student identity.

Table 15. Fall 2015 CRUISE Participants Academic Status

Academic Status		CRUISE Participant (Not First Time Student)		CRUISE Participant (First Time Student)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Units Earned	Full-time (12+ units)	17	61%	87	84%
	Part-time (<12 units)	11	39%	16	16%
Academic Standing	Academic Probation	*	4%	11	11%
	Good Standing	27	96%	86	83%
	Progress Probation	*	0%	*	6%
<i>Total</i>		28	100%	103	100%

*Cell size less than 10 suppressed to protect student identity.

Table 16. Fall 2015 CRUISE Participants Outcomes

Group	Fall 2015			Fall 2015 - Spring 2016 Persistence Rate
	Retention Rate	Success Rate	Term GPA	
CRUISE Participant (Not First Time Student)	97%	88%	3.02	86%
CRUISE Participant (First Time Student)	90%	76%	2.66	93%

Table 17. Spring 2016 CRUISE Participants Demographics

Demographics		CRUISE Participant (Not First Time Student)		CRUISE Participant (First Time Student)	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age	Under 18	*	13%	*	0%
	18 - 24	20	83%	93	97%
	25 - 29	*	0%	*	1%
	30 - 39	*	0%	*	1%
	40 - 49	*	4%	*	0%
	50 and >	*	0%	*	1%
Ethnicity	African American	*	4%	*	1%
	American Indian	*	0%	*	1%
	Asian	*	4%	*	6%
	Filipino	*	0%	*	2%
	Latino	11	46%	55	57%
	Other	*	17%	*	9%
	Pacific Islander	*	0%	*	4%
	Unreported	*	4%	*	0%
	White	*	25%	18	19%
First Generation Status	First Generation	*	38%	40	42%
	Not First Generation	15	63%	56	58%
Gender	Female	12	50%	64	67%
	Male	12	50%	32	33%
<i>Total</i>		24	100%	96	100%

*Cell size less than 10 suppressed to protect student identity.

Table 18. Spring 2016 CRUISE Participants Academic Status

Academic Status		CRUISE Participant <i>(Not First Time Student)</i>		CRUISE Participant <i>(First Time Student)</i>	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Units Earned	Full-time (12+ units)	15	63%	68	71%
	Part-time (<12 units)	*	38%	28	29%
Academic Standing	Academic Disqualification	*	0%	*	8%
	Academic Probation	*	13%	10	10%
	Good Standing	20	83%	73	76%
	Progress Probation	*	4%	*	5%
<i>Total</i>		<i>24</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>100%</i>

*Cell size less than 10 suppressed to protect student identity.

Table 19. Spring 2016 CRUISE Participants Outcomes

Group	Spring 2016		
	Retention Rate	Success Rate	Term GPA
CRUISE Participant <i>(Not First Time Student)</i>	92%	77%	2.63
CRUISE Participant <i>(First Time Student)</i>	92%	72%	2.44