



# Evaluation of FYE Summer Experience Participation

**Office of Equity, Institutional Effectiveness, and Innovation**

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## Background

The First Year Experience (FYE) program at Cosumnes River College is designed to prepare students at CRC for their first year in college. Various evaluations have demonstrated that students who participate in the FYE program enroll in and complete more units, complete transfer-level English/math at higher rates, and maintain equivalent GPAs to non-FYE students. Although these findings are promising, it is important to ensure that student groups are participating equitably in the program. As such, this investigation focused on demographic and academic factors related to participation in the FYE program at CRC.

## Method

This evaluation used data from the fall 2019 FYE program. A student was defined as participating in FYE if they attended the Summer Experience Program – a two week introduction to college for new students. Participation in the FYE program was evaluated at two points: (1) whether or not a new student signed up for the Summer Experience Program and (2) whether or not they actually participated after signing up. At each point, differences in sign-up rates and attendance were broken down by demographic and academic factors to evaluate differences in participation.

## Summary of Findings

1. A total of 398 out of 2,749 new students in fall 2019 (14.5%; *Table 1, page 4*) signed up to attend the Summer Experience Program.
2. Of the 398 new students who signed up, a total of 109 students participated in the Summer Experience Program (27.4%; *Table 2, page 4*). Ultimately 126 out of 2,749 new students attended the Summer Experience Program (4.6%; 17 attended without sign up).
3. Ethnicity, age, and employment were significantly associated with the likelihood of signing up for and attending the Summer Experience Program (*Table 1, page 4*).
  - a. Latinx students were more likely to sign up than Asian, multi-race, and white students. Latinx students were also more likely to attend when compared to white students.
  - b. Younger students were more likely to sign up and attend than older students.
  - c. Employed students were less likely to sign up and attend than unemployed students.
4. Importantly, there were no demographic or academic variables associated with attendance once a student signed up. Differences in attendance on the basis of age, employment, and ethnicity were statistically explained by differences in sign-up rates. This suggests that efforts to reduce equity gaps in attendance should focus on student groups with lower sign-up rates.

## Conclusions, Recommendations, and Limitations

Although there were notable differences in sign-up rates across academic and demographic groups, no differences in attendance were found for students who had signed up. These findings suggest that some student groups may encounter barriers to signing up for the FYE program. These differences in sign-up behavior ultimately explain the aforementioned differences in program attendance. With that said, it should be noted that the sample sizes were small when looking at the attendance of students that signed up ( $N = 398$ ). This may have impacted the power to find statistically significant differences between groups.

Given the findings of this evaluation, the Office of Equity, Institutional Effectiveness, and Innovation makes the following broad recommendations:

- 1) In order to reduce gaps in FYE participation, focus on outreach to groups that are less likely to sign up.
- 2) Work to improve overall attendance rates after sign up.
- 3) Continue to evaluate student sign-up and attendance behavior.
- 4) Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the FYE program on equitable student success in the first year.

## Sample and Method

As previously stated, participation in FYE was evaluated at two points - (1) whether or not a new student signed up for the Summer Experience Program and (2) whether or not a new student attended after signing up. There were 2,749 new students in fall 2019. A total of 398 signed up for the program and 109 ultimately attended. An additional 17 new students attended without signing up for a total of 126 new student attendees. It should also be noted that 6 non-new students attended the Summer Experience Program for a total of 132 attendees. For the purposes of this investigation, only data on new students were used in statistical analyses ( $N = 126$ ).

Demographic and academic data were gathered for new students in fall 2019. These factors were used to determine differences in sign-up and attendance rate. Data were analyzed with quasi-binomial logistic regressions.

## Analysis

### *Sign-Up Rate*

Of the 2,749 new students in fall 2019, a total of 398 signed up (14.5%; *Table 1*). Ethnicity was significantly associated with sign-up rates. Latinx students were significantly more likely to sign up when compared to Asian ( $t(1,2723) = -2.27, p < .05$ ), multi-race ( $t(1, 2723) = -2.59, p < .05$ ), or white students ( $t(1,2723) = -4.32, p < .001$ ). Additionally, younger students were more likely to sign up than older students ( $F(1,2739) = 5.62$ ), and students who were employed were much less likely to sign up ( $F(1, 2730) = 28.6, p < .001$ ).

### *Attendance Rate*

Of the 2,749 new students in fall 2019, a total of 126 attended the FYE Summer Experience Program (4.6%; *Table 1*). The findings were similar to the sign-up rate analysis. Ethnicity was significantly associated with attendance rates. Latinx students were significantly more likely than white students to attend ( $t(1, 2740) = -2.79, p < .01$ ). Moreover, students who were younger were significantly more likely to attend than older students ( $F(1, 2747) = 26.58, p < .001$ ), and students who were employed were significantly less likely to attend ( $F(1, 2747) = 9.15, p < .01$ ).

### *Attending the Summer Experience Program after Signing Up*

Of the 398 new students who signed up for the Summer Experience Program, a total of 109 attended (27.4%; *Table 2*). Interestingly, unlike sign-up and attendance rates, there were no significant differences in attendance among students who signed up. This suggests that equity gaps in attendance disappear once students sign up for the Summer Experience Program. To explore this further, a final analysis found that, when controlling for sign-up behavior, differences in attendance on the basis of ethnicity, age, and employment became non-significant. This suggests that differences in attendance are explained by differences in sign-up behavior.

Table 1. New Student Sign Up and Attendance Rate (Fall 2019)

Demographic	Cohort Size	# Signed Up	% Signed Up	# Attended	% Attended
<i>Ethnicity</i>					
African American	232	33	14.2%	10	4.3%
Asian	638	91	14.3%	25	3.9%
Filipino	143	26	18.2%	11	7.7%
Latinx	881	164	18.6%	54	6.1%
Multi-Race	193	21	10.9%	10	5.2%
Native American	14	1	7.1%	0	0.0%
Pacific Islander	35	3	8.6%	1	2.9%
Unknown	121	11	9.1%	2	1.7%
White	492	48	9.8%	13	2.6%
<i>Gender</i>					
Female	1329	213	16.0%	75	5.6%
Male	1371	180	13.1%	49	3.6%
Unknown	48	5	10.4%	2	4.2%
Decline to State	1	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Age Range</i>					
24 or younger	2454	396	16.1%	125	5.1%
25 or older	295	2	0.7%	1	0.3%
<i>GPA Range</i>					
0 - .99	11	2	18.2%	1	9.1%
1 - 1.99	138	29	21.0%	8	5.8%
2 - 2.99	1083	165	15.2%	51	4.7%
3 or higher	1194	197	16.5%	64	5.4%
Unknown	323	5	1.5%	2	0.6%
<i>Special Populations/Other</i>					
DSPS	152	17	11.2%	9	5.9%
First Generation	739	105	14.2%	33	4.5%
Foster Youth	65	10	15.4%	3	4.6%
Employed	1107	113	10.2%	35	3.2%
Veteran	21	1	4.8%	1	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2749</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>4.6%</b>

Table 2. Attendance Rate after Signing Up (Fall 2019)

Demographic	# Signed Up	# Attended	% Attended
<i>Ethnicity</i>			
African American	33	8	24.2%

Asian	91	22	24.2%
Filipino	26	11	42.3%
Hispanic/Latino	164	45	27.4%
Multi-Race	21	9	42.9%
Native American	1	0	0.0%
Pacific Islander	3	1	33.3%
Unknown	11	1	9.1%
White	48	12	25.0%
<i>Gender</i>			
Female	213	65	30.5%
Male	180	43	23.9%
Unknown	5	1	20.0%
Decline to State	0	0	
<i>Age Range</i>			
24 or younger	396	108	27.3%
25 or older	2	1	50.0%
<i>GPA Range</i>			
0 - .99	2	1	50.0%
1 - 1.99	29	8	27.6%
2 - 2.99	165	44	26.7%
3 or higher	197	54	27.4%
Unknown	5	2	40.0%
<i>Special Populations/Other</i>			
DSPS	19	7	36.8%
First Generation	105	25	23.8%
Foster Youth	10	3	30.0%
Employed	113	26	23.0%
Veteran	1	1	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>27.4%</b>