

## **An Analysis of Summer Bridge Program Participants**

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*This analysis was produced by OPEIR in response to a request by UTC Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Results are not necessarily generalizable and attempts to use results outside the scope of this project should be avoided.*

### **About the Summer Bridge Program**

The Summer Bridge Program is available to identified high-priority students who would benefit from a small learning community and an early start to the academic career. Specifically, the Summer Bridge Program is an opportunity to get on campus early and start using the resources, meeting the people, taking the initiative, and developing the skills to make the most of their college education. The individual guidance and coordinated support students receive are unique to the program and can help ensure early and ongoing college success. UTC has offered the Summer Bridge Program in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2018. This report will look at demographics of Bridge participants and educational outcomes experienced by the three earliest cohorts of students.

### **Key Points**

- This report could only look at comparison points between Summer Bridge participants and all freshmen, since we cannot determine how these students would have performed without the intervention.
- The similarity of majors may be an indicator as to why Summer Bridge participants had, for the most part, a lower percentage of GPA's above 2.0, lower Fall to Fall retention, and higher DFW rates in Math courses. However, this was a small group, so it is recommended to follow the cohorts over time.
- The Summer Bridge program had a high Fall term completion rate but something is happening between Fall and Spring terms that should be further investigated.

### **Demographics of Summer Bridge Cohorts**

The 2014 Cohort contained 32 participants, primarily Black or African American (53.1%) or low-income (56.3%). The majority of students (65.6%) had earned a high school grade point average between 3.00 and 3.49 with the remaining students earning between a 2.49 to 2.99 GPA. An ACT composite score of 20-22 was reported for 53.1% of the cohort, while 28.1% earned a 19 or below, and 18.8% reported a score of 23 or higher.

The 2015 Cohort contained 21 participants, again primarily Black or African American (71.4%) or low-income (47.6%). The majority of students (57.1%) had earned a high school grade point average between 3.00 and 3.49, while 28.6% earned between a 3.50 and 3.90, and the remaining students earning between a 2.49 to 2.99 GPA. An ACT composite score of 20-22 was reported for 66.7% of the cohort, while 28.6% earned a 19 or below, and 4.8% reported a score of 23 or higher.

The 2016 Cohort contained 20 participants and, as with the first two cohorts, consisted largely of Black or African American (60.0%) or low-income (65.0%) students. Less than half of this cohort (45.0%) had earned a high school grade point average between a 3.50 and 3.90, with 30.0% between a 3.00 and 3.49, and the remaining students earning between a 2.49 to 2.99 GPA. An ACT composite score of 19 or below was reported for 70.0% of the cohort, while scores of 20-22 or 23 or higher reported 15% each.

### **Participation in the UTC Experience Course**

All three cohorts had 100% participation in UTC's University Studies 1250 course: The UTC Experience. USTU 1250 serves as an introduction to the academic community and helps freshmen identify the nature and purpose of a college education, learn the expectations for academic success and importance of time management, and locate academic resources.

### **Majors**

A total of 22 majors were represented over the three years of the Bridge program including five pre-majors and undecided students. During the 2014 cohort, 15.6% of students declared Pre-Nursing as their major, followed by 12.5% of students as Psychology Majors. Again, in the 2015 cohort, Pre-Nursing had the most students (19.1%) with another 14.3% declaring Pre-Business. The 2016 cohort differed slightly with 20% students declaring Health and Human Performance as their major and another 20% Pre- Fine Arts.

## Math Course Grades

When looking at completion of Math courses taken during their first year at UTC, Summer Bridge participants had a higher DFW rate than all incoming freshmen, except for the 2016 cohort.

Grades of all Math Courses Taken										
	A	B	C	D	F	W	DFW Total	DFW%	All Freshmen-DFW	All Freshmen-DFW%
<b>2014 Cohort</b>	9	13	23	9	11	4	24	34.8%	502	31.0%
<b>2015 Cohort</b>	3	6	16	9	5	0	14	35.9%	410	29.0%
<b>2016 Cohort</b>	6	11	8	2	8	1	11	30.6%	472	32.0%

*Note: All Freshmen DFW rate calculated from each Fall term Grade File.*

## First Term Success

Students are considered to be making satisfactory academic progress if they maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 and pass 67% of all credit hours attempted.

For two of the three Summer Bridge cohorts, the majority of students finished their first term with a GPA of 2.0 or higher. The 2014 cohort had 81% of students earning a 2.0 or higher, and the 2016 cohort 70%. However, the 2015 cohort had just 48% of participants above a 2.0 GPA.

First Term GPA				
	Above 2.0 GPA	Above 2.0 GPA%	All Freshmen- Above 2.0 GPA	All Freshmen- Above 2.0 GPA%
<b>2014 Cohort</b>	25	81.0%	7,996	72.0%
<b>2015 Cohort</b>	10	48.0%	6,944	71.0%
<b>2016 Cohort</b>	14	70.0%	7,769	76.0%

*Note: All Freshmen GPA obtained from Term GPA field in Grade File.*

The second measure of success in the first term is the number of earned credits versus the number of attempted credits by cohort. The 2014 cohort had the highest percentage of students earning all the credits attempted (63%), while the 2015 and 2016 cohorts were lower at 45% and 50% respectively. In fact, one student in the 2015 cohort had twelve unearned credits but finished the term.

## Retention

The majority of students in all cohorts finished their initial Fall term; 97% of students in the 2014 cohort, 95% in the 2015 cohort, and 90% of the 2016 cohort.

When looking at Fall to Fall retention, the 2014 cohort was most successful with 65.5% of Bridge participants returning, followed by the 2016 cohort with 65.0%, and the 2015 cohort with 61.9%. Compared to the overall average of all first-time, full-time freshmen at UTC these retention rates were lower than average.

	<b>Bridge Participants Retention</b>	<b>First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen Retention</b>
<b>2014</b>	65.6%	71%
<b>2015</b>	61.9%	74%
<b>2016</b>	65.0%	73%

## Graduation

It is a bit too early to begin looking at graduation rates for any cohort, except the 2014 group. So far, 25.0% from the 2014 cohort have earned a degree from UTC.