IRP@FHDA

To: Lang Truong, Dean of Counseling, Foothill College

From: Lourdes Del Rio-Parent, PhD, Sr. Research Analyst/Data Warehouse Coordinator
FHDA

Date: 14 June 2017

Re: Review of Banner-SOATEST and SARS data sources for the MIS Students Success
report, Foothill College, winter 2016 and 2017 student headcounts

Summary

Banner-SOATEST[1] and SARS[2] data were analyzed to test the accuracy of the data
submitted in the MIS Student Success (SS) report, which showed a significant
decline in the number of students who received initial placement (SS07) or
counseling services (SS08) during the 2017 winter term at Foothill College, when
compared to the same term for the previous academic year.

Results for this study showed support for the accuracy of the data submitted. There
was a decline of 8% to 14% (depending on the student category) in the number of
students who received initial placement services at Foothill College when comparing
Banner-SOATEST data for the winter term in 2016 and 2017. Although there was a
significant increase in the number of students who received counseling services
when comparing SARS data for the winter term in 2016 and 2017, when taking into
follow-up appointments (whether the student received counseling services during a
prior term of the academic year), the data showed a decline of 5% in the headcount.
Other data sources for SS08 showed a decline in student headcount of 43% for the
2017 winter term, when compared to figures for winter 2016.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to present results for data analyses conducted to
test the accuracy of the data submitted in the MIS Student Success (SS) report for
Foothill College, winter 2017. In this document, we try to identify reasons for the
significant decline in:

- The number of students who received initial assessment for placement for
  Math, English, or ESL courses (SS07) during winter 2017, when compared to
  the number reported for the same term of the prior academic year. Figures
  for California residents/not special admit Foothill College students showed a
  total headcount of 915 for SS07 in winter 2017, compared to 1,017 in winter
  2016 (10% decline).[3]
- The number of students reported as having received counseling services
  (SS08) during winter 2017 for the first time in the academic year, when

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[1] Banner refers to the information system at FHDA.
[2] Appointment scheduling system used as FHDA.
[3] http://research.fhda.edu/mis_reports/mis_quarterly_submssion_report/

compared to the number reported for the same term of the prior academic year. Figures for California residents/not special admit students show a total headcount of 1,738 for SS08 in winter 2017, compared to 1,886 in winter 2016 (8% decline).

The approach used to test the accuracy of the data submitted in the MIS SS report for Foothill College in SS07 was to compare headcount figures for assessment, as shown in Banner-SOATEST (Test Score Information), for the winter terms of 2016 and 2017. For SS08, student headcount figures based on SARS data for these two terms were compared. These data sources were selected for they are the main contributors to the final headcount figures. The lookup tables used to process the data for these data sources were also tested for missing values (i.e., SARS reasons codes or Banner test codes not previously assessed for MIS SS reporting).

SS07-Initial Placement

Methods

Data reported in MIS SS07 "indicates whether the student received credit assessment services for initial course placement as a part of the student success process of the college"[4] during the reporting term. This includes placement services based on (1) alternative measures in lieu of an assessment test, (2) assessment testing and alternate multiple measures, (3) placement results from other college or university, or (4) Early Assessment Program (EAP) test results for Math, English, or ESL courses. Retesting and assessment related to other subjects are reported in SS11, position 2.

For Foothill College, Banner data sources for MIS SS07 include the following:
- Assessment (SOATEST, Test Score Information)
- Transcript evaluation (SHATRNS, Transfer Course Information)
- Registration overrides (SFRSRPO, Student Registration Permit-Override

When calculating headcounts for SS07, the following must be taken into account:
- Initial assessment is reported for the first term within the last three years when the student received the service at the college.
- Data sources are not mutually exclusive for students may receive different types of assessment during the same term.
- For allocation purposes, only California residents without special admit status (high school concurrent enrollment) for the term are included in the final headcounts. These are the headcounts shown by the MIS SS figures in the summary for the quarterly reports.
- Assessment data (SOATEST) accounts for about 90% of placement services reported for Foothill College in SS07. A test code lookup table is used to identify codes related to placement for Math, English, or ESL courses. Another lookup table for the source of the code is used to identify whether the placement is based on alternative assessment, multiple measures, the evaluation of a college transcript, or from an Early Assessment Program.

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[4]

http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/TRIS/MIS/Left_Nav/DED/Data_Elements/SS/SS07.pdf

- As with any other trend analysis (compare data for different time periods), small differences in headcounts can be due to changes in student identifier used by the Banner system. This is usually a very small percent (no more than 1%).

Results

Banner-SOATEST data from winter 2016 and 2017 shown in Table A.1 show a decline of 12% (1,614 to 1,425) for all students who received placement services for Math, English, or ESL courses, and 9% (1,251 to 1,134) for those who received this service for the first time (initial placement).

Specific to students reported as California resident-not special admit who received initial placement services at Foothill College during the reporting term, the decline in headcount based on SOATEST data was 14% (999 to 86), as shown in Table A.2.

Table A.1 Headcount for SS07 Banner-SOATEST Data, Initial Placement, by First Term of Service at Foothill College, Winter 2016 and 2017

First Term SS07 Service	Headcount	Percent	Cumulative Percent
2016 Winter			
201411	7	0%	0%
201421	14	1%	1%
201431	15	1%	2%
201441	19	1%	3%
201511	25	2%	5%
201521	30	2%	7%
201531	36	2%	9%
201541	14	1%	10%
201611	76	5%	15%
201621	127	8%	22%
201631	1,251	78%	100%
	1,614	100%	

First Term SS07 Service	Headcount	Percent	Cumulative Percent
2017 Winter			
201411	6	0%	0%
201421	7	0%	1%
201431	8	1%	1%
201441	8	1%	2%
201511	9	1%	3%
201521	13	1%	4%
201531	7	0%	4%
201541	10	1%	5%
201611	30	2%	7%
201621	37	3%	9%
201631	14	1%	10%
201641	32	2%	13%
201711	32	2%	15%
201721	78	5%	20%
201731	1,134	80%	100%
	1,425	100%	

Banner-SOATEST data related to assessment for placement in Math, English, or ESL courses show a decline of about 12% (1,614 to 1,425) between 2016 and 2017 for the winter term at Foothill College.

Specific to first-time assessment for placement (Math, English, or ESL), the data show a 9% decline (1,251 to 1,134) between the last two academic years for the winter term at Foothill College.

Table A2. Headcount for SS07 Banner-SOATEST Data, Initial Placement, Winter 2016 and 2017, Foothill College

Student Category	2016	2017	Difference	Percent Difference
All Students	1,598	1,426	-172	-11%
Initial Placement	1,236	1,140	-96	-8%
Initial Placement for CA Res/Not Special Admit	999	864	-135	-14%

Notes

Change of student pidm (person/entity identifier in the Banner system) tends to create duplicate records in Banner data (i.e., same student shows up in the data with more than one pidm). This problem is more likely to impact student headcounts for different academic years or when trying to link "frozen" data (MIS SS data files from previous years) with current data.

In MIS, initial placement describes first assessment for course placement in Math, English, or ESL courses within the last three years.

Other data sources for MIS SS07 include transcripts evaluations and registration overrides/clearances for Math, English, or ESL courses.

SS08 Counseling

Methods

Data reported in MIS SS08 "indicates whether the student received credit counseling/advisement services, other than the development of a Student Education Plan, during the reporting term."[5] A lookup table for SARS reason codes is used to identify appointments that provided counseling services at each SARS location at Foothill College.[6]

When calculating headcounts for SS08, the following must be taken into account:
- SARS is the main data source for documenting counseling services.
- Other data sources for documenting counseling services include registration records for courses that provide counseling[7] and data for special programs. For Foothill College, special programs include EOPS, DSPS, CalWorks, First-Year Experience, and Umoja.
- Only students in special programs for which the program coordinator reviewed and confirmed the data prior MIS submission are reported as having received counseling or follow-up services during the reporting term.
- Headcounts for different data sources are not mutually exclusive for students may show up in different data sets (for example, DSPS program and SARS system).

Results

SARS data in Table B.1 showed an increase of 3% (4,156 to 4,285) for the total number of students who received counseling services (SS08 and SS11) at Foothill College between winter 2016 and winter 2017. Specific to SS08 (first counseling service for the academic year), SARS data showed a decline of 5% (2,133 to 2,031). Table B.2 shows that for students reported as California residents without special admit status and who received the first counseling for the academic during the reporting term, the decline in headcount was also 5% (1,764 to 1,672) for the same period. Table B.2 also shows a decline of 43% (115 to 66) during this period for the total student headcount unique to other data sources (exclude students reported in SARS for the term).

Table B.3 provides SS08 headcount based on course enrollment or special population status. Figures on this tables show that the major decline in headcount was for the number of DSPS students reported. Given that the actual student headcount for the DSPS program at Foothill in winter 2017 increased by 6% (702, compared to 664 in winter 2016), the most reasonable explanation for this decline is that more DSPS students, or a larger percentage of these, logged into the SARS system at Foothill College in winter 2017, thus the unique contribution to SS08 by DSPS data was significantly reduced. This also suggest that the increase in headcount in SARS data may be related to some degree to an increase in the use of this system to document counseling services during winter 2017.

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http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/TRIS/MIS/Left_Nav/DED/Data_Elements/SS/SS08.pdf

[6] http://research.fhda.edu/mis_reports/mis_ss_student_success/mis_ss_methods/

[7] http://research.fhda.edu/mis_reports/mis_ss_student_success/mis_ss_methods/

Table B.1 Headcount for SARS SS08 Data, Counseling, Winter 2016 and 2017, Foothill College

First Term SS08 Service	Headcount	Percent	Cumulative Percent
2016 Winter			
201611	695	17%	17%
201621	1,328	32%	49%
201631	2,133	51%	100%
Total	4,156	100%	
2017 Winter			
201711	1,011	24%	24%
201721	1,243	29%	53%
201731	2,031	47%	100%
Total	4,285	100%	

SARS data used to report counseling services in MIS SS (data fields SS08 and SS11) showed an increase of 3% (4,156 to 4,285) between the winter terms for 2016 and 2017.

For SS08 (first counseling service for the academic year), SARS data showed a decline of 5% (2,133 to 2,031).

Table B.1 Headcount for SARS SS08 Counseling Data by Student Category Winter 2016 and 2017, Foothill College

Student Category	2016	2017	Difference	Percent Difference
All Students, SARS SS08	4,156	4,285	129	3%
First-Time in Academic Year	2,133	2,031	-102	-5%
First-Time in Academic Year, CA Res/Not Special Admit	1,764	1,672	-92	-5%
Other Data Sources: First-Time in Academic Year, CA Res/Not Special Admit	115	66	-49	-43%

Notes

All Students, SARS SS08: Total headcount for students with a counseling appointment with a reason code linked to at least one SS08 service, as documented by the SARS system at Foothill College during the time period.

First-Time in Academic Year: For those reported in "All Students, SARS SS08," students who received the service for the first time during the academic year.

First-Time in Academic Year, CA Res/Not Special Admit: For those in "First-Time in Academic Year," students who were California residents and were not special admit (high school concurrent) for the term.

Other Data Sources: First-Time in Academic Year, CA Res/Not Special Admit: California resident and not special admit students reported in MIS as receiving SS08 counseling services for the first time during the academic year based on data sources other than SARS.

Table B.2 Headcount for SS08 Counseling Services Based on Data Sources Other than SARS, Winter 2016 and 2017, Foothill College

SS08 Data Source	2016	2017	Difference	Percent Difference
DSPS	75	31	-44	-59%
Counseling Course	30	24	-6	-20%
EOPS	4	3	-1	-25%
Puente	3	3	0	0%
Other	3	5	2	67%
All	115	66	-49	-43%

Notes
Headcount figures show students for whom counseling services were documented by the SS08 data source only.
Data does not include students who show up in SARS as receiving SS08 counseling services during the term or students who received SS08 Counseling services in a prior term of the academic year.