Items to Consider When Establishing Prerequisites

Discussion facilitator: Rajinder Samra
Director of Institutional Research and Planning
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Topics for Discussion

Items to consider when establishing prerequisites

- Setting a prerequisite only when students are ‘highly unlikely’ to succeed without the prerequisite course
- Disproportionate impact
- Statistical validation
- Content review

Examples used to facilitate discussion

A. Success rates in selected courses by English 1A status
B. Econ 1 (Microeconomics): Math 55 set as a pre-req in Fall 10
How do we assess if students are ‘highly unlikely’ to succeed without the prerequisite course?
Las Positas College
Success Rates in Selected Courses
By English 1A Status
Fall 2011

Overall
Met English 1A Prerequisite
Did Not Meet English 1A Prerequisite

Social Science Course X
- N = 663 (18%)
- N = 544 (82%)

Social Science Course Y
- N = 269 (36%)
- N = 96 (64%)
- N = 173 (64%)
How do we determine disproportionate impact?
Las Positas College
Success rates in Econ 1
by Math 55 prerequisite status
Fall 07 to Spring 10

Overall Success Rate
N = 1,296
67%

Success rate of those who met Math 55 Prerequisite
N = 686
(53%)
77%

Success rate of those who did not meet Math 55 prerequisite
N = 610
(47%)
55%
Checking for disproportionate impact

“Evaluation for impact is accomplished by dividing the minority percent placement rate by the majority percent in specific courses. If this ratio is less than 80% then there is evidence of disproportionate impact.”

Checking for disproportionate impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Met Math 55 Pre-Req</th>
<th>Did Not Meet Math 55 Pre-Req</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Num</td>
<td>Pct</td>
<td>Num</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 or younger</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 or older</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disproportionate Impact check for age → 46%/56% = 82%
Why is statistical validation important?
Las Positas College
Success rates in Econ 1
Before Math 55 was required vs. after Math 55 was required
Fall 07 to Spring 10 vs. Fall 2010 to Fall 2011

Fall 07 to Spring 2010 (pre math 55 requirement)
N = 1,296
67%

Fall 2010
N = 176
76%

Spring 2011
N = 195
69%

Fall 2011
N = 210
75%
Why is content review important?

(Open discussion)