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The Hillyer College Summer Bridge-Math Program: A Case Study for Assessing and Improving Student Academic Performance.

This study follows student performance in math from student entry into the Summer Bridge Program to the final grade of the first academic semester math course in Hillyer College. A model has been developed which maps and quantifies the critical path for academic success. Program effectiveness was assessed in two dimensions:(1)Bridge Program students: (a) determination of progress made during the Bridge Program; (b) determination of relationships between the first regular semester math course grade with "Delta" Math SAT scores;(2)Comparison of regular semester final grades. Results show that for students who complete the Summer Bridge Program: (1)the overall mean score on the post-Program assessment is statistically significantly greater than the pre-Program assessment mean score; (2) the degree of individual student improvement demonstrated over the Summer Bridge Program correlates significantly with individual first semester final grades in math; (3)the overall mean score of the first semester final grades in math for the Bridge cohort is statistically significantly greater than the mean score for non-Bridge students who completed the same first semester math course; the enhanced performance is equivalent to approximately a full letter grade. (Received September 22, 2015)