

First Year Preliminary Report  
For  
STEM Success Academy Pilot Program  
April 27, 2016

The goal of the Pilot Program is to examine whether teaching students Time Management, study methods, providing yearlong faculty mentoring as well as upper level student mentoring as an integrated program. During the first semester students are held accountable in our weekly Perspectives 2001 class. The outcomes should result in better, more consistent academic growth over the first two years of college while avoiding the dreadful sophomore slump. Additionally, we wanted to keep the students together as a cohort for the entire two-year period for their STEM classes.

In the Fall of 2015 two groups of students were selected to participate in the first STEM Success Academy Pilot Program. One group of 24 students were typical STEM admits and will be referred to as **Group A**. The second group was smaller with just 14 students and will be referred to as **Group B**. This group had some type of deficiency when compared to the typical STEM admit.

Just looking at the first semester alone, Group A did very well in Chemistry 1211. This table shows the results for Chemistry 1211 for the Fall 2015.

Course Prefix	Course Number	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	WF	DWF	A-WF	W	OTHER	TOTAL	
CHEM	<a href="#">1211</a>	24	57	54	36	97	39	74	86	34	14	39	0	16.15%	554	46	13	613	
CRN	COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F	WF	DWF	A-WF	W	OTHER	TOTAL
84326	CHEM 1211	Jiang, Jie	3	10	3	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8.33%	22	2	0	24
84327	CHEM 1211	Jiang, Jie	1	4	1	3	9	1	0	3	2	1	7	0	31.43%	32	3	0	35
86232	CHEM 1211	Jiang, Jie	0	1	0	0	2	0	5	1	1	1	1	0	16.67%	12	0	0	12
81835	CHEM 1211	Jiang, Jie	3	7	4	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10%	18	2	0	20

(IPORT Grade Distribution Details Summary)

**Group A** is in green, **Group B** is orange and the **Honors Students** are in blue. The top line represents all students taking Chemistry 1211 for the Fall. The comparison to look closely at is how well the Pilot **Group A** compares with the **Honors Students**. **Group B** did not fair so well. Several of my students actually enrolled in the Honors College this semester. Four students from **Group A** and one student from **Group B** did so.

Dr. Suazette Mooring administered the LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory) survey to the class. The survey compares attitudes at the beginning of the semester to the attitudes at the semester end. The goal is to see if we can change the habits and attitude of the freshman students knowing most freshman student attitudes and habits are inadequate for college success. The summary of the survey is included in a separate attachment.

The key take away from the survey is there was a statistically significant increase in TMT (Time Management), SMI (Selecting Main Ideas), STA (Study Aids), SFT (Self-Testing), MOT (Motivation) and for (ANX) Anxiety Scale. Students scored significantly higher on the anxiety scale which means that their anxiety decreased over the semester. There were no significant differences for other scales of the LASSI.

These initial results are very exciting. We have learned quite a bit about how to improve the program. I want the next group in the Fall 2016 to stay together in there STEM classes by asking students to commit to a sequence of classes and working electives around these assigned classes with the Honors students. I'm looking forward to continuing with the Program for next year and improving on the success found so far. I will continue to follow the current students and plan to start a new group of freshmen in the Fall 2016. We will continue to assess the effectiveness of this program utilizing LASSI and the IPORT Grade Distributions.

In the Fall of 2016 a group of 23 students were selected to participate in the Second STEM Success Academy Pilot Program. This group adopted the name "GSU SCI FYE" which I have accepted as the program name with the broader title "GSU Science First Year Experience". The results and key take away for the 2016 group were similar to the 2015 results.

The Department of Chemistry has acknowledged the effort I put in with our undergraduate and graduate students by naming me the Director for Student Success in the department. I will have the time management component of the Pilot Program implemented in all of the department's freshman level classes.

Dr. G. Davon Kennedy  
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Director for Student Success