



## **First-Year Experience 2014**

### **Summary Report**

#### **Overview**

Palomar College's First-Year Experience (FYE) program began its second year in fall 2014. The primary goal of the FYE program is to provide students with the support and resources necessary to transition successfully into college and stay in college. The program is housed in the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) at Palomar College, on the San Marcos campus. Staffing in the program includes a supervisor, a faculty FYE coordinator, an instructional dean (Languages and Literature), and four classified staff positions of TLC Specialist, TLC Assistant, Office Specialist, and Office Specialist III.

#### **Recruitment into the Program**

The FYE program was marketed to incoming students through Palomar College's 44 feeder high schools, through the existing Summer Bridge program, through General Counseling and the Assessment Office at Palomar College. Many of the students were recruited through Summer Bridge and from counseling referrals at Palomar. As of September 2014, 317 students had applied with 191 students accepted into the program for Fall 2014. That is, 60.255% of our applicants entered in the program during the fall semester.

#### **Growth**

Our FYE 2013 cohort had 104 students at the start of fall, and our FYE 2014 cohort had 191 students at the start of fall. The FYE program experienced an 83.7% increase from fall 2013 to fall 2014. Additionally the number of applications increased from 113 in fall 2013 to 317 in fall 2014. The number of applications increased from fall 2013 to fall 2014 by 181%.

#### **Orientation**

An important component of the FYE program is orientation. Two main orientations were offered to students: one in the morning and one in the evening. Each orientation lasted a total of four hours. Families were invited, and several attended. A lunch or dinner was provided, along with ice cream at the end.

Upon arrival, students checked in and received their FYE folders with student services. Then President Deegan, VP Cuaron and Dean Sivert made welcoming remarks. Both the FYE and FR Coordinators welcomed the students as well. The FYE Coordinator and one of the FYE Counselors had the students and their families participate in a get-acquainted activity. Then a very brief PowerPoint was shown, which went over what the FYE program was about, what to expect the first few weeks of school, and FYE Contract.

Students were then separated into groups of 25 or so and went on a campus tour, interwoven with a series of workshops. Our TLC Specialist led a workshop on Blackboard, eServices, and Palomar College email. The

Career Center presented a workshop on the services at the Career Center and provided important career information. Our FYE Counselor Cari Martinez led a time management workshop in the TLC.

At the end of the campus tour, students met back in the Student Union and received their FYE backpacks and an FYE Planner. 168 of our students attended one of our two formal orientation events. The remaining 45 students received small group or individual orientations given by our FYE Counselors.



One group of FYE students on the campus tour.



One group of FYE students in the Time Management Workshop.

## Demographics

**Gender:** 36.6% male and 61.8% female (1.6% listed unknown).

**Average age:** 21

Ethnicity	Percentage
African America	4.7%
American Indian	4.7%
Filipino	2.6%
Pacific Islander	0.5%
Asian	4.2%
Hispanic	78.5%
White	22.5%

**DRC:** 19 of our 191 FYE 14 students were also listed with program certification in DRC.

**Veterans:** 2 of our 191 FYE 14 students were also listed with program certification in Veterans.

**Former Foster Youth:** 6 of our 191 FYE 14 students were also listed with program certification as FFY.

## Educational Plan

For the FYE 2014 cohort of 191 students, 181 students had an Educational Plan by October 2014.

## Persistence

For FYE 2014, the Fall 14 to Spring 15 persistence was 89.5% (171 out of 191). For first-time credit college students who entered Palomar in Fall 2012, persisted to Spring 2013, the rate was 72.6% (source: Palomar College Fact Book, 2012-2013).

For FYE 2014, the Fall 14 to Fall 15 persistence was 64.9%. According to the Palomar College 2012 Factbook, the persistence from Fall to Fall for fall 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 credit students was 47.1%, 49.5%, 49.1%, and 51.1% respectively. (Source: Palomar College Fact Book, 2012-2013)

## Math/English/ESL Course Success

All data was obtained via queries from PeopleSoft for the FY14 student group.

### Fall 2014

Subject	Number of Classes Taken	Number of Students with a Passing Grade (A,B,C,P)	Percentage Passing	Number of Students with a Failing Grade (D, F, FW, NP)	Percentage Failing	Number of Students with a W	Percentage with W
English	115	78	67.8%	29	25.2%	8	7.0%
ESL	33	31	94%	2	6%	0	0%
Math	169	108	63.9%	46	27.2%	15	8.9%

### Spring 2015

Subject	Number of Classes Taken	Number of Students with a Passing Grade (A,B,C,P)	Percentage Passing	Number of Students with a Failing Grade (D, F, FW, NP)	Percentage Failing	Number of Students with a W	Percentage with W
English	102	67	65.7%	28	27.5%	7	6.9%
ESL	23	18	78.3%	3	13%	2	8.7%
Math	132	71	53.8%	50	37.9%	11	8.3%

## FYE GPA

Fall			Spring		
GPA Range	Number of Students		GPA Range	Number of Students	
0.00 – 2.00	65		0.00 – 2.00	62	
Above 2.00	126		Above 2.00	109	
Above 3.0	57		Above 3.0	57	

For Fall 2014, 66% of our FYE students had a GPA of 2.00 or higher. For Spring 2015, 63.4% of our FYE students had a GPA of 2.00 or higher.

## Number of Units

	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>Part-time</b>	57	50
<b>Full-time</b>	133	121
<b>No Units</b>	1	*20 students did not enroll in Spring

We can see from the table above that about 69.6% of FYE students were enrolled full-time in Fall and 70.8% were enrolled full-time Spring.

## FYE Counseling Contacts

	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>0 counseling appointments</b>	18	39
<b>1 counseling appointment</b>	55	59
<b>2 counseling appointments</b>	118	73

173 of our 194 FYE students saw a counselor at least once for Fall 2014, or 90.6%. 61.8% of our FYE students saw a counselor twice during the Fall 2014 semester.

132 of our FYE students saw a counselor at least once for Spring 2015, or 77.2%. 42.7% of our FYE students saw a counselor twice during the Spring 2015 semester. One of the counseling goals of the program is for FYE students to see a counselor twice a semester.

## FYE Workshop Attendance:

	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>0 workshops attended</b>	105	109
<b>1 workshop attended</b>	45	32
<b>2 workshops attended</b>	41	30

86 of our 191 FYE students attended at least one workshop in Fall 2014 or 45.1%, and 62 out of 171, or 36.3%, attended at least one workshop in Spring 2015. One of the workshop goals of the program is for FYE students to attend two workshops per semester.

## FYE Tracks and Required Courses

FYE students are required to take a math, English, or ESL track. This means that if a student self-selects a math track, they will take a math class in fall and another math class in spring. The goal is to get FYE students through at least one of their basic skills sequences in their first year, as students often put off taking their required English/ESL/math classes. For the fall semester, FYE students are also required to take either a counseling class, preferably Counseling 110, if they have placed into college-level reading, or a reading course if they have placed below college level reading.

Courses completed for FA14 and SP15	Number of FYE 2014 students
Enrolled in <b>English</b> for <b>both</b> fall and spring	70 students (41%)
Enrolled in English for fall 2014 semester only	45 students
Enrolled in English for Spring 2015 only	28 student
Enrolled in <b>ESL</b> for <b>both</b> fall and spring	18 students (11%)
Enrolled in ESL for fall 2014 only	2 students
Enrolled in ESL for Spring 2015 only	1 student
Enrolled in <b>Math</b> for <b>both</b> fall and Spring	96 students (56%)
Enrolled in Math for fall 2014 only	44 students
Enrolled in Math for Spring 2015 only	25 students

\*students may be in multiple categories

## Reading and Counseling course enrollment:

The 35.1% of the FY14 cohort enrolled in a college-level counseling class in fall 2014 (Counseling 101, 110, 115, 120 or 165). 68.1% of our FY14 cohort enrolled in a reading class in fall 2014 (Reading 30, 49, 51, 110 or 120). There is a bit of overlap as some students enrolled in both counseling and reading.

## **FYE Promotion Ceremony**

On Thursday, May 8, 2014 we held an end of the year Promotion Ceremony for our FYE students. Families were invited and dinner was provided. We had a special guest speaker, Carmelino Cruz, the ESL noncredit matriculation assistant, who spoke to our FYE students and mingled with the families afterwards. Students were given a certificate of promotion at the end of the event. Deans Sivert, Owens, and Sourbeer attended, along with Governing Board Secretary Nancy Ann Hensch.



**Some of our FYE students and their families.**



**Carmelino Cruz speaks to the FYE students and families.**

## **FYE 14 Counseling Wrap-Up**

The FYE Coordinator interviewed the FYE Counselors at the end of the Spring 2015 semester regarding their impressions on the FYE program.

The topics discussed are below.

1. What worked well in the program? What did not?
2. Counseling: what worked, what did not? Workshops?
3. Workshop ideas?
4. Who were our FYE students?
5. What needs do FYE students have that we are missing?
6. Anyone we missed when marketing our FYE program?
7. Special one-unit FYE seminar class? What do you think?

From these discussions came very good input regarding workshops, breaking the FYE cohort into equal-sized groups assigned to individual counselors to track, and ideas on how to incorporate more social activities into the FYE program. Many of these ideas were implemented for the FYE 15 cohort.



## ESL, English, Math, and Reading Course Taking Patterns

The table below shows the movement of FYE students through their ESL, English, Math, and Reading courses over time. We can see the flow of FYE students through the progression of courses in each subject. At the time of this writing the Fall 2015 numbers were not yet available.

	Fall 2014			Spring 2015			Fall 2015		
	Number Enrolled	Number Passed	% Successful	Number Enrolled	Number Passed	% Successful	Number Enrolled	Number Passed	% Successful
<b>ESL 45</b>	1	1	100%	0	0	0%			
<b>ESL 55</b>	6	6	100%	1	1	100%			
<b>ESL 101</b>	8	8	100%	6	6	100%			
<b>ESL 102</b>	2	1	50%	10	6	60%			
<b>ESL 103</b>	2	1	50%	2	1	50%			
<b>ENG 10</b>	52	36	69.2%	19	11	58%			
<b>ENG 50</b>	42	29	69.0%	43	35	81%			
<b>ENG 100</b>	19	11	57.9%	36	18	50%			
<b>Math 10</b>				1	0	0%			
<b>Math 15</b>	47	31	66.0%	20	9	45%			
<b>Math 47/Math 54</b>	4	1	25%	16	11	69%			
<b>Math 50</b>	49	27	55.1%	29	13	45%			
<b>Math 56</b>	9	4	44.4%	9	7	78%			
<b>Math 60</b>	20	15	75%	28	13	46%			
<b>Math 110</b>	8	5	62.5%	12	5	42%			
<b>Math 115</b>	3	1	33%	4	2	50%			
<b>Math 120</b>	1	0	0%	2	1	50%			
<b>Math 130</b>				1	1	100%			
<b>Math 135</b>				1	0	0%			
<b>Math 141</b>				2	2	100%			
<b>Math 205</b>				1	1	100%			
<b>READ 30</b>				1	0	0%			
<b>READ 49</b>	20	17	85%	3	3	100%			
<b>READ 51</b>	29	22	75.9%	11	7	64%			
<b>READ 110</b>	14	9	64.3%	12	9	75%			
<b>READ 120</b>	1	1	100%	2	2	100%			