

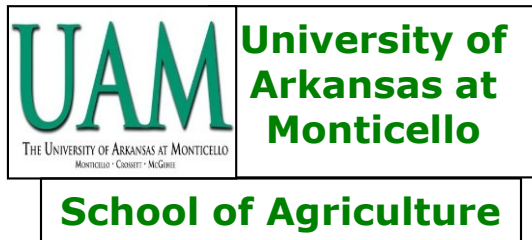
Comparing Student Course Progress For Alternative Advisement Policies

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**Presented at the 2017
North American College Teachers
of Agriculture Meeting
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana**

- ✓ **Pre-2012: UAM students required a minimum of 124 hours to complete a Bachelor of Science degree.**
- ✓ **2012: Act 747 of Arkansas Legislature reduced the minimum requirement to 120 hours.**

BACKGROUND

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- ✓ **“15-to-Finish” / “Complete America”**
- ✓ **Accelerate student progress to graduation.**
- ✓ **Reduce total student loan balances held at graduation.**
- ✓ **Increase productivity and efficiency of institutions.**

BACKGROUND

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- ✓ **Pre-2017: UAM students who required a developmental course were limited to a maximum of 14 hours per semester.**
 - ✓ Requirement in practice was often ignored by advisors.
- ✓ **2017: All students required to take minimum of 15 hours.**

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✓ **Fallacy for Developmental Students:**

UAM students who require one or more developmental course cannot complete the 120 hours required for a degree within 4 years (8 semesters) when taking 15 hours per semester.

Might require a minimum of 132 hours!

BACKGROUND

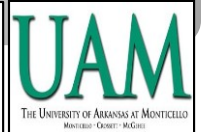
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- ✓ **Student success within a degree program and eventual probability of earning a degree is significantly affected by college entrance exam scores, associated developmental course requirements, and semester course load scheduled.**

HYPOTHESIS

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- 1. How extensive is the developmental issue for UAM agriculture students?**
- 2. Do academic outcomes of developmental students differ versus non-developmental?**
- 3. What are the critical time periods for developmental versus non-developmental?**
- 4. What are the future implications for agribusiness student academic advising?**

KEY QUESTIONS

- Compile a data set for current and past agriculture students from UAM academic records including ACT test scores, initial year in the agriculture program, years completing agriculture core courses, cumulative GPA, total UAM hours earned to date, and last academic outcome.
- Analyze data for means and statistical significance by data item.
- Identify patterns/trends.

METHODOLOGY

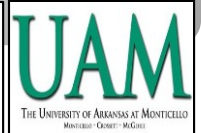
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- University of Arkansas at Monticello student academic records for Course History and Grades.
- Period Examined – 2002-2017.
- Students Identified from AGRI 1101 Agriculture Orientation class rolls during the period.
- Total Students Examined - 535
- Developmental Students identified from ACT Test Scores submitted to UAM Admissions Office.

DATA SOURCES

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UAM STUDENTS



UAM AGRICULTURE DEGREE

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University of Arkansas at Monticello

DEGREE OFFERED:

- BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
 - AGRICULTURE MAJOR.

DEGREE OPTIONS OFFERED:

- Agribusiness
- Animal Science (includes Pre-Vet)
- Plant & Soil Science
- General Agriculture

UAM DEGREE PROGRAM

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AGRICULTURE CORE COURSES:

- AGRI 1101 AGRICULTURE ORIENTATION
- AGECE 2273 AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS
- ANSC 1003 PRINCIPLES OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
- AGRO 1033 PRINCIPLES OF FIELD CROPS

UAM DEGREE PROGRAM

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Advising Procedures



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1st SEMESTER FRESHMAN STUDENT:

- June or July Preregistration – School of Agriculture Advisors help develop course schedule and share an 8-Semester Plan.

TRANSFERRING or CHANGING MAJOR:

- Register with aid of School of Agriculture Advisor following 1st Semester Freshmen.

All students meet with their Advisor during first two weeks of Fall Semester.

ADVISING PROCESSES

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CONTINUING STUDENT:

- Each Subsequent Semester - Meet with Regular Advisor during November or April Preregistration to plan courses and enter schedule.
- 2nd Semester of Junior Year – Student and Advisor jointly develop a “Closing Plan” with all remaining required courses and schedule of when to take them.

After grades are posted each semester, Advisor sends personal letters of “Congrats” and “Regrets” to his/her advisees.

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Results & Observations



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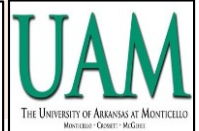


Student Academic Classification

<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
Non-Developmental	263
Total Developmental	270
Basic English (* added Fall 2015)	17
Fundamentals of English	163
Introduction to Algebra	90
Intermediate Algebra	113

(2002-2017)

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Developmental Student ACT Scores

<u>Score</u>	<u>Composite</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Reading</u>
15 & Less	61	99	58	74
16-18	112	90	151	86
19 & More	96	81	61	110

(2002-2017; N=270 students)

Agriculture Core Course Completions

Non-Developmental		Developmental
232	Agriculture Orientation	225
159	Agriculture Economics	127
204	Animal Science	172
189	Field Crops	149
263	TOTALS	270

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Student Academic Outcomes

Non-Developmental		Developmental
2.488	Average GPA	1.818
4.293	Average Semesters in Agriculture	3.767

Student Academic Outcomes

Non-Developmental		Developmental
39	Active	33
64	Withdrew/ Transferred	92
42	Changed Major	23
28	Suspended	54
88	Graduated	68
263	TOTALS	270

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How extensive is the developmental issue for UAM agriculture students?

Over half of entering students are classified as requiring one or more developmental course based on their ACT test scores!

CONCLUSIONS

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Do academic outcomes of developmental students differ versus non-developmental?

Developmental students:

- ✓ **Have about 0.67 lower GPAs.**
- ✓ **Withdraw at a 50% higher rate**
- ✓ **Are suspended twice as often, and**
- ✓ **Graduate at 10% higher rate than those of Non-Developmental students.**

CONCLUSIONS

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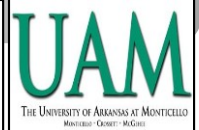
What are the critical time periods for developmental versus non-developmental?

Developmental students average about 0.5 semesters less in the agriculture program than non-developmental students.

This suggests that the window of opportunity is smaller to reach them!

CONCLUSIONS

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What are the future implications for agribusiness student academic advising?

- ✓ **Early intervention by advisors is even more critical for developmental students.**
- ✓ **Agriculture economics courses may be more difficult for these students due to more extensive mathematical applications.**

CONCLUSIONS

- Dr. Dale Bower – Former UAM Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Kelly Bryant – Dean UAM School of Agriculture & Director UA-SEREC

APPRECIATION

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?



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