

Reducing DFW Rates with Zero Cost Textbooks

CSU Libraries Student Success Committee

Presented by Laura Wimberley, CSU Northridge



Closing Session
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CSU The California State University

Student Success Analytics
Certificate Program



What “problem” is your project addressing?

- One obvious problem for student success is students failing courses they attempt.
- We hypothesize doing the assigned reading helps students pass their courses.
- But textbook costs are prohibitive for many students.
- California [Assembly Bill 798](#) created the 2015 College Textbook Affordability Act “to reduce costs for college students by encouraging faculty to accelerate the adoption of lower cost, high-quality open educational resources.”
- Mandates reporting of “zero cost” course sections in class enrollment portals
- **Does this mandate improve student outcomes? If so, can we increase adoption?**

How do your project activities address the problem?

- Complete data analysis research project to confirm theory and persuade stakeholders
- Data from four campuses: Channel Islands, Fullerton, Los Angeles, and Northridge
- Unit of analysis is course sections
- Dependent variable is percentage of students in section who earned a grade of D or F or took unauthorized late withdrawal (U or W)
- Additional analysis adding CSU San Marcos (which had some data collection concerns) shows nearly identical results

Results

Multivariate Ordinary Least Squares Regression Results

Dependent variable:
Percentage of students in
course section receiving grade
of D/F/U/W

$n=15,528$

*** $p \leq .001$

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients (B) (standard error)
Constant	.052*** (.004)
Any face-to-face (0=online)	-.053*** (.006)
Upper Division (0=lower division; 1=upper division)	-.056*** (.002)
Number of student enrolled in section	.000*** (.000)
% of student in section who are male	.057*** (.004)
% of students who are Pell-eligible	.021*** (.005)
% Traditionally Underserved Ethnic Groups	.071*** (.005)
Zero-Cost textbooks (0=typical costs; 1=zero cost to students)	-.014*** (.004)

Where on your campus will you talk about our project? Or have you already started? To whom? With what objective

Faculty

Adopt Zero Cost solutions for Fall 2021

- openstax.org
- Contact your [campus Affordable Learning Solutions committee](#) or librarians

Administrators

- Improve reporting of zero cost and low cost course sections
- Include affordable learning solutions in faculty orientation

Advisors

Encourage students to look for zero/low cost sections when registering