

Academic Outcomes for Students in Residential Academic Programs (RAPs) During Their Freshman Year

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This is an update/follow-up of a study we did in 2011. For results of the original study, please contact us at oda@colorado.edu.

Summary

For fall frosh entering 2010 through 2012, we compared RAP vs. non-RAP students on:

- Mean cumulative GPA at the end of the first year
- Percent of students meeting or exceeding a 2.0 cumulative GPA
- Retention rates to the 1st spring
- Retention rates to the 2nd fall

For frosh entering in fall 2007, we compared RAP and non-RAP students on:

- 6-year graduation rate

In all the above comparisons, RAP students exceeded their non-RAP counterparts even when predicted GPA (PGPA, a measure of academic preparation at UCB entry) and residency were statistically controlled. However, we cannot say that RAP participation *caused* this success, because students self-select into RAPs, and students who choose RAPs may differ from those who do not on many attributes related to academic success that are not entirely captured by PGPA.

Details of present findings

Fall 2010-13 frosh

- First-year GPAs averaged 2.96 for RAP students, 2.76 for non-RAP, a difference of .20 GPA points. The gap was .18 points among non-residents, .22 points among residents.
- The difference in college-specific predicted GPA at entry (a measure derived from high school grades and SAT/ACT scores) was only .07 points, and was about the same for residents and non-residents.
- A lower percentage of RAP students than non-RAP had a cumulative GPA below 2.0 (a proxy for academic probation).
- More RAP students than non-RAP continued at UCB in the first spring after entry, and the 2nd fall after entry.

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 1st-year cum GPA, % below 2.0, and retention rates
 For 2010-12 frosh in RAPs vs. not

	N	Coll- spec- ific PGPA	Cum GPA end of 1st year	GPA <2.0	Retai- ned 1st spring	Retai- ned 2nd fall
Residency	Sum	Mean	Mean	%	%	%
NRES						
Not RAP	3,746	2.89	2.66	17%	92%	78%
RAP	3,481	2.95	2.84	12%	94%	84%
RES						
Not RAP	4,833	3.01	2.83	13%	93%	83%
RAP	4,268	3.09	3.05	8%	97%	90%
All						
Not RAP	8,579	2.96	2.76	15%	93%	81%
RAP	7,749	3.03	2.96	10%	96%	87%

- When PGPA and residency were statistically controlled in a general linear models procedure, RAP participation was associated with a GPA advantage of 0.12. No other variables (e.g. gender, ethnicity, financial resources) were controlled in the present study; however, the more detailed earlier study referenced above did control for these and other variables, and still found that RAP students graduated at a higher rate than non-RAPs.
- About 90% of RAP participants met or exceeded a 2.0 cumulative GPA (the cutoff in most colleges for academic probation), compared to 85% of non-RAP students.
- The retention rate to the second fall was 87% for RAP students, 81% for non-RAP. This 6-percentage point difference in retention rate in favor of RAP students was maintained when residency and PGPA were statistically controlled in a logistic regression analysis.

Fall 2007 freshmen, 6-year graduation rate

- The 6-year graduation rate for freshmen entering in the fall of 2007 (the most recent entering class to have had 6 years to graduate, the federal standard) was 73% for RAP students, vs. 67% for non-RAPs. A logistic regression analysis controlling for PGPA and residency showed that the 6 percentage point advantage for RAP students remained.

Data for individual RAPs in the fall 2010-13 analysis

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 1st-year cum GPA, % below 2.0, and retention rates
 For 2010-12 frosh in RAPs vs. not

Residency	N	Coll- spec- ific PGPA	Cum GPA of 1st year	GPA <2.0 %	Retai- ned 1st spring %	Retai- ned 2nd fall %
NRES						
Not in any RAP	3,746	2.89	2.66	17%	92%	78%
Andrews Hall RAP Fee	86	3.17	3.13	10%	95%	90%
B3 - Leeds RAP Fee	103	3.03	2.73	9%	95%	83%
Baker RAP Fee	534	2.95	2.84	13%	93%	83%
Chancellor's Leadership RAP	133	2.94	2.79	13%	94%	80%
Communication RAP Fee	235	2.91	2.83	11%	91%	78%
Engineering Quad Program Fee	352	3.04	2.76	16%	95%	88%
Farrand Academic Program Fee	541	2.86	2.79	13%	95%	84%
Global Studies RAP Fee	280	2.94	2.83	13%	93%	80%
Health RAP Fee	34	3.10	2.98	6%	91%	65%
Honors RAP Fee	209	3.40	3.37	3%	93%	86%
Libby RAP Fee	389	2.86	2.82	10%	95%	84%
SEEDS - A&S RAP Fee	44	2.93	3.01	7%	100%	82%
Sewall Academic Program Fee	470	2.87	2.73	13%	94%	85%
Sustainable by Design-ENGR RAP	71	2.91	2.72	10%	97%	83%
RES						
Not in any RAP	4,833	3.01	2.83	13%	93%	83%
Andrews Hall RAP Fee	267	3.09	3.17	5%	99%	94%
B3 - Leeds RAP Fee	89	3.13	2.87	13%	99%	91%
Baker RAP Fee	637	3.07	3.02	8%	96%	90%
Chancellor's Leadership RAP	141	2.98	2.84	14%	96%	85%
Communication RAP Fee	186	3.02	2.94	10%	95%	87%
Engineering Quad Program Fee	734	3.09	2.95	10%	98%	92%
Farrand Academic Program Fee	540	3.02	3.00	7%	97%	90%
Global Studies RAP Fee	270	3.10	3.08	10%	96%	86%
Health RAP Fee	66	3.09	3.11	0%	91%	82%
Honors RAP Fee	407	3.46	3.49	2%	99%	93%
Libby RAP Fee	429	3.03	3.01	7%	97%	90%
SEEDS - A&S RAP Fee	31	3.12	2.99	10%	97%	94%
Sewall Academic Program Fee	409	3.02	3.01	8%	95%	88%
Sustainable by Design-ENGR RAP	62	2.96	2.73	12%	95%	87%
All						
Not in any RAP	8,579	2.96	2.76	15%	93%	81%
Andrews Hall RAP Fee	353	3.11	3.16	6%	98%	93%
B3 - Leeds RAP Fee	192	3.08	2.80	11%	97%	86%
Baker RAP Fee	1,171	3.01	2.94	10%	94%	87%
Chancellor's Leadership RAP	274	2.96	2.82	14%	95%	83%
Communication RAP Fee	421	2.96	2.88	10%	93%	82%
Engineering Quad Program Fee	1,086	3.08	2.89	12%	97%	91%
Farrand Academic Program Fee	1,081	2.94	2.90	10%	96%	87%
Global Studies RAP Fee	550	3.02	2.95	11%	94%	83%
Health RAP Fee	100	3.10	3.06	2%	91%	76%
Honors RAP Fee	616	3.44	3.45	2%	97%	91%
Libby RAP Fee	818	2.95	2.92	9%	96%	87%
SEEDS - A&S RAP Fee	75	3.01	3.00	8%	99%	87%
Sewall Academic Program Fee	879	2.94	2.86	11%	95%	86%
Sustainable by Design-ENGR RAP	133	2.93	2.73	11%	96%	85%

Data for individual RAPs in the 6-year graduation rate analysis

6-year grad rate
For 2007 frosh in RAPs vs. not

	N	Coll- spec- ific PGPA	Grad by 6th summer
	Sum	Mean	%
N			
Not in RAP	1,304	2.87	62%
CU 101	185	3.01	64%
ChanLead	62	2.89	55%
ERAP	162	2.95	70%
Farrand	190	2.88	77%
Kittredge Honors	41	3.42	83%
Libby	103	2.87	67%
SHIP	38	3.08	63%
Sewall	157	2.85	66%
R			
Not in RAP	2,238	3.02	70%
CU 101	202	3.07	76%
ChanLead	60	2.92	72%
ERAP	221	3.13	85%
Farrand	181	3.10	77%
Kittredge Honors	83	3.45	93%
Libby	130	3.04	74%
SHIP	66	3.17	76%
Sewall	156	2.99	72%
All			
Not in RAP	3,542	2.97	67%
CU 101	387	3.04	70%
ChanLead	122	2.91	63%
ERAP	383	3.05	79%
Farrand	371	2.99	77%
Kittredge Honors	124	3.44	90%
Libby	233	2.96	71%
SHIP	104	3.14	71%
Sewall	313	2.92	69%