

Achieving the Dream Report Series

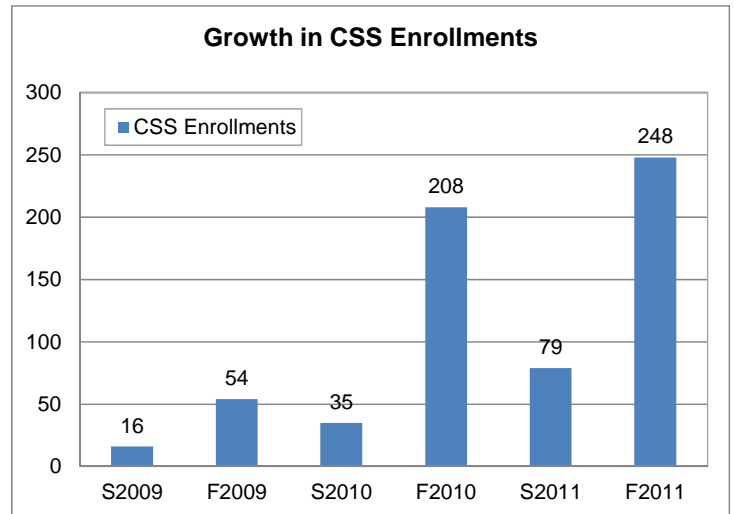
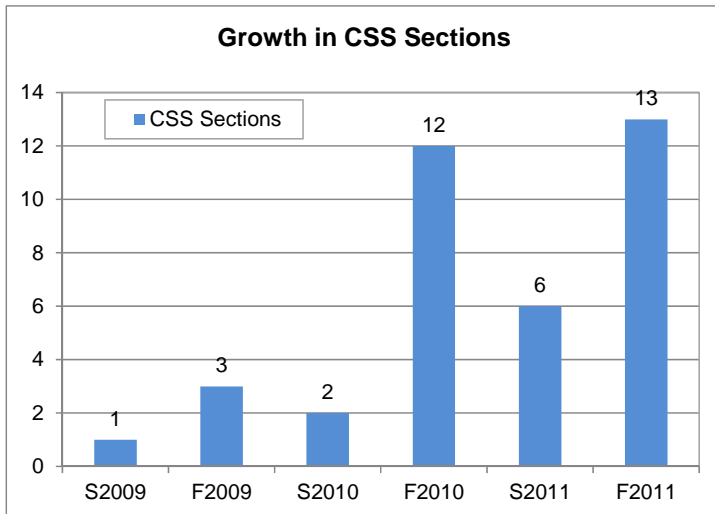
March 14, 2012



The College Success Seminar: Fall 2011

NECC offered the first College Success Seminar (CSS) course section in the Spring 2009 semester. Beginning in Fall 2010 the first revamped CSS sections were offered as one of three of the Achieving the Dream (AtD) strategies to improve student success. That first section had an enrollment of 16 students.

CSS has grown over the subsequent 5 semesters to 13 sections and 248 students. CSS completers have demonstrated increased success over non-CSS completers with several variables. CSS is an AtD strategy that will be scaled up.



Students who assessed * into CSS, took CSS and completed with a grade of A – C were more successful than those students who assessed into CSS but did not take CSS. As is evident in the following table, the course

completion rate for the developmental courses taken the same semester was higher for the CSS completers.

Developmental Course Completion (A-C)	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Fall 2011
CSS completers (n=128,54,136)	82%	79%	89%
Assessed but did not take (n=98,62,116)	72%	59%	72%

The CSS completers also completed the semester with higher term GPA's than those students who elected not to take CSS.

Average Term GPA	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Fall 2011
CSS completers	3.0	3.1	3.0
Assessed but did not take	2.5	1.8	2.3

The CSS completers also completed the semester with more term credits completed than those students who elected not to take CSS.

Average Term Credits	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Fall 2011
CSS completers	10.6	10.1	10.8
Assessed but did not take	6.6	7.9	8.1

With this consistent and positive news in hand, the college then asked if CSS completion had an impact on student retention. Two cohorts were chosen – “New to NECC” and “New to NECC, full-time & degree seeking” to be

reviewed. The college also looked at Fall to Fall and Fall to Spring retention. The results as can be seen in the following table suggest that CSS completers returned at higher rates when compared to the overall cohorts.

	All Students	CSS Completers (A-C)
New Students Fall 2010 to Fall 2011	50.3%	72.2%
New Students Fall 2010 to Spring 2011	64.2%	93.5%
New, Full-Time, Degree Seeking Students Fall 2010 to Fall 2011	60.2%	69.4%
New, Full-Time, Degree Seeking Students Fall 2010 to Spring 2011	77.1%	91.7%

In summary, CSS appears to be having a positive impact on the students that are taking the course. The college further expanded the offering for Spring 2012 by offering 9 sections and enrolling 146 students. The college will continue to monitor the success of CSS.

* Students who were assessed using the Accuplacer System, and assessed into 2 developmental courses (one of which was College Reading) were placed into the CSS eligible cohort.

Interpretations of these findings as well as suggestions for further analysis are always welcome. Please direct questions and comments to Thomas Fallon, Dean of Institutional Research and Planning, via phone at 978-556-3866 or email at tfallon@nec.mass.edu.