

Final Report
Submitted to Illinois State Board of Education
Janice King
Sheryl Boston

Objective One: Determine continued enrollment, major, and correlation of continued enrollment, major, and correlation of major to secondary CTE classes for 2006-07 freshmen admitted to a Midwestern university.

Outcome: analyze data for presentation and dissemination

Action: complete data for presentation and documentation.

Final Report: The data from students for 2006-07 was collected, analyzed and compiled for a presentation at the Connections Conference. The data set included verified enrollment, identification of major by college and the positive correlation of students selected major in college to CTE classes that were taken at the high school level. While the number of students who have taken CTE classes dropped, there still remains a positive correlation between students CTE class subject and their selected major at the university level. A significant number of students changed their major and have moved back to the CTE area of interest.

Objective Two: Select a random sample of admitted fall 2007 freshmen students to a Midwestern University.

Outcome: Randomly selected ample of 1000 students using a secure database.

Action: Meet with register office to create and obtain randomly selected database.

Final Report: With the cooperation of the registrar's office, at the Midwestern University, the admissions staff randomly selected 1000 students who had met all the criteria to be admitted to the university. Those records were forwarded to the researchers for evaluation.

Objective Three: Secure course classification, post secondary college/major at time of admission, GPA, ACT and PSAT scores of 2007-08 random sample.

Outcome: Collect classifications and quantity of secondary CTE courses to be used in analysis and interpretation of data to compare 2007-08 class to 2006-07 freshmen class using the ratio of CTE – to academic courses developed by DeLuca, Plank and Estacion 2006.

Action: Employ undergraduate student with data entry and analysis skills using MVS an SPSS data.

Final Report: The students was employed and trained for data entry and analysis. Information collected included the 2006-2007 change of major and continued attendance at the university. For 2007-2008 student data was collected in the areas of major, high school GPA, and course selections in the area of CTE. The university system

to document GPA was not available to the researchers so this objective was changed. The researchers also added community college attendance and data was collected on a basic percentage of students who transferred to the university from a community college.

Objective Four: Identify the relationship of course classification and quantity of secondary CTE courses, postsecondary college major at time of admission, GPA, ACT and PSAT scores among the 2008-2008 and 2006-2007 classes.

Outcome: Analyze data for presentation and dissemination

Action: Compile data for presentation and documentation

Final Report: The data was compiled and results were developed into a report presented at the Connections Conference. The data identified two major issues. The first was that the number of students enrolled in and completing CTE courses has dropped in just one year of university students, but CTE courses are still contributing to the high school course work of many high school students. The second issues indicates that a significant number of students take CTE courses in high school and then follow that same career area when selecting a university major.

Student GPA was reported and the indication is that many students who attend the Midwestern University fall into the mid-to-upper range.

Summary: This longitudinal study needs to be completed for the next few years, to follow one whole group of students from the freshman year to the completion of their college career. The information has supported the thesis that students who take CTE courses follow those interest areas into their college careers. Students will seek out the university setting that will offer quality programs in CTE areas where they have previous experience will attract students in those same areas.

The researchers will continue to follow this study to completion and will begin to develop materials for dissemination to educational and career and technical professionals.