DREAMers at Cal State LA
Achieving the American Dream

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California State University, Los Angeles

Cal State Los Angeles
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Nearly 5% of Cal State LA population are Undocumented Students

- We have **Largest #** of Undocumented Students in CSUs
Summary of Findings

• Cal State LA’s DREAMers showed engagement indicators and high impact practices comparable to non-DREAMers.

• First-time Freshmen DREAMers also showed comparable 1-year retention, 4-year graduation and 1st term GPA.

• Graduating DREAMers reported a positive overall academic experience at Cal State LA

• Debt at Graduation
  Dreamers reported significantly less debt at graduation than non-Dreamers. 65% of Dreamers reported that they would have no debt compared to 36% of non-Dreamers.

• All in all, for many Cal State LA Dreamers, their experience on our campus helped them achieve their American Dream of a college education.
Research Question

Are DREAMers’ educational experience and attainment at Cal State LA comparable to non-DREAMers?

2. Graduation, Retention and First-term GPA
3. Senior Survey
Senior **DREAMers** score higher on most Engagement Indicators than Non-DREAMers
Senior DREAMers report participating in High Impact Practices than Non-DREAMers
Cal State LA DREAMers Academic Outcomes Compared to Non-DREAMers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>DREAMer</th>
<th>Non-DREAMer</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS GPA</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>3.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>858</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Term GPA</td>
<td>2.81</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 year retention</td>
<td>79.3%</td>
<td>81.7%</td>
<td>81.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 year graduation</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 year graduation is based on cohort 2013 & 2014
**Freshmen cohort Multiple/Logistic Regression Result**

- HS GPA, SAT, attempted units and gender is consistently associated with the outcome, but NOT with DREAMer status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>1yr Retention 4-yr grad</th>
<th>1st term GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DREAMer</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Letter</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>1.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>0.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>0.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeclared</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS GPA</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>1.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pell</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Gen</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Units Attempted</td>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underrepresented</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P values < .05 in red; OR = odds ratios; B = beta

Analyses conducted using logistic regression for 1 year retention and 4-yr graduation and linear regression for first term GPA
Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

• About 4.5% of our seniors in those two survey years were Dreamers.

• DREAMers face some challenges at a higher rate than Non-DREAMers
Time Allocation: Dreamers spent more time per week working for pay
Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

Time Allocation: Dreamers spent the **same amount of time** on academics
Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

Time Allocation: Dreamers spent less time on discretionary activities
Despite these challenges, by the time they reached the end of their senior year, the Cal State LA Dreamers thrived:

• In the classroom,
  Their cumulative GPA was higher: **3.21** versus **3.08** for non-Dreamers (p=.001)

• Out of the classroom,
  They participated more in some **high impact practices**:
    • Internships (p = .01)
    • Volunteering in the local community (p < .03, 2015 only)

• After graduation,
  More said that their undergraduate experience influenced them to pursue **graduate** or professional studies (p=.001). (Percent planning to do so was about the same) (21% vs 18%)
Cal State LA Dreamers at graduation

Based on responses from 2015 and 2018 senior surveys

Beyond academics, the university experience became a vital part of the Dreamers’ lives:
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