Starfish Adoption and Student Success – Fall 2017 and Spring 2018
Prepared by Artour Aslanian

Purpose of Brief

The purpose of this brief is to examine Starfish adoption rates among faculty and student success rates for courses utilizing Starfish in Fall 2017.

Summary of Findings

- 43% of sections offered in Fall 2017 used Starfish whereas 38% of sections used Starfish in Spring 2018.
- The three disciplines that had the most sections using Starfish in both terms are English, Math, and Kinesiology (Fitness).
- 62% of disciplines that offered at least five sections using Starfish had higher average success rates than courses that did not.
- In Fall 2017, the following disciplines had the highest increase of average success rates among sections using Starfish (note: these disciplines offered at least 3 sections that did not use Starfish):
  - Philosophy (14%)
  - Communication Studies (14%)
  - History (12%)
  - Anthropology (12%)

Overview

Starfish Solutions is a retention solution program that helps create an online student success environment, facilitating programs such as counseling and advising, tutoring, mentoring, and others–with the aim of improving student success and retention. The purpose of this brief is to analyze Starfish usage at Crafton Hills College in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018. Additionally, the brief will examine student success rates in Fall 2017 by courses that were using Starfish.

Methodology

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Planning (OIERP) ran tracking reports on Starfish to get a list of courses that used Starfish in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 terms. These tracking reports were cross-referenced with a list of courses for Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 to examine starfish usage among the total number of courses being offered. Lastly, grade data for Fall 2017 was downloaded and cross referenced with Fall 2017 enrollment reports to understand success rates for courses using Starfish and those not using Starfish. Success rate is defined as earning a grade of A, B, C, or CR/P divided by the number of grades on record (A, B, C, D, F, CR/P, NC/NP, W or I) in any course where students earn a grade on record (GOR). The GOR represents the number of students enrolled at census. The data gathered for Spring 2018 is current as of March 9, 2018.

Findings

Table 1 examines the number of sections during Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 that used Starfish. In Fall 2017, 43% of sections at CHC utilized Starfish while 38% of courses in Spring 2018 used Starfish.

Table 1. Starfish usage in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

Term	# of Sections Using Starfish	# of Total Sections	% of Total Sections Using Starfish
Fall 2017	375	878	42.7%
Spring 2018	302	797	37.9%

Table 2 lists disciplines with five or more sections that used Starfish. For both terms, English had the most sections using Starfish with 55 in Fall 2017 and 52 in Spring 2018. Many sections within mathematics also used Starfish during both terms with 54 sections using the service in Fall 2017 and 47 using it in Spring of 2018. Kinesiology (Fitness) also had many sections using Starfish with 38 sections using the service in Fall of 2017 and 36 in Spring 2018.

Table 2. Disciplines with five or more sections using Starfish.

Fall 2017			Spring 2018		
Class	# of Sections	% of Total Starfish Sections	Class	# of Sections	% of Total Starfish Sections
English	55	14.7%	English	52	17.2%
Mathematics	54	14.4%	Mathematics	47	15.6%
Kinesiology (Fitness)	38	10.1%	Kinesiology (Fitness)	36	11.9%
History	13	3.5%	Communication Studies	14	4.6%
Communication Studies	13	3.5%	Computer Information Systems	9	3.0%
Chemistry	12	3.2%	Health	8	2.6%
Anatomy	11	2.9%	Anatomy	8	2.6%
American Sign Language	10	2.7%	History	8	2.6%
Child Development	10	2.7%	American Sign Language	8	2.6%
Computer Information Systems	10	2.7%	Economics	7	2.3%
Health	10	2.7%	Kinesiology (Sports/Skilled)	7	2.3%
Reading	9	2.4%	Reading	7	2.3%
Spanish	9	2.4%	Psychology	6	2.0%
Economics	8	2.1%	Spanish	6	2.0%
Counseling	7	1.9%	Chemistry	6	2.0%
Art	7	1.9%	Biology	6	2.0%
Kinesiology (Sports/Skilled)	7	1.9%	Respiratory	5	1.7%
Psychology	6	1.6%	Music	5	1.7%
Philosophy	6	1.6%			
Sociology	6	1.6%			
Biology	6	1.6%			
Music	6	1.6%			
Anthropology	5	1.3%			
Religion	5	1.3%			
Geology	5	1.3%			

Note: This does not include honors sections.

Table 3 contains the list of disciplines that offered 5 or more sections that used Starfish in Fall 2017 and compared the success rates against courses that did not use Starfish. The average success rates for these sections varied widely depending on the amount of courses being offered. The following disciplines had higher average success rates among sections using Starfish (percentages on the right indicate the percent of sections offered that used Starfish for that discipline):

- Religion (83%)
- Child Development (83%)
- American Sign Language (83%)
- Geology (83%)
- Philosophy (67%)

- Communication Studies (46%)
- History (76%)
- Anthropology (63%)
- Kinesiology (Sports/Skilled) (32%)
- Art (44%)

- English (67%)
- Sociology (43%)
- Kinesiology (Fitness) (55%)
- Counseling (70%)
- Mathematics (66%)

The largest increases in the average success rates among disciplines that had at least 3 sections that used Starfish and that did not use Starfish came from Philosophy (14%), Communication Studies (14%), History (12%), and Anthropology (12%).

Table 3. Average success rates for sections using Starfish compared to sections that do not.

Course	Using Starfish			Not Using Starfish		
	# of Sections	# of GOR	Avg. Success Rate	# of Sections	# of GOR	Avg. Success Rate
English	55	1382	73.4%	27	640	65.9%
Mathematics	54	1737	60.3%	28	903	58.6%
Kinesiology (Fitness)	38	437	80.5%	31	110	77.3%
History	13	475	80.8%	4	87	69.0%
Communication Studies	13	363	78.2%	15	289	64.7%
Chemistry	12	297	61.3%	7	188	68.1%
Anatomy	11	342	71.9%	12	301	76.7%
American Sign Language	10	244	74.2%	2	37	51.4%
Child Development	10	245	71.8%	2	52	34.6%
Computer Information Systems	10	244	68.0%	7	106	73.6%
Health	10	342	73.7%	3	93	77.4%
Reading	9	274	63.9%	2	41	70.7%
Spanish	9	190	71.6%	4	73	72.6%
Economics	8	260	62.7%	0	-	-
Counseling	7	168	71.4%	3	32	68.8%
Art	7	133	84.2%	9	182	75.8%
Kinesiology (Sports/Skilled)	7	61	88.5%	15	59	79.7%
Psychology	6	186	59.7%	15	518	70.5%
Philosophy	6	161	77.6%	3	63	63.5%
Sociology	6	252	86.1%	8	301	79.7%
Biology	6	168	64.3%	7	168	69.6%
Music	6	196	71.9%	19	211	85.8%
Anthropology	5	92	79.3%	3	71	67.6%
Religion	5	134	82.1%	1	22	36.4%
Geology	5	55	72.7%	1	6	50.0%

Note: This does not include honors sections.