

# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

## Sport Clubs & Student Success

### About Sport Clubs

CSUN Sport Clubs provide students an opportunity to participate in regionally and nationally competitive sports and recreational activities. Each club is formed, developed, governed, and administered by student members; student leadership, interest, and participation are essential elements of a successful sport club.

### Data

This study is a collaboration between the CSUN Sport Clubs program and the Office of Institutional Research (IR). The Sports Clubs program shared with IR staff a list of students who have participated in Sport Clubs between Fall 2011 and Spring 2017, which was combined with other student data from IR. This list was then limited to those who joined a Sport Club in their first year at CSUN (1,242 students).

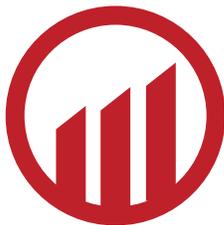
*Since a student would have to choose to participate in a Sport Club, it is possible that these students are different in meaningful ways from those who do not participate in Sport Clubs.*

For this reason, we used a statistical technique, propensity score matching, to match the students in Sport Clubs with students who did not participate in Sport Clubs.

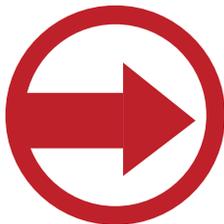
### We examined the following student outcomes:



STUDENTS' GPA IN THEIR FIRST YEAR AT CSUN



ACADEMIC STANDING AFTER ONE YEAR



RATES OF CONTINUATION INTO THE SECOND YEAR (THIRD TERM)

### Students in each group were matched on:



GENDER



ETHNICITY



ENTRY GPA



RESIDENCE OR NON-RESIDENCE IN LOCAL AREA



COHORT



PELL GRANT STATUS



PARENTAL EDUCATION

**Results indicate that first-time freshmen in a Sport Club had lower probation rates at the end of their first year, higher rates of returning for a second year, and higher first-year GPA as compared with first-time freshmen not in a Sport Club.**

### **First-Time Freshmen**

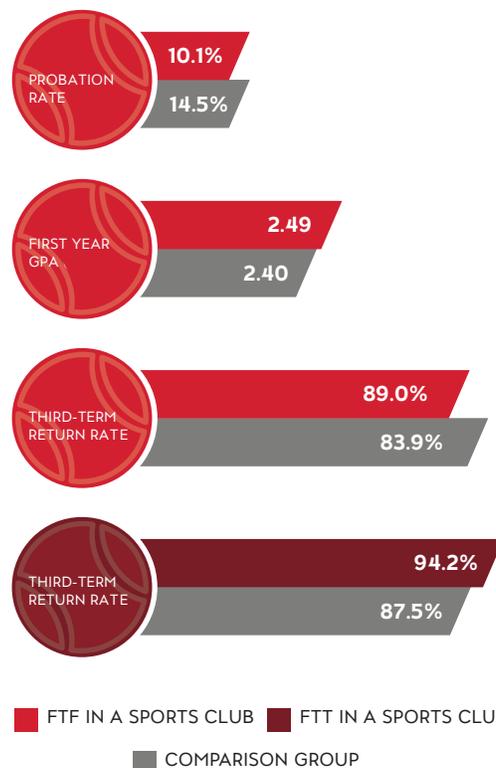
FTF IN A SPORT CLUB had a probation rate of 10.1%, a third-term return rate of 89%, and a first year GPA of 2.49 compared to the matched comparison group who had a 14.5% probation rate, an 83.9% return rate, and a first year GPA of 2.40 ( $p < .05$ ).

### **Transfers**

TRANSFER STUDENTS IN A SPORT CLUB were more likely to return for a second year as compared with transfer students who were not in Sport Clubs.

FTT in a Sport Club had a significantly higher third-term return rate of 94.2% in comparison to the matched sample, which had an 87.5% third-term return rate ( $p < .05$ ).

There was no statistically reliable difference in the probation rates and first-year GPAs between the two groups.



**These preliminary analyses suggest positive outcomes associated with participation in Sport Clubs in the first year for first-time freshmen. Among transfer students, Sport Club participation was associated with a higher likelihood of returning for the second year.**

At this point, these findings should be considered preliminary; IR staff will continue to examine student success outcomes associated with participation in Sport Clubs.

# **INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH**

## **Institutional Research**

18111 Nordhoff Street · Northridge · California 91330-8224

(818) 677-3277 · fax: (818) 677-5080

<http://www.csun.edu/institutional-research>