Student Mastery of the Competencies

The program measures mastery of the competencies through the deployment of a pre- and post-test exam based on the ACHE Board of Governor's exam to all students in both the TP and AP program. Incoming students receive the pre-test exam deployed over Beachboard through the HCA 502 course, which is the foundational graduate course taken by all students. The post-test is deployed to the TP students through a Beachboard site at the end of their academic career, usually the spring semester. For the AP students, the post-test is deployed through their final course, taken during the summer quarter. Using classes to deploy the pre-test works very well as it allows the program to get a baseline measure of how much students actually know about the U.S. health care system upon entry into the program. Generally, the AP students exhibit higher scores on the pre-test exam compared to the TP students; this is to be expected as most AP students have a minimum of 5 years of paid work experience in the health care industry. The post-test exam allows for comparisons between the baseline scores and the scores at exit from the program for both the AP and TP cohorts. Because the program uses Beachboard to deploy the exam, scores can also be tracked for individual students across their academic career.

The Pilot Program

Beginning in the fall of 2016, the program developed a pre-test post-test assessment of student achievement of the competencies based on the American College of Health Executives (ACHE) Board of Governor's exam. The pre-test and post-test were taken from the study questions developed by ACHE and a selection of 30 questions representing all five of the competencies (see competency model below) were selected for a pilot test. For the pre-test, one class (HCA 502) was selected from the curriculum for the accelerated and traditional format classes because this is the first class all graduate students are required to take; for the post-test, the HCA 580 internship course was selected for the traditional students as this is the last course students take before they graduate. For the accelerated students, the HCA 528 Population Health course was selected due to the fact that it is the last class taken by each AP cohort (even after the HCA 698 Project course has been completed; most AP students have a minimum of 5 years of health care industry work experience, so they do not take the internship class).

The pre-test means and standard deviations are for the first year of the pilot program are:
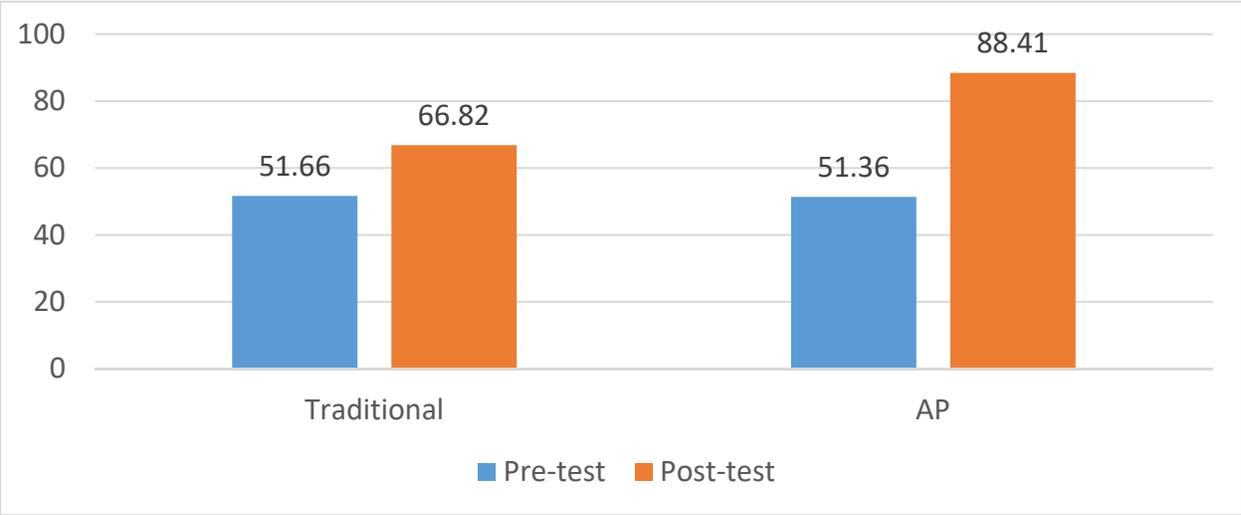
Traditional 51.66 (SD = 15.35)

Accelerated program 51.35% (SD = 17.13)

The post-test means and standard deviations are:

Traditional 66.82 (SD = 10.29) (statistically different from pre-test mean at p<.04).

Accelerated program 88.41 (SD = 11.59) (statistically different from pre-test mean at p<.01)

Figure 1. Pre- and Post-test scores for the TP and AP cohorts pilot phase AY 2016-2017

Scores from the 2nd year of the pilot program, which was AY 2017-2018, are depicted below.

Figure 2. Pre- and post-test scores for the 2nd year of the pilot phase TP and AP, AY 2017 2018