

Grades significantly improved across 220 courses taught by ACUE-credentialed faculty at Miami Dade College

No similar improvement seen in all other courses from the same disciplines

Background

During the spring 2018 semester, 78 faculty at Miami Dade College (MDC) earned their ACUE credential. Student course data for the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters were analyzed at the course level for all courses taught by these ACUE-credentialed faculty and all courses in the same disciplines taught by non-credentialed faculty.

Key Findings

- There was a **statistically significant improvement in average grades in courses taught by ACUE-credentialed faculty** from the fall 2017 semester, before faculty started the Course in Effective Teaching Practices, to the spring 2018 semester, when faculty earned their credential, $F(1, 218) = 6.08, p = .014$.
 - In fall 2017, the average grade in courses taught by faculty who went on to earn their credential the following semester was 2.84 on a 4.0 scale.
 - In spring 2018, the average grade in courses taught by these same faculty was 3.03.
 - This .19 increase in average class grades is the equivalent of 19% of the students in each course improving a full letter grade, on average.
- The improvement in average grades during the same period among all courses in the same disciplines taught by non-credentialed faculty was not statistically significant, $F(1, 1,267) = 1.93, p = .165$.
 - In fall 2017, the average grade in these comparison courses was 3.13.
 - In spring 2018, the average grade in these comparison courses was 3.17.

Methodology

Course data were analyzed for the 220 courses (104 in fall 2017 and 116 in spring 2018) taught by faculty who earned their ACUE credential during the spring 2018 semester and the 1,269 courses (611 in fall 2017 and 658 in spring 2018) in the same disciplines that were taught by non-credentialed faculty. There were 12,603 non-unique student enrollments (6,473 in fall 2017 and 6,130 in spring 2018) for the ACUE faculty courses and 326,365 non-unique student enrollments (173,149 in fall 2017 and 153,216 in spring 2018) for the comparison courses. Average grade was calculated from the frequencies of As, Bs, Cs, Ds, and Fs earned in each course. Since only A through F grades can be converted to a 4.0 scale, all other grades, such as pass or withdraw, are excluded from these particular analyses. Thus, the total number of non-unique student enrollments included in the analyses of student grades is 11,397 for ACUE faculty courses and 292,626 for comparison courses.