

Independent Research Confirms: ACUE Certification Drives Student Outcomes



Students taught by ACUE-certified instructors are significantly more likely to:

- ▶ Pass their courses
- ▶ Stay enrolled
- ▶ Rate their instructors highly

“We now have airtight evidence that faculty participating in ACUE professional development directly contribute to their institution's goals.”

Benjamin Mitchell-Yellin, PhD

Director of the Teaching & Learning Center (TLC) and Associate Professor, Sam Houston State University



Intro Course Success

In entry-level courses, certified instructors achieved a 3.73% reduction in DFW rates.



Passing Grades

Courses led by certified instructors had a 3.33% reduction in DFW rates.



Better Student Evaluations

Certified instructors received significantly higher scores on their end-of-term student evaluations.

Researchers at Sam Houston State University (SHSU) published results evaluating the impact of ACUE. With no ACUE funding or affiliation, this peer-reviewed study compared courses taught by ACUE-certified instructors to matched non-ACUE courses across all colleges and disciplines.

This study analyzed over 1,700 courses across a full academic year using rigorous statistical controls. Its findings align closely with ACUE's own reported claims, lending independent credibility to the evidence.



[acue.org](https://www.acue.org)

Source:

Mitchell-Yellin, B., & Young, C. (2026). The impact of ACUE certification on faculty evaluations and student success scores. *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*.