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BRIDGING THE GAP FOR AT-RISK FIRST- YEAR STUDENTS

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Presentation Overview

- What is the Panther Excellence Program (PEP)?
- How do PEP students compare?
- Effectiveness of PEP initiatives
- Implementation at other institutions
- Proposed program changes



About the Presenter

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About GSU

- Student population
- Structure



What is the Panther Excellence Program?

- Two-semester (fall & spring) program
- Lower performing students
- Intentional foundational experience



Program History

- Created in 2012
- Students fall below regular admission requirements
- Summer bridge at capacity

Who are the PEP students?

- Fully admitted first-year students
- Lower than average Freshman Index (FI) scores
- First-generation (about 35%)
- Low-income (66% qualify for Pell)
- Often admitted late
- Possible conflicts with Summer Success Academy

GSU Admission Requirements

- Board of Regents minimum requirements
 - $FI = 500 \times (HSGPA) + SAT \text{ Verbal/Critical Reading} + SAT \text{ I Math (or)}$
 - $FI = 500 \times (HSGPA) + (ACT \text{ Composite} \times 42) + 88$
 - Minimum FI of 2500 required for research universities

- GSU Averages
 - HS GPA 3.2-3.7
 - SAT 1030-1230
 - ACT 20-25

PEP vs General Population

Student Population	HS GPA	SAT	ACT	FI Score	PELL	HOPE
PEP	2.93	948.75	20	2420	65.7%	21.3%
General	3.43	1072	22	2764	52.9%	71%
SSA	2.96	N/A	N/A	2440	56.2%	32.6%

Academic Structure

- Block schedule FLCs in the Fall
- Partial FLCs in the spring
- Core classes for all majors
- Credit hour limitations



Other Components

- Academic Coaching
- Academic Success Workshops
- Required Study Hours
- Monthly Cohort Meetings
- Academic Advising
- Peer Mentor Meetings
- Professor Introductions
- Mid-Semester Grade Checks
- Supplemental Instruction
- Early Alert

Professor Introductions

- Required during the first 3 weeks of each semester
- Precursor for grade checks
- Facilitate discussion and relationship building

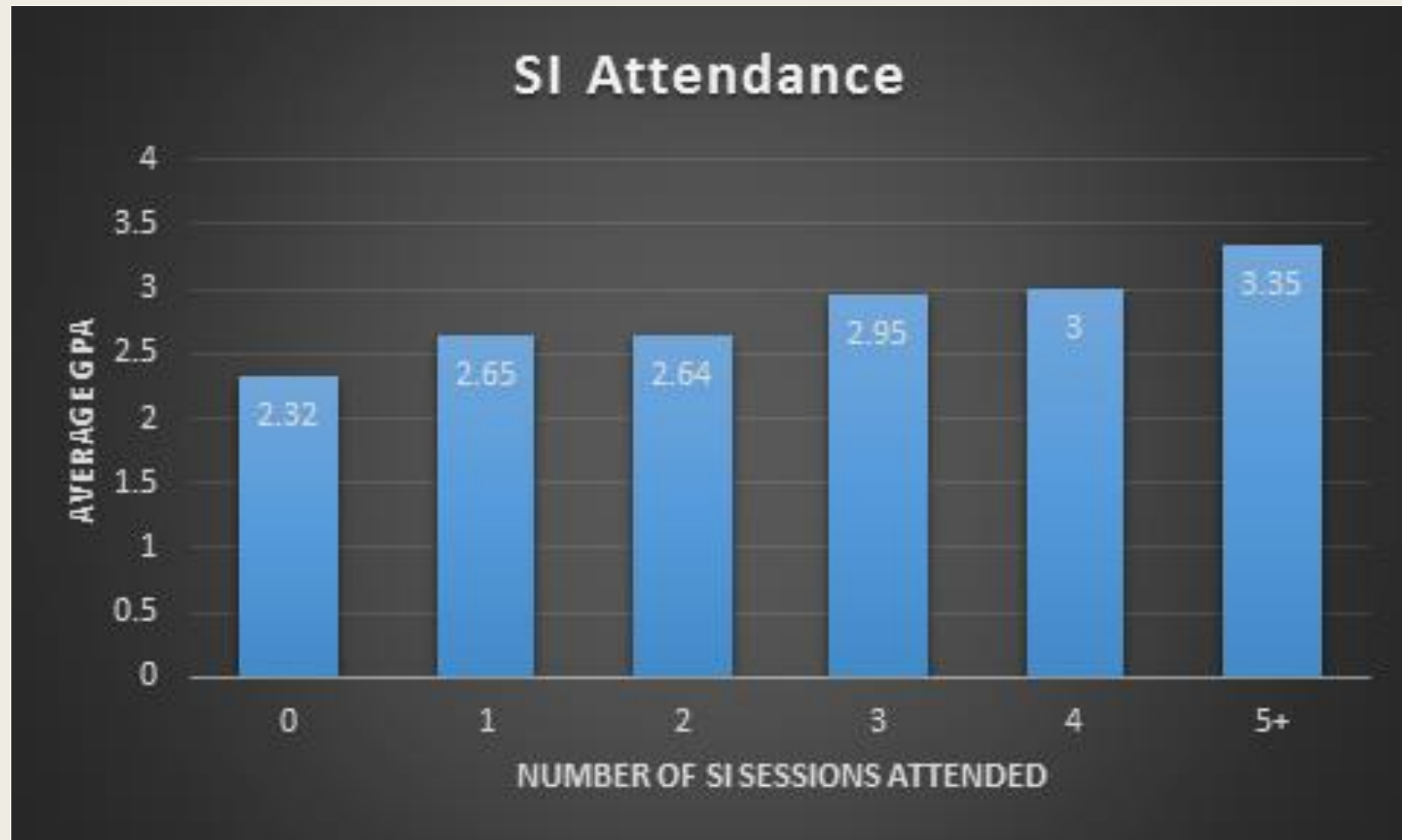
Supplemental Instruction

- Offered for at least one course per cohort each semester
- Required attendance at 5 sessions before midpoint
- Significant positive correlation between attendance and overall GPA

Academic Coaching

- Minimum of monthly meetings
- Mostly facilitated by graduate students
- Special focus on study skills and campus involvement
- Greatest impact on students

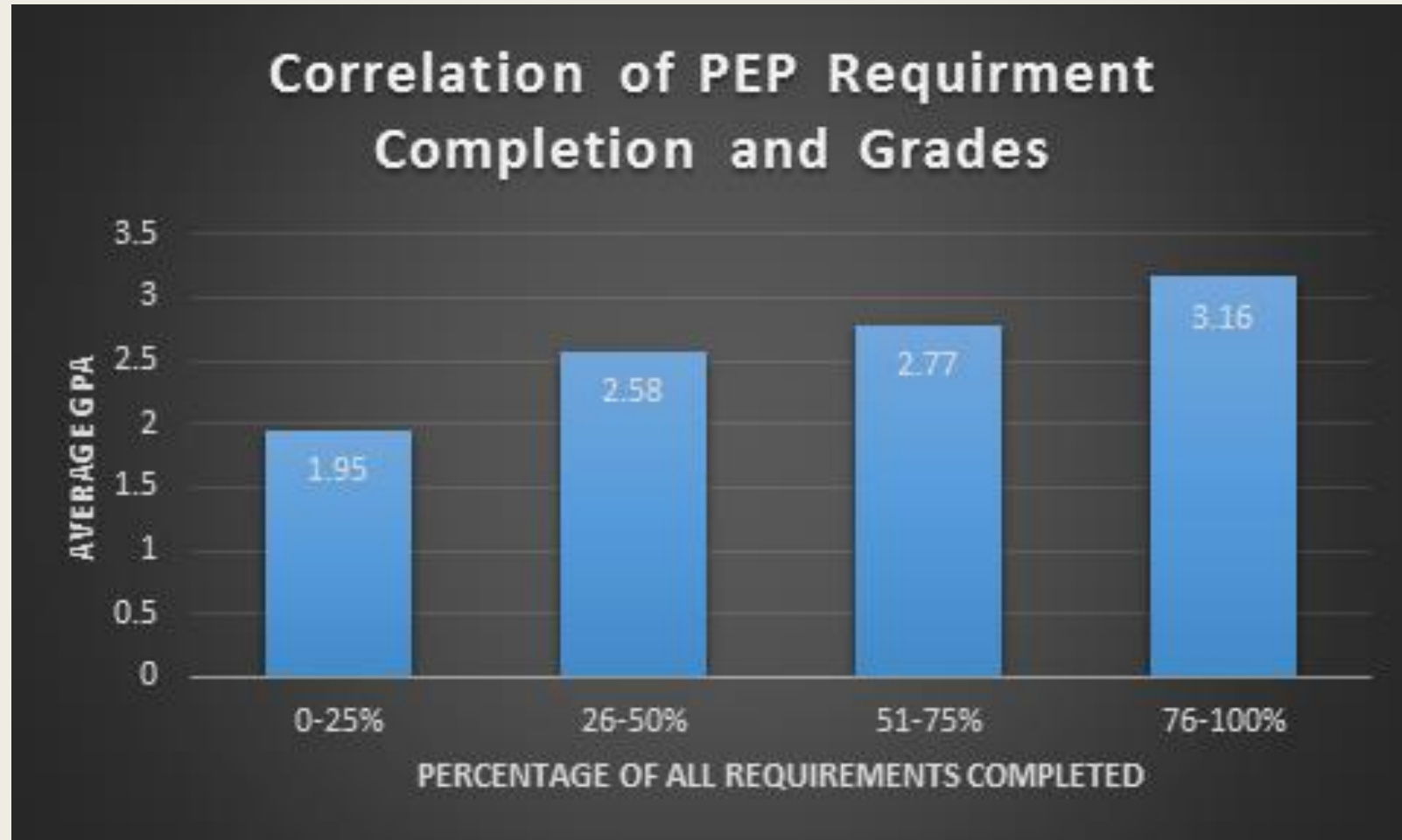
Supplemental Instruction



Academic Coaching



Overall Program Requirement Completion and Grades





Graduation Rates

- No six-year rates as of yet
- 2012 cohort
 - 34 of 157 or 21%
 - 11 students with enough credits
- 2013 cohort
 - 1 of 181 or <1%
 - 2 students with enough credits

Budget

- \$0



Relationship Building

- Students
- Staff
- Faculty



Implementation

- Identify target population
- Identify needs
- Find campus partners and begin building relationships

Proposed Changes

- Funding
- Staffing
- Continued programming for previous cohorts
- Defined admission cutoff date
- Simple first semester of classes





Questions?

Contact Information



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