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The Impact of an Academic Summer Bridge Program for At-Risk College Students

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Impact of Tiger Success Bridge Program for At-Risk Students

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Dr. Nicole Porchia
April 26, 2023

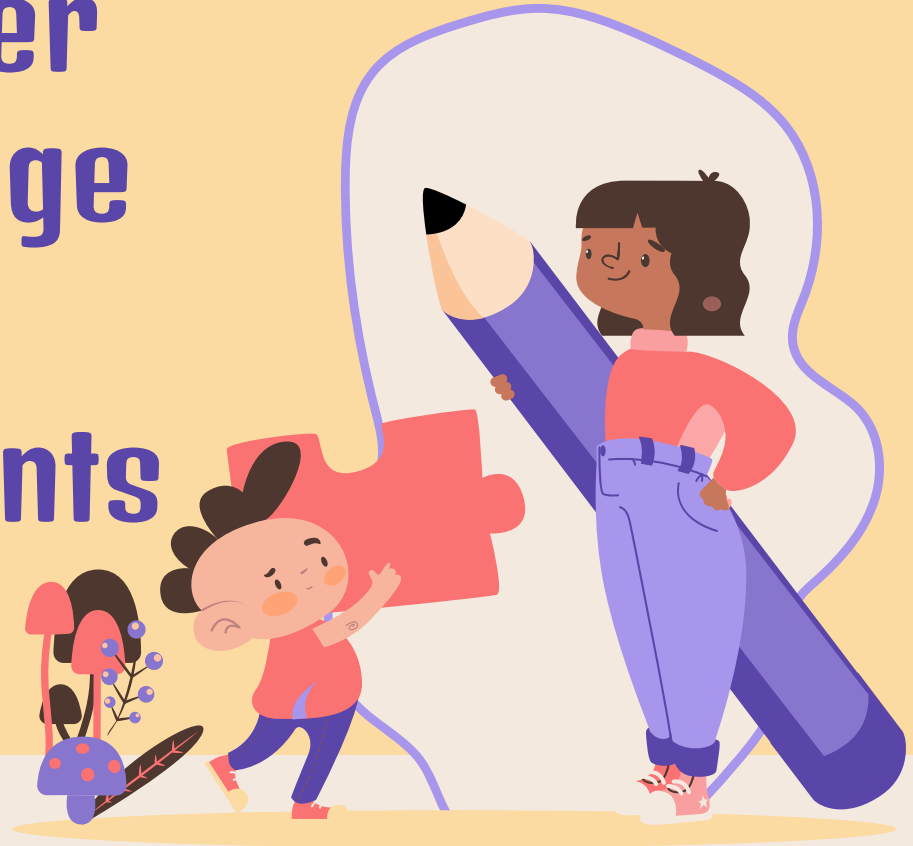


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01

What does it mean to be an “At-Risk Students”?



At-Risk Students



Definition

“Students who are at risk for educational failure – either by failure to learn in school or by dropping out of school altogether” (Gilstrap, p. 470)



Who?

Listed are groups that are statistically more likely to be considered “at-risk students”.

First Generation College Students
Persons of Color
Low Socioeconomic Backgrounds

02

Bridge Program



What is a “Bridge Program?”

A program that aims to “guide and support” at-risk students as they transition from high school to college, while equipping them for success in their future academic career.

Bridge Programs: Current Research



Non-Cognitive Strategies

Student preparedness created through a Bridge Program includes more than cognitive strategies. Non-cognitive strategies may include note-taking, asking for help, organization skills, group communications, etc.



Social Capital

“Access to people able to offer insider knowledge and guidance as to how to negotiate potentially important social contexts” (Morales, 2016). The three major areas of support are self efficacy, social integration, and cultural discontinuity.



Mentorship

While the type of mentoring will depend on the students' background, there is an ultimate improvement in the students' academic and social integration.

03

**Tiger Success
Bridge Program**



Tiger Success Bridge Program: Goals



Confidence in the Classroom

We wanted students to feel well prepared and equipped in a college classroom at Ouachita Baptist University.

Self-Efficacy, Negative Attitude, Imaginative Capability, Problem-Solving Self-Efficacy



Accessibility

This program was aimed toward a population of students that may have little or no access to pre-college programs. We wanted to limit typical stressors, such as affordability, housing, or transport, as much as possible.



Long-Term Preparedness

These student should feel like they can succeed at Ouachita, even after their freshman year. We wanted students to know their options for degrees and career paths early.

Tiger Success Bridge Program: How We Met Those Goals



Experience in the Classroom

Students received in-person experience in the classroom with Ouachita professors. Classes were MTWTH. Students attend 2-3 classes per day.



Peer Mentor Program

Each student received a peer mentor with a similar interest path with whom they met weekly. For some, this program extended into the Fall.



Affordable

Students received room & board, 5-9 hours of credit, tutoring, mentorships, and a weekly activities all for \$50. Select students were awarded scholarships.



Tutoring and Workshops Available

Tutors for each subject were available M/W with 1-on-1 by request. Workshops on subjects such as financial aid or study abroad, were presented on Fridays.

How did we measure “Confidence in the Classroom”?

Self-Efficacy

- How well a student thinks they can succeed at a task.
- Confidence Statement: “I am capable of being successful in college.”

Imaginative Capabilities

- “Attributes of initiative taking and originality.”
- Confidence Statement: “I am capable of creating my own ideas and being innovative.”

Negative Attitude

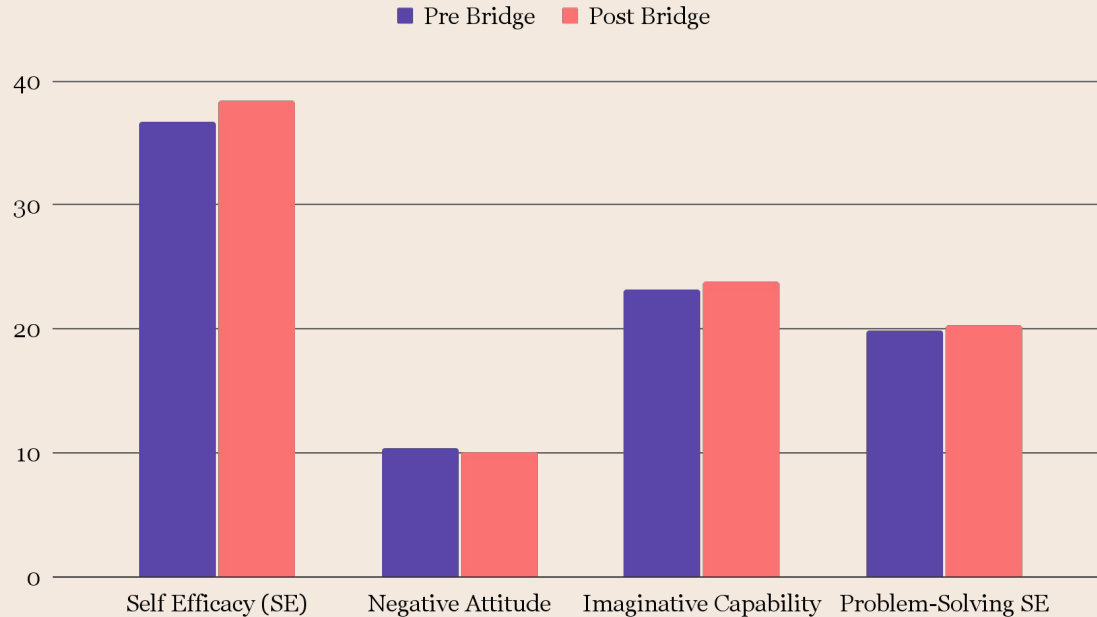
- Student’s mindset toward uncertainty and change.
- Confidence Statement: “I welcome change, as it provides new opportunities.”

Problem Solving Self-Efficacy

- How confident a student feels about “their capacity to handle situations”, including decision making.
- Confidence Statement: “I am capable of handling new situations and make appropriate decision.”

Tiger Success Bridge Program: Results

Pre-Bridge College Skills vs Post-Bridge College Skills

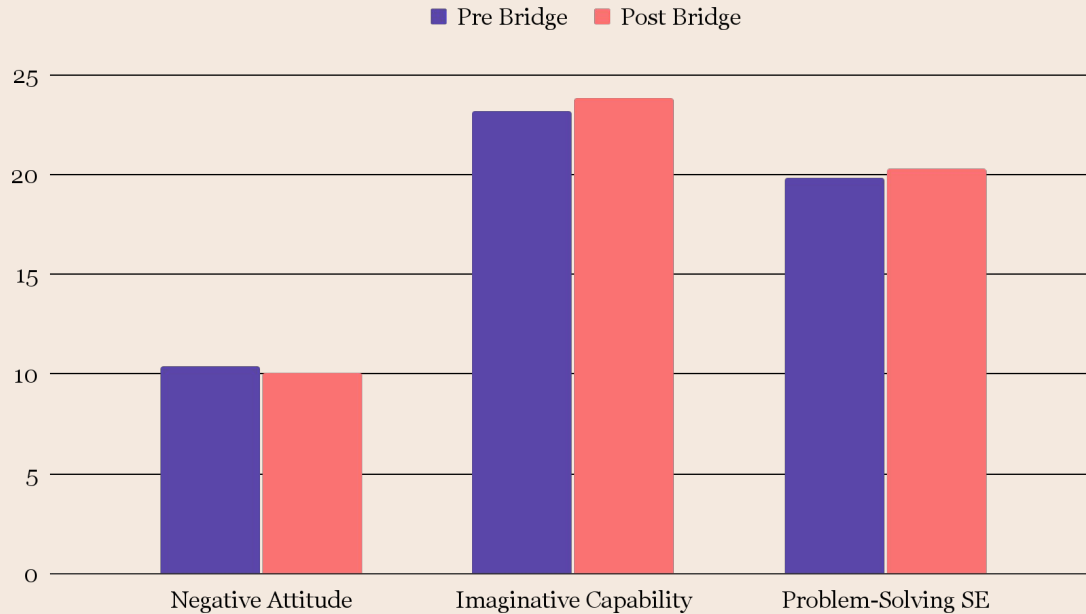


Self-Efficacy:

Increase in scores, meaning students felt more capable of meeting their personal goals.

Tiger Success Bridge Program: Results

Pre-Bridge College Skills vs Post-Bridge College Skills



Negative Attitude:

Decrease in scores

- Students felt more positive about change

Imaginative Capabilities:

Increase in scores

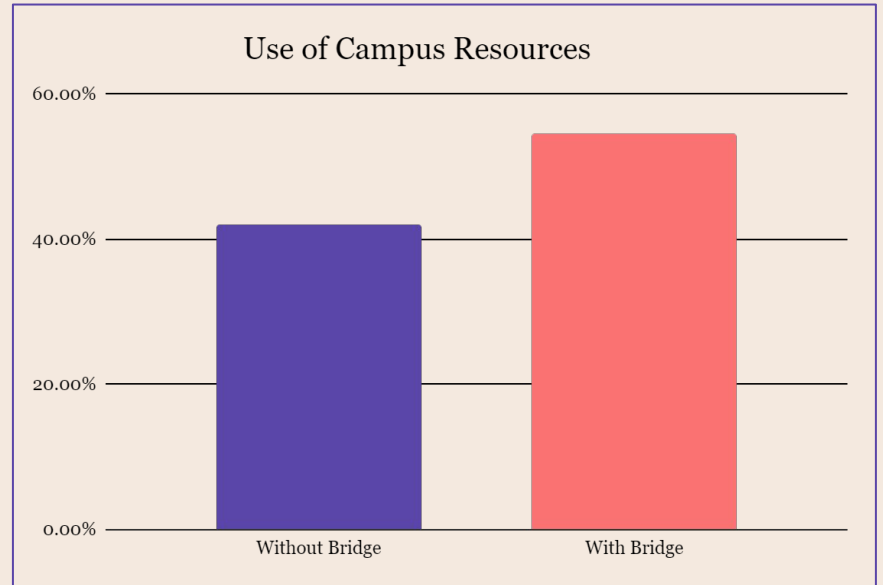
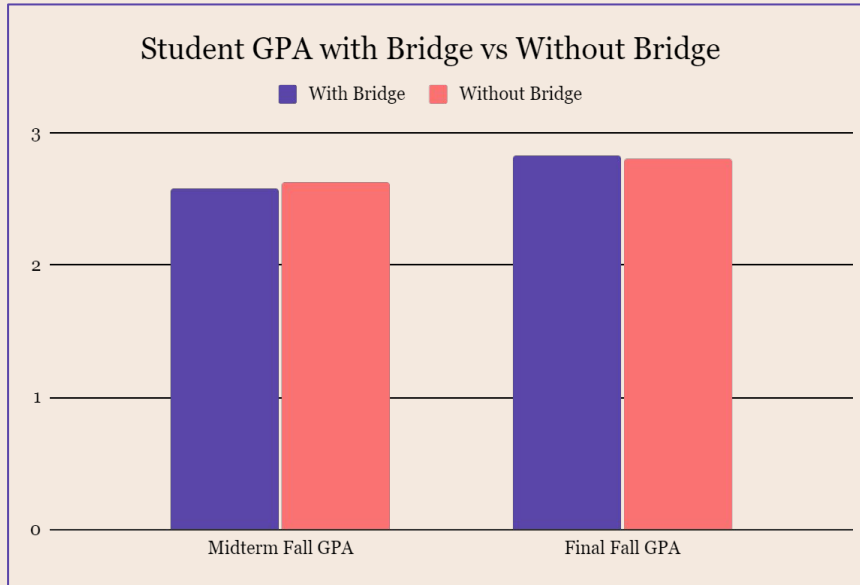
- Students felt more capable of innovation

Problem-Solving SE:

Increase in scores

- Students felt more capable of problem-solving

Tiger Success Bridge Program: Results for Freshmen Year



Tiger Success Bridge Program + Peer Mentor Program



Tiger Success Bridge Program: Conclusion



Our Goals

We met our goals of student confidence, accessibility, and long-term preparedness.



Mentorship

Mentorship, specifically extended mentorship, greatly benefitted these students.



Academic Success

Academic success is determined by more than a GPA or test scores.

04

Next Steps



Next Steps



Peer Mentor Program

A pilot program during Fall 2022 was successful. This will continue for Fall 2023. As of now, we have 8 mentors waiting to be paired with students for the Fall!



Tiger Success Bridge Program 2023

Tiger Success Bridge Program scheduled for June 2023.

- 8 Mentors
- 8 Professors
- 43 Students

05

Thank you!
Questions?



Works Cited

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