Evaluating and Visualizing the Impact of Language Requirement and Abroad Programs on Students’ Performance, Retention, and Major

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“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”

Nelson Mandela, human rights activist and former president of South Africa
Language Programs at Indiana University

“The foreign language requirement is part of the university's commitment to make it a globally engaged institution.”

70+ foreign language classes
#6 ranking college for language studies
380+ study abroad programs in over 50 counties

Modern Language Association report (Fall 2013 – Fall 2016):

| Language courses enrollment |  |
|-----------------------------|--|-------|
| Indiana                     | 8 % | rise  |
| Nation-wide                 | 9.2% | decline |
Spanish & Portuguese Department

2017 Fall semester - 2,224 undergraduate students enrolled

BA in Spanish 2007-2012:
173 students enrolled (average)
58 graduated (average)

IUHPFL program – Spain, Mexico. Many high school students choose to attend IU after graduation.
Our Questions

How to increase students’ interest to continue language studies (e.g., minoring in Spanish)?

How do language and culture studies affect students’ performance? (HIP Practices)

How do study abroad and language learning affect students’ career?
Methodology

1) student demographics,
2) student pre-college preparation,
3) student performance,
4) student career path,
5) language placement tests,
6) abroad study experiences,
7) Spanish courses taken during 2011-2017

Data analysis and visualization via Shiny application
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CREDITS

https://overseas.iu.edu/

http://celt.indiana.edu/portal/

Enrollment and Faculty Teaching Activity Report, Spring 2013.

Special Thanks

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