

Students who used the services of the Writing Center in their first year vs. those who did not:
GPA, retention, and graduation rates

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Summary

- Students who visited the CU Boulder Writing Center during their first term were compared to students who did not, on last UCB cumulative GPA, retention rates, and graduation rates.
- Domestic first-term users and non-users of the Writing Center were matched on academic preparation (Predicted GPA, based on high school GPA and standardized test scores), entry year, entry residency, gender, entry college (and division for A&S students), underrepresented minority status, financial need (received need-based aid vs. not), and having a declared major vs. an open-option major.
- After matching for all the above factors, **freshmen who used the Writing Center's services in the first term had higher cumulative GPAs, retention rates to the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th fall, and graduation rates after 4, 5, and 6 years.**
- We also looked at international freshmen and at transfers, using slightly different matching variables; .22 Td;9 and

dents.

- A total of 3,768

- About 7% of the “non-visitor” group actually did use the Writing Center, but not in their first year. These students were grouped for analysis with those who never visited in their UCB careers.
- Differences in outcomes were substantial. The average last observed cumulative GPA for Writing Center visitors was 3.22, vs. 3.00 for non-visitors. Retention to the 2nd fall was 92% for visitors, 89% for non-visitors. Those results and others are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Outcomes for domestic new freshmen who visited the Writing Center during their first year, vs. matched students who did not.

Measure	Entry years	N of matched pairs	Writing Center visitors	Non-visitors
Last observed cumulative GPA	2009-			

More information

- More complete data summaries are available on request to ODA. Contact Perry Sailor at perry.sailor@colorado.edu.