

University of Washington – Washington State Academic RedShirt Program (STARS) Preliminary Report to the Legislature

December 2023

Introduction

Beginning in FY20, the Legislature appropriated funds to the University of Washington Seattle campus to support the Washington State Academic RedShirt Program (STARS) in the College of Engineering. STARS provides support for talented students who need additional STEM and college preparation before they begin their engineering or computer science career. During the 2023 legislative session, funding was expanded to establish a STARS program on the UW Bothell campus. In addition to this new funding, the UW has been asked to submit a preliminary report to the Legislature by December 1, 2023 and a final report by December 1, 2024. These reports must include enrollment and completion data, academic placement, student demographics, and other program outcomes on the Seattle and Bothell campuses. The UW respectfully submits the following report.

UW Seattle – College of Engineering

As mentioned in the introduction, the College of Engineering first received state funding for STARS in FY20. For the purpose of this report, student data begins with the autumn academic quarter in 2019.

Table 1 shows the number of students by cohort, along with the number of students who were categorized at entry as URM (underrepresented minority), First Generation – Matriculated (first in the family to enter higher education, First Generation – 4-year Degree (will be first in family to earn a four-year degree, Pell eligible, receiving a Washington College Grant, or receiving a Washington State Opportunity Scholarship.

Table 1: Entering UWS College of Engineering STARS Cohorts

	Entering in				
	Aut 19	Aut 20	Aut 21	Aut 22	Aut 23
Cohort	30	29	29	24	30
URM students	9	13	10	8	14
First generation - Matriculated	14	11	10	12	22
First generation - 4-year degree	21	17	17	21	28
Pell Eligible	24	19	21	16	24
WA College Grant recipient	21	26	27	23	28
WSOS recipient	19	10	9	7	5

Table 2 shows the number of students by cohort who completed the STARS program, were placed in a major, and the number placed by major. As shown, all students who were placed were placed in their first-choice major. A few students may end up completing a bit later than their peers (e.g., because of a quarter taken off); such students are shown as “continuing” for the most recent cohort.

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Table 2: UWS College of Engineering STARS Cohorts – Placement in Major

	Entering in		
	Aut 19	Aut 20	Aut 21
Completed Program	21	27	23
Placed in Major*	21	27	22
Placed in First Choice Major	21	27	22
Continuing	0	0	3
Major Placements			
Aeronautics & Astronautics	0	2	0
Bioengineering	1	1	2
Computer Science	12	12	12
Civil Engineering	1	1	1
Computer Engineering	4	4	1
Electrical and Computer Engineering	1	1	2
Human Centered Design & Engineering	0	2	2
Mechanical Engineering	2	3	2
Materials Science & Engineering	0	1	0
<i>Total Placed</i>	21	27	22

*A student may leave after completion but before placement

Table 3 shows the number of students who have graduated to date. Note that although STARS students are expected to take five years to graduate, students in the Autumn 2019 cohort who have graduated did so in four years.

Table 3: UWS College of Engineering STARS Cohorts – Graduations to Date

	Entering in		
	Aut 19	Aut 20	Aut 21
Graduated from UWS*	8		
Graduated from UWS - STEM*	7		
Graduated from Engineering*	7		

*These students graduated in four years (though students in STARS are generally expected to take five years to graduate).

UW Bothell – School of STEM and First Year and Pre-Major Programs

UW Bothell was awarded funding beginning July 1, 2023, and so we are in the development and hiring phase of our STARS program. We are actively working with our admissions office to ensure a cohort is identified and fully supported in Autumn 2024 as the first full cohort. This year, we have identified students who are part of our 2023 incoming first-year class who would have met our criteria, and we are offering them optional support and workshops throughout this academic year as we concurrently build out our STARS program. These students will have an opportunity to

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participate in the STARS program for the 2024-2025 academic year if they make appropriate academic progress this academic year. The data below are for those 2023 students identified in summer, after already being admitted to UW Bothell.

- STARS cohort: **50** (*identified and supported while program is developing*)
- Number of students who have completed the program and the number of students by cohort: *first year of program – does not apply*
- Placements of students by academic major: *first year of program – does not apply*
- Number of students placed in first-choice majors: *first year of program – does not apply*
- Number of underrepresented minority students in the program: **19**
- Number of first-generation college students in the program: **27**
- Number of Pell Grant eligible students in the program: **17**
- Number of students receiving Washington College Grant: **31**
- Number of Washington State Opportunity Scholarship recipients in the program: **8**
- Number of students who completed the program and graduated with a STEM related degree and the number of graduates by cohort: *first year of program – does not apply*
- Other program outcomes:
 - *Identified key staff and faculty to support the STARS program*
 - *Hired a STARS Program Manager (expected start in December 2023)*
 - *Began search for new Math and Computer Science faculty*
 - *Provided extra tutoring and study sessions for students in introductory math and computer science courses*
 - *All students identified assigned a specific academic advisor and peer coach*
 - *Developed admissions criteria and process to identify potential STARS students*
 - *Began creating communications material including draft admissions letters and website*
 - *Outlined two-year plan including curricular and co-curricular activities to ensure STARS student success.*
 - *Redesigned introductory calculus sequence*