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

December 2024

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**	**Aut 24**
Cohort	30	29	29	24	30	41
URM students	9	13	10	8	14	18
First generation - Matriculated	14	11	10	12	22	22
First generation - 4-year degree	21	17	17	21	28	30
Pell Eligible	24	19	21	16	24	34
WA College Grant recipient	21	26	27	23	28	37
WSOS recipient	19	10	9	7	5	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.

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

December 2024

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

	Entering in			
	Aut 19	**Aut 20**	**Aut 21**	**Aut 22**
Completed Program	21	27	23	20
Placed in Major*	21	27	22	23
Placed in First Choice Major	21	27	22	22
Continuing	0	0	3	2
Major Placements				
Aeronautics & Astronautics	0	2	0	0
Bioengineering	1	1	2	0
Computer Science	12	12	12	8
Civil Engineering	1	1	1	1
Computer Engineering	4	4	1	6
Electrical and Computer Engineering	1	1	2	0
Human Centered Design & Engineering	0	2	2	3
Mechanical Engineering	2	3	2	5
Materials Science & Engineering	0	1	0	0
Total Placed	*21*	*27*	*22*	*23*

*A student may leave after completion but before placement

Table 3 shows the number of students who have graduated to date. Note that STARS students are expected to take five years to graduate, so students in the Autumn 2020 cohort who have graduated did so in four years. In addition, four students from the Autumn 2019 cohort are still enrolled (all four in engineering majors) and are likely to graduate.

Table 3: UWS College of Engineering STARS Cohorts – Graduations to Date	Entering in			
	Aut 19	**Aut 20**	**Aut 21**	**Aut 22**
Graduated from UWS*	20	5		
Graduated from UWS - STEM*	18	5		
Graduated from Engineering*	17	5		

Note that although STARS students are expected to take five years to graduate, only the Aut 19 cohort has the opportunity to graduate in five years (and students who have not yet graduated may still graduate in the coming year). Any graduates from the Aut 20 cohort graduated in four years.

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

December 2024

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

UW Bothell received funding starting July 1, 2023, and subsequently hired a program director and academic adviser to prepare the program for its launch in autumn 2024. The faculty lines in Computer Science and Mathematics have also been filled. Thirty scholars have been admitted and have begun their first quarter on campus, benefiting from comprehensive support in key prerequisite courses and participating in cocurricular programming in career, community building, and growth workshops.

The data below includes students who entered in autumn 2023 and who might have been eligible for STARS if the program had been active. This group will serve as our baseline cohort.

Table 1: Entering UWB STARS cohort

	Entering in	
	Aut 23	**Aut 24***
Cohort	50	30
URM students	19	16
First generation - Matriculated	27	14
First generation - 4-year degree	NA	NA
Pell Eligible	17	16
WA College Grant recipient	31	18
WSOS recipient	8	2

* UW Bothell's STARS first cohort.

Table 2 presents the majors of interest reported by the scholars in their applications to UW Bothell. Although the scholars have not yet been admitted to their majors, we estimate that the majority will declare or be admitted by the end of their sophomore year.

Table 2: UWB STARS cohort – Major placement and majors of interest

	Aut 24
Completed Program	NA
Placed in Major	NA
Placed in First Choice Major	NA
Continuing	NA
Majors of interest	
Applied Computing	2
Computer Engineering	2
Computer Science and Software Engineering	14
Electrical Engineering	3
Mechanical Engineering	8
Mathematics	1

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

December 2024

Since this is the first year of the UW Bothell's STARS program, we do not have the following information:

- 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 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*