

# Student Learning in the Common Hour

## To what extent are students demonstrating learning as a result of completing Common Hour?

### Learning Outcome

- New students who participate in the Chicago Quarter program will identify university resources and learn relevant strategies to help navigate their transition to DePaul.

### Methodology

- A Qualtrics questionnaire was distributed by email to 2,459 first-year students prior to the start of the 2016 fall quarter and again after the 2016 fall quarter ended.
- Survey results for the “matched sample” of 281 students who completed both the pre- and post-quarter questionnaire were scored to assess student learning.
- Students were considered successful if they demonstrated accurate knowledge on at least 15 items (70%) of the questionnaire.
- The matched sample data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics (i.e., McNemar’s test) providing accuracy rates of individual questions and overall accuracy for both the pre- and post-test.

### Demographics

- Of 2,459 first-year students, 1,017 (41.4%) completed the pre-quarter questionnaire, 787 (32.0%) completed the post-quarter questionnaire and 281 (11.4%) completed both the pre- and post-quarter questionnaire.
- Within the matched sample 196 students (71%) identified as female and 85 (29%) as male.
- Within the matched sample, 186 students (66%) identified as Caucasian and 79 Students of Color (28%).
- Within the matched sample, 157 students (56%) enrolled in Discover Chicago and 124 (44%) enrolled in Explore Chicago.

### Key Findings

- First-year students accurately answered an average of 14.8 of 22 questions in the pre-test demonstrating prior knowledge of Common Hour content.
- First-year students demonstrated gains in learning after Common Hour related to diversity and social justice, academic success, and campus connect functions.
- Common hour lessons associated with gains in learning incorporated pedagogical best practices for teaching and learning including discussion, reflection and in-class activities.

### Plan of Action

- The 2017 Common Hour curriculum was revised in the following ways:
  - » Removed redundant content and built on students’ pre-quarter knowledge.
  - » Prioritized and refined content based on critical content for first-year students during their first quarter.
  - » Incorporated active learning strategies and reflection in every lesson.
  - » Expanded content on metacognition and learning strategies to support students’ academic success beyond the Chicago Quarter.

### Accuracy Rates for Selected Common Hour Segments

