

World Language Degree at **CASSIE institutions\***

Descriptive statistics for graduates from the 2010 and 2011 fall first-time freshman cohorts

3,014 out of a total of 145,012 graduates earned a World Language Degree

2.1%

of graduates from the 2010 and 2011 cohorts earned a World Language Degree

5

TOP WORLD LANGUAGE DEGREES\*\*



- Spanish Language/Literature
- French Language/Literature
- World Language/Literature
- Classics Language/Literature
- German Language/Literature



Students: 60.2% Studied Abroad



Students: 19.1% Studied Abroad

**WORLD LANGUAGE DEGREE**

- High School GPA = 3.70
- SAT Score = 1208
- % Received Need-Based Aid = 35.5%
- % Female = 71.4%
- % Underrepresented minority = 21.1%

**NO WORLD LANGUAGE DEGREE**

- High School GPA = 3.62
- SAT Score = 1175
- % Received Need-Based Aid = 29.3%
- % Female = 56.2%
- % Underrepresented minority = 17.0%

\*Sample restricted to institutions that offer world language degrees.

\*\*Degree names are National Center for Education Statistics program names for the CIP codes submitted by CASSIE institutions.

Underrepresented minorities are defined here as American Indian/Alaskan Native, Black or African American, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

World Language Degree at **CASSIE institutions**  
Descriptive statistics for graduates from the 2010 and 2011 fall first-time freshman cohorts



## WORLD LANGUAGE DEGREE



Degree in 4 years = 68.8% \*(68.6%)



Semesters to Degree = 12.0



GPA at Degree = 3.39



Credit Hours Earned at Degree = 151.3

These descriptive statistics suggest that students who earn a World Language Degree have higher 4-year graduation rates, and higher GPA at graduation compared to Non World Language Degree students.



## NO WORLD LANGUAGE DEGREE



Degree in 4 years = 64.7% \*(56.6%)



Semesters to Degree = 12.1



GPA at Degree = 3.27



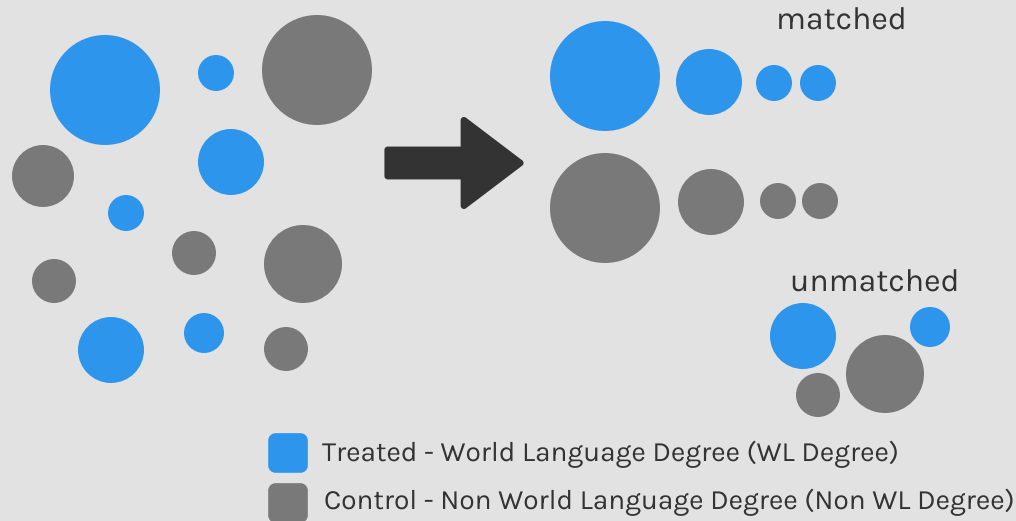
Credit Hours Earned at Degree = 149.3

But because these students also differ in academic preparation, demographic, and socioeconomic characteristics, these descriptive statistics do not reveal the impact of **only** earning a World Language Degree, but **also** the influence of other factors that contribute to student success.

## Matching analysis: What does this statistical analysis mean?

### What does a Matching Analysis do?

Matching takes the existing sample of data where there are pre-existing differences in students who earn a World Language Degree and those who don't (e.g. High School GPA), and creates matches between students with similar characteristics.



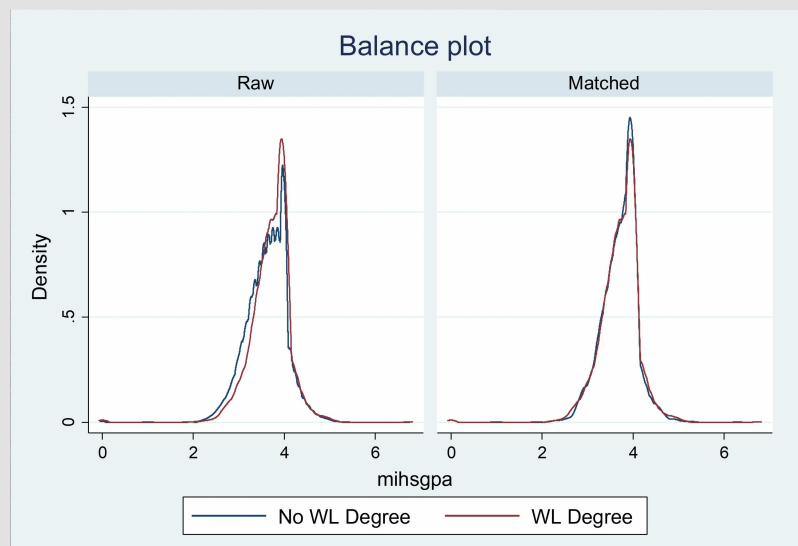
### What do we match on (i.e., control variables)?

1. High School GPA,
2. SAT/ACT Score,
3. Need-Based Aid Receipt,
4. Race/Ethnicity,
5. Gender,
6. Age at matriculation,
7. Full time (or part-time)
8. Number of terms enrolled
9. Multiple major

Matching analysis improves the comparability of treatment and control groups.

Without matching, the outcomes of WL Degree students are compared against those who are Non WL Degree. This ignores other differences that can exist across students.

With matching, students are first matched to each other on the control variables. Then, the outcomes of only matched WL Degree and Non WL Degree students are calculated.



Example: Unmatched data shows a **notable difference** in HS GPA for WL Degree vs. Non WL Degree students.

Example: Once matches are constructed, the HS GPA for WL Degree and Non WL Degree are much **more similar**.

Outcomes: What is the effect of World Language Degree for **CASSIE institutions?**



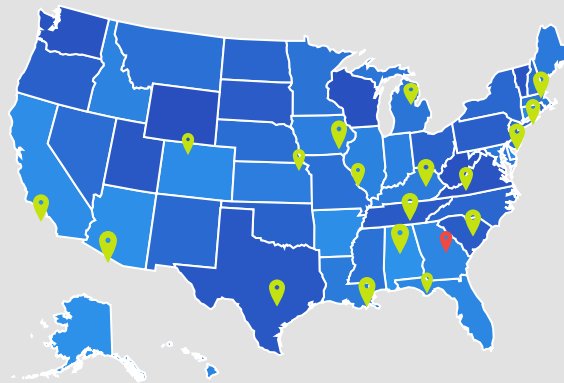
**DEGREE IN  
4 YEARS**  
-3.0pp

Students who earn a World Language Degree are 3.0 percentage points less likely to graduate in 4 years compared with Non WL Degree students.



**SEMESTERS TO  
DEGREE**  
0.10

Students who earn a World Language Degree finish their degree 0.10 semesters, or approximately 2 weeks, slower than Non WL Degree students.



**CREDIT HOURS  
EARNED**  
1.32

Students who earn a World Language Degree earn 1.32 more credit hours upon graduation compared with Non WL Degree students.



**GPA AT DEGREE**  
0.04

Students who earn a World Language Degree earn a 0.04 higher GPA than Non WL Degree students.