



Senior High School Strand Alignment and Its Implication to The Tertiary Programs: A Basis for Bridging Program

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Abstract

Every educational institution seeks to establish and provide the best educational system for every learner. The Philippine education system transitioned from the 10-year basic education to 12-year basic education considering the tracks and strands offered in the senior high school, the counterpart in the tertiary program must be met by the students. This study aims to determine the implication of the senior high school strand alignment to the tertiary program and to develop a program that will bridge the student's adjustment and readiness and the program difficulties encountered by the students. Using descriptive-correlational research design with mixed method approach, this study utilizes survey questionnaire to gather numerical data and interview guide to gather qualitative data. With 364 population, the sample size totaled 184 due to conflict of interest, availability of the student, and the problem in the internet connection. The result shows that the senior high school strand has a statistically significant association on the academic performance of the student. Further, the result also shows that the adjustment and readiness of the students has no statistically significant association on the academic grades of the students. The program, PAGESABOT: Bridging the Gap in the Academic and Social Aspect of the First Year Students, was proposed to bridge the implications found in the study.

Keywords: *aligned program, bridging program, misaligned program, program difficulties, strand alignment*

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Introduction

Every educational institution seeks to establish and provide the best educational system for every learner; hence, Republic Act Number 10533, known as the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, was implemented with the aim and purpose of bridging the gap and strengthening the educational system used in the Philippines by remodelling the whole system from the accustomed 10-year basic education to a 12-year basic education. Considering the various tracks and strands that need to be taken as part of the implementation of the new educational system, as stipulated in Section 5 of Republic Act Number 10533 and as stated in DepEd Order No. 021, s. 2019, the educational institutions of basic education and higher education, with their respective governing bodies, must devise a comprehensive curriculum for the transition from basic to tertiary education that ensures the preparedness of the students in the higher education programs and produces valuable and responsible citizens equipped with competent skills and working ethics (DepEd, 2019).

As revealed in the study of Quintos and Caballes (2020), the strand mismatch in the tertiary programs ranges from 31% to 39%, which implies a high percentage of strand misalignment in the tertiary programs from the two consecutive school years from 2017 to 2019. Moreover, the study of Benosa and Palaog (2023) revealed a high percentage of academic deficiencies among the students whose strand is not related to the program they are currently enrolled in, of which 42% are from the IT strand and 23% are from the non-IT strand. The study of Palabrica and Ferolino (2023) concluded that many of the graduates of the selected educational institution in Sorsogon City in the Philippines chose to take unrelated programs to their senior high school strand, considering various factors in selecting their career path.

The strand alignment in an education institution is inevitable; the only concern now is how a higher education institution will address the possible implications of the programs taken by the students. Hence, this study aims to identify the rate of alignment status of the students in a state university in the Philippines, determine the significant association of the senior high school strand, college adjustment and readiness to the academic performance of the students that will discuss the implication of the senior high school strand to the alignment of the tertiary programs, and propose a bridging program that will address the gap on the

program difficulties encountered by students due to the misalignment of senior high school strand and that of the chosen tertiary programs, which may become a mechanism to tertiary institutions in addressing the difficulties encountered by those misaligned students who are currently enrolled in their respective tertiary programs.

Methodology

Using a descriptive-correlational research design with a mixed method approach that utilizes a survey questionnaire to gather numerical data and interview guide questions to gather qualitative data. From a 364-person sample population, the sample size was reduced to 184 due to conflict of interest, availability of the students and the problem with their internet connection. With the approval of the university administrators and consent of the participants, in line with the Data Privacy Policy, all the gathered data were secured and used only for the sole purpose of discussing the content of the study. Using the SPSS application to make statistical analysis of the numerical data gathered, supported by the integrated qualitative data gathered through interviews of the particular samples, research methods, research designs and research ethics.

Findings

The result shows that most of the senior high school strands taken by the respondents are from the academic track, which mainly includes Accounting, Business, and Management (ABM), Humanities and Social Science (HUMSS) and Technical Vocational Livelihood track. Most of the respondents are currently taking the programs BS Information Technology, BS Entrepreneurship, and Bachelor in Physical Education, mostly having a general weighted average for the 1st semester of the academic year 2022-2023 ranging from 1.50 to 1.74.

The results also reveal that the need to adapt academically, socially, personal-emotional and institutional attachment gathers favorable response with a total mean of 2.61, which indicates that the first- and second-year level students were adjusted and ready to take the program and to enter the college life.

The result also shows that there is a high percentage of mismatch on the senior high school strand and the tertiary programs taken by the first- and second year students (64.67%), which indicates that most of the students are having a hard time on the program. The results

further show a strong statistically significant association on the senior high school strand and the students' academic performances but there is no statistically significant relationship on the student's adjustment and readiness on the academic performance.

From the findings of the study, a bridging program entitled "PAGSABOT: Bridging the Gap in the Academic and Social Aspects of the First-Year students" was proposed to address the gap on the college adjustment and readiness of the students and to address the difficulties encountered by the students and prepare the first-year students on the reality of the program they are going to take.

Conclusion

This study concluded that there is a high percentage of mismatch on the senior high school strand and the tertiary programs taken by the first- and second year students. Moreover, the null hypothesis of the study was rejected indicating a strong statistically significant association on the senior high school strand and the students' academic performances. However, the second null hypothesis was accepted as it indicates no statistically significant relationship on the student's adjustment and readiness on the academic performance while there still a strong association on the student's adjustment and readiness in college and the academic performance of the students.

The study recommends the bridging program, "PAGSABOT: Bridging the Gap in the Academic and Social Aspect of the First Year Students", for the betterment on the student's performance and to address the gaps found out on the study. Moreover, the institution must create a committee focusing on the implementation of the program on coordination to the involved person on the program.

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