



Annual Report

Fall 2023

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Program Description

The Bridge to Independence Program is located at the regional institution of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. The Bridge program offers a 2-year program (Certificate) for students identified with Intellectual Disabilities, which focuses on providing students with a college experience while achieving independent living skills, social integration, and job-readiness skills. Additionally, Bridge offers a Diploma program (Degree) for students identified with Autism, ASD, or Asperger's. Students within this program are admitted to the university as traditional students completing degree pathways offered by Nicholls.

As of Fall 2023, Bridge enrolled 68 total students into both programs. 12 students were enrolled in the Certificate Program, which is full enrollment for the program. 56 students were enrolled in the Degree Program.

This Annual Report serves as a summary of demographic information, program/student progress, and a comparison of current Bridge student enrollment to that of current Nicholls State University enrollment. Due to the different nature of the two programs, this report is split into two subsections that correspond to each of the programs. The "Bridge Enrollment %" represents the percentage of students enrolled in the Bridge Program for the Fall 2023 semester, while the "Nicholls Enrollment %" represents the percentage of students enrolled at Nicholls State University for Fall 2023. The Nicholls State University was taken from information published on the Nicholls website entitled "Fast Facts" by the Office of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning. Some charts are purely reports about the program that are not included in Nicholls State University's reported data. Therefore, a direct comparison of Nicholls Enrollment will not be included in such cases.

Certificate Program

Student Characteristics

This section of the data report provides an overview of student characteristics, including demographics based on ethnicity, gender, age, and enrollment by parish. The report aims to assist in understanding the diversity and distribution of students within different categories. The data is representative of the students enrolled in the Certificate program as of Fall 2023.

Demographics (Ethnicity)

Ethnicity	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
White	8	66.67%	4026	64.94%
African American	3	25.00%	1066	17.19%
Hispanic	1	8.33%	392	6.32%
Two or more	—	—	188	3.03%
Alaskan Native/American Indian	—	—	143	2.31%
Asian	—	—	114	1.84%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	—	—	17	0.27%
Unknown	—	—	254	4.10%

Demographics (Gender)

Gender	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
Male	9	75.00%	2218	35.77%
Female	3	25.00%	3982	64.23%

Note: The high discrepancy of gender enrollment between Bridge and Nicholls may be due to rates of diagnosis among gender. The American Psychiatry Association identifies that males are more likely than females to be diagnosed with an intellectual disability¹.

¹ American Psychiatric Association. *What is intellectual disability?*. Psychiatry.org.
<https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/intellectual-disability/what-is-intellectual-disability#:~:text=Intellectual%20disability%20affects%20about%201,be%20diagnosed%20with%20intellectual%20disability.>

Demographics (Age)

Age	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
Under 20	1	8.33%	2738	44.16%
20-24	10	83.33%	2496	40.26%
25-29	1	8.33%	410	6.61%
30-39	—	—	347	5.60%
40-49	—	—	146	2.35%
50 & over	—	—	63	1.02%

Enrollment by Parish

Parish	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
Lafourche	3	25.00%	1467	26.05%
Ascension	3	25.00%	207	3.68%
Iberville	2	16.67%	—	—
Lafayette	1	8.33%	—	—
Orleans	1	8.33%	84	1.49%
East Baton Rouge	2	16.67%	88	1.56%

Academics

This section of the data report provides insights into the academic aspects of the bridge program. This information serves as a valuable resource for academic planning and resource allocation, ensuring that the Certificate program aligns with the goals of Certified Transition Programs and the University. The data is representative of the students enrolled in the Certificate program as of Fall 2023.

Inclusive Vs. Non-Inclusive Courses

Type of Class	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %
Inclusive	12	100%
Non-inclusive	0	0%

Audit (Non-Credit) vs. Credit Courses

Type of Class	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %
Audit (non-credit)	12	100%
Credit Courses	0	0%

Financial Aid Types

The financial aid distribution among bridge program students is a crucial aspect of understanding the support mechanisms in place for their academic journey. The following summarizes the types of financial aid received by enrolled students. Students within the Certificate Program only qualify for two types of financial aid. Pell Grant and funding from Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. The data is representative of the students enrolled in the Certificate program as of Fall 2023.

Financial Aid Received	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %
Pell Grant	7	58.33%
Louisiana Rehab. Services*	8	66.67%
None	3	25%

*Note: Louisiana Rehabilitation Services serves as a vocational rehabilitation organization within the state. This data additionally notes the number of students who receive vocational rehabilitation.

Housing

As a registered CTP Program, one goal is for students to acquire independent living skills, which can be further developed by living on-campus in campus housing. While on-campus living is not a requirement, it is highly encouraged for program students. Due to the proximity to campus, some families choose to have students remain off-campus. The data is representative of the students enrolled in the Certificate program as of Fall 2023.

Housing Type	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %
On-campus	9	75%
Off-campus	3	25%

Alumni Student/Program Completion

The following data reflects that of our graduate or alumni students from the timeframe of Fall 2016 - Spring 2023. This information is provided to provide insight into the accomplishments of students once they have completed the program and to show alignment with the goals of a CTP program. The information provides insight into the program completion rate, pace of completion, students living independently, and students currently employed. As of the date of the report, 33 students were enrolled in the program for Cohorts 1-6. Cohorts range from 5-6 students per cohort. Cohorts 7 and 8 are currently enrolled in the program and were not included in this section of the report. The next graduation will take place in Spring 2024, and it is anticipated that 6 students (Cohort 7) will complete the program.

Program Completion

Program Completion	Bridge Enrollment	Enrollment % (F16-S23)
Completed	28	84.85%
Incomplete	5	15.15%
Total	33	

Note: From this data provided, it can be deduced that Bridge currently has an 84.95% retention rate.

Pace of Completion

# of semesters to completion	Bridge Enrollment	Enrollment % (F16-S23)
3 semesters	0	0%
4 semesters	28	100%
5 semesters	0	0%

Note: The Certificate program is a 2-year (4 semester) program. This data table represents only those who have completed the program.

Alumni: Housing

Housing Status	Bridge Enrollment	Enrollment % (F16-S23)
With parents/guardian	20	71.43%
Independently	7	25%
Unknown	1	3.57%

Alumni: Employment

Employment Status	Bridge Enrollment	Enrollment % (F16-S23)
Employed	18	64.29%
Not Employed	9	32.14%
Unknown	1	3.57%

Degree Program

Student Characteristics

This section of the data report provides an overview of student characteristics, including demographics based on ethnicity, gender, age, and enrollment by parish. The report aims to assist in understanding the diversity and distribution of students within different categories. The data is representative of the students enrolled in the Degree program as of Fall 2023.

Demographics (Ethnicity)

Ethnicity	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
White	48	85.71%	4026	64.94%
African American	6	10.71%	1066	17.19%
Hispanic	1	1.79%	392	6.32%
Asian	1	1.79%	114	1.84%
Alaskan Native/American Indian	—	—	143	2.31%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	—	—	17	0.27%
Two or more	—	—	188	3.03%
Unknown	—	—	254	4.10%

Demographics (Gender)

Gender	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
Male	48	85.71%	2218	35.77%
Female	8	14.29%	3982	64.23%

Note: The high discrepancy of gender enrollment between Bridge and Nicholls may be due to rates of diagnosis among gender. The American Psychiatric Association identifies that males are more likely than females to be diagnosed with Autism².

² American Psychiatric Association. (n.d.-b). *What is autism spectrum disorder?*. Psychiatry.org. <https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/autism/what-is-autism-spectrum-disorder>

Demographics (Age)

Age	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
Under 20	18	32.14%	2738	44.16%
20-24	34	60.71%	2496	40.26%
25-29	4	7.14%	410	6.61%
30-39	—	—	347	5.60%
40-49	—	—	146	2.35%
50 & over	—	—	63	1.02%

Enrollment by Parish

Parish	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
Terrebonne	4	7.14%	1468	26.07%
Lafourche	8	14.29%	1467	26.05%
St. Mary	2	3.57%	424	7.53%
St. James	1	1.79%	301	5.34%
Jefferson	5	8.92%	241	4.28%
Ascension	4	7.14%	207	3.68%
St. Charles	4	7.14%	188	3.34%
Assumption	1	1.79%	175	3.11%
East Baton Rouge	6	10.71%	88	1.56%
Orleans	1	1.79%	84	1.49%
St. Tammany	2	3.57%	83	1.47%
Lafayette	3	5.36%	—	—
Rapides	3	5.36%	—	—
Bossier	1	1.79%	—	—
Livingston	2	3.57%	—	—
St. Martin	1	1.79%	—	—

Plaquemines	1	1.79%	—	—
Calcasieu	1	1.79%	—	—
West Baton Rouge	1	1.79%	—	—
Iberville	1	1.79%	—	—
Grant	1	1.79%	—	—
St. John	1	1.79%	—	—
Iberia	1	1.79%	—	—

Academics

This section of the data report provides insights into the academic aspects of the bridge program. This information serves as a valuable resource for academic planning and resource allocation, ensuring that the Degree program aligns with the goals of the University. The data is representative of the students enrolled in the Degree program as of Fall 2023.

Full vs Part-time

Enrollment Schedule	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
Part-time	5	8.92%	1349	23.95%
Full-time	51	91.07%	4283	76.05%

Degree Pathway Enrollment

Degree College	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %	Nicholls Enrollment	Nicholls Enrollment %
Sciences and Technology	9	16.07%	1264	20.39%
Business Administration	20	35.71%	1098	17.71%
Educational & Behavioral Sciences	5	8.93%	995	16.05%
Nursing	0	0%	851	13.73%
Liberal Arts	22	39.29%	936	15.10%
Chef John Folse Culinary	0	0%	199	13.82%

Academic standings

Standing type	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %
Good Standing	52	92.89%
Academic Probation	4	7.14%
Academic Suspension	0	0%

Financial Aid Types

The financial aid distribution among bridge program students is a crucial aspect of understanding the support mechanisms in place for their academic journey. The data is representative of the students enrolled in the Degree program as of Fall 2023. The following summarizes the types of financial aid received by enrolled students:

Financial Aid Received	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %
Pell Grant	26	46.42%
Louisiana Rehab. Services	33	58.93%
TOPS	17	30.36%
Go Grant	16	28.57%
Scholarships	4	7.14%
Loans	22	39.29%
Other	14	25%
None	7	12.5%

*Note: Louisiana Rehabilitation Services serves as a vocational rehabilitation organization within the state. This data additionally notes the number of students who receive vocational rehabilitation.

Housing

One goal set in place by Bridge is for students to acquire independent living skills, which can be further developed by living on-campus in campus housing. While on-campus living is not a requirement, it is highly encouraged for program students. Due to the proximity to campus, some families choose to have students remain off-campus. The data is representative of the students enrolled in the Degree program as of Fall 2023.

Housing Type	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %
On-campus	47	83.93%
Off-campus	9	16.07%

Alumni Student/Program Completion

The following data reflects that of our graduate or alumni students from the timeframe of Fall 2016 - Fall 2023, unless otherwise noted. This information is provided to provide insight into the accomplishments of students once they have completed the program and to show alignment with the university or Bridge's goals. The information provides insight into the program completion rate, pace of completion, students living independently, and students currently employed.

Graduation and Continuance Rate

Completion Status	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Enrollment %
Graduated Students	15	14.56%
Graduated from university, No longer enrolled in Bridge	4	3.88%
Continuing Students, Enrolled in Bridge	50	48.54%
Continuing Students, No longer enrolled in Bridge	6	5.83%
No longer at Bridge and the University	28	27.18%

*Note: Students identified as “continuing students, no longer enrolled in Bridge” and “graduated from university, no longer enrolled in Bridge” are students who were apart of the Bridge Degree program at some point in their academic career. These students were included because they identified as being independent enough to continue without the services of Bridge, which is one of our ultimate goals: independence.

Pace of Completion

# of Semesters	# of Bridge Student	Bridge Enrollment %
5-6	1	6.67%
7-8 semesters	5	33.3%
9-10	6	40%
11-12	3	20%
13 or more	—	0%

Note: Some students started at Nicholls or other universities/colleges before enrolling in the Bridge Degree program. The above data represents the semesters to completion for the time that students were enrolled in the Bridge program.

Graduate: Housing

Housing Status	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Graduate %
With parents/guardian	6	40%
independently	1	6.67%
Unknown	8	53.33%

Graduate: Employment

Employment Status	Bridge Enrollment	Bridge Graduate %
Employed (part/full time)	4	26.67%
Not Employed	3	20%
Unknown	8	53.33%

Graduate Major Completed

Major	# of Bridge Graduates	Bridge Graduate %
Sciences and Technology	3	20%
Business Administration	2	13.33%
Educational & Behavioral Sciences	1	6.67%
Nursing	—	0%
Liberal Arts	9	60%
Chef John Folse Culinary	—	0%

Graduate Degree Type Earned

Degree Earned Type	# of Bridge Student	Bridge Graduate %
Associate	3	18.75%
Bachelors	13	81.25%

Note: It should be noted that one student received an Associate's Degree and then re-enrolled and earned a Bachelor's Degree.