Current research projects of: Kathryn R. Fagan, Ph.D.

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Academic Success and Retention in the Freshman and Sophomore Years (SB001)

Co-Researcher Dr. Gary Collins

During the fall of 2006, approximately 100 freshmen volunteered to participate in a two year study; these students were contacted every six weeks and briefly interviewed about their academic goals and their perception of course difficulty. In the fall of 2007, another 200 freshmen began participating in this project. Currently, the research assistants are interviewing these freshmen and the 100 sophomores (who were freshmen last year). This is a mixed design research project (both cross-sectional and longitudinal) and will yield qualitative and quantitative data for analysis.

Reliability and Validity Analysis of the CBU Teaching Evaluation Instrument (SB009)

The results of the survey that students use to rate the effectiveness of course instruction contributes in some manner to merit pay for faculty. The current instrument has no reliability or validity data to support its use for this particular purpose. So during the spring of 2007, the research center organized a test-retest data collection to evaluate the reliability component of this project. The validity issues will be examined during the spring of 2008.