1046-Z1-1740 M. Leigh Lunsford and Phillip Poplin* (poplinpl@longwood.edu), Department of Mathematics and Computer Sci., Longwood University, 201 High Street, Farmville, VA 23909.

Basic Mathematical Skills and Success in Introductory Level Statistics.

The objective of our study to was determine if there is a relationship between students' basic mathematical skills and their success in introductory level statistics classes at Longwood University. We were also interested in determining if the use of free tutoring available at the Longwood University learning center contributed to student success.

To measure basic mathematical skills, we used a test developed by [1]. Our dataset was collected over the course of two academic years and contains information on over 700 students including their basic skills test score, their final grade in the class, their professor, and whether they received tutoring from the Longwood University learning center. We found a strong association between basic math skills and success in the course, even when controlling for professor. These results are consistent with [1]. We did not find a significant association between use of the free tutoring in the learning center and student success. These results have influenced the way we teach our introductory statistics courses.

1. Johnson, Marianne and Kuennen, Eric "Basic Math Skills and Performance in an Introductory Statistics Course," Journal of Statistics Education Volume 14, Number 2 (2006), www.amstat.org/publications/jse/v14n2/johnson.html (Received September 16, 2008)