Elena A. Cheser* (cheser@hartford.edu), H154, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117. An Ongoing Assessment of the Effectiveness of the Hillyer College Bridge Program in Improving At-Risk First-Year Student Performance. Preliminary report.

The present study is a continuation of an ongoing assessment which follows student performance in math from student entry into the Hiller College of the University of Hartford Summer Bridge Program to the final grade of the first academic semester college math course in Hillyer College. The results of the third consecutive Summer Bridge are presented, including the overall consolidated 3-year view, and impact on the first regular semester. A model developed in 2014 which maps and quantifies the critical path for academic success has been refined to reflect an emphasis on Bridge learning outcomes. Program effectiveness is assessed by: (a) determination of progress made during the Bridge Program as measured by comparing Pre- and Post-Bridge test results; (b) determination of student scores from MyMathLab (MML; math-specific software which is integrated into program and semester curriculum); (c) relationships between Post-Bridge test results and MML scores; (d) relationships between first semester math course grades and Bridge performance. Also, Bridge Program, 2016 students became members of the UHART First-Year Interest Groups (FIG) of the university learning community initiative, with the dual goals of improving learning/integrative thinking and creating community. (Received September 18, 2016)