



## Advancing Analytic Models at El Camino College

*Expanding Insights to Explore Financial Impact on Outcomes*

El Camino College, located in Torrance, California, is a comprehensive community college known for its diverse and dynamic student body, offering a wide range of academic programs and career training opportunities. Established in 1947, the college serves the South Bay area of Los Angeles, providing accessible and affordable education that includes associate degrees, certificate programs, and transfer pathways to four-year universities. With a commitment to student success, El Camino College features robust support services, state-of-the-art facilities, and a vibrant campus life, fostering an inclusive environment where students can achieve their educational and personal goals.

### Bringing Data Governance and Data Use into Practice

Amid leadership changes and shifts in enrollment patterns, El Camino's former Administrator in Charge of Administrative Services (and current chief technology officer) sought to advance the use of data to build capacity for leaders across the institution who have expertise in their respective academic areas and student support. Leadership wanted to improve access to dashboards that users could efficiently operate, allowing all employees to leverage data to support more substantial student outcomes and develop better-informed resource allocation practices.

The institution also wanted to combine financial and student data—demographics, enrollment, and outcomes—into unified visualizations. Financial and student data had been examined independently, but the intersection of those two data profiles was a new opportunity for El Camino.



### Improvement Project

Build Institutional Capacity to Use Data to Inform Decisions



### Toolkit Used

Financial Impact Analysis



### Results

- The NACUBO tool was used in parallel with the institution's data warehouse implementation. A small, very talented team of research, technology, and finance professionals came together at El Camino to leverage existing data analytics infrastructure to strengthen analyses that support financial decision-making.
- Robust, proprietary Power BI dashboards that support visualization of financial data and student data together were developed, informed by the Power BI sample data templates in the toolkit.



**“We are privileged to work at an institution where people are interested in learning and discovering what we are doing, having conversations, and considering how we can be even better at what we are doing on behalf of students. The NACUBO tools have supported our conversations and our work in many ways.”**

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*Loic Audusseau,*  
*Chief Technology Officer*

## **Collaborating and Innovating to Create New Data Visualizations**

The NACUBO Financial Impact Analysis toolkit was used to spark conversation; the resources in this toolkit served as catalysts for conversations and the development of customized templates based on El Camino's data structure and strategic and operational goals. Conversations started with data governance needs, and the NACUBO Student Success Hub resources were used to strengthen shared understanding across the team as to how data might be used to better inform decisions and actions.

The pre-populated Power BI templates and supporting materials in the Financial Impact Analysis toolkit opened the door to substantive conversations about the intersection of academic, student, and financial data. The toolkit's examples of data visualization and data usage accelerated El Camino's efforts to build customized Power BI dashboards that interacted with financial and academic data.

## **Taking the Work from Concept to Action**

El Camino College was able to move quickly and efficiently from conversation to concept to action. The college's team developed initial versions of customized Power BI dashboards, starting with analyzing specific funds to support proof-of-concept.

This focused effort provided a baseline for stakeholders to review and react. It was the foundation needed to expand the dashboards, as institutional leaders used the data to refine their expectations and needs.

## **Sustaining Momentum**

El Camino's Power BI dashboards have been used to strengthen understanding, answer questions, and inform how resources can be leveraged to sustain institutional capacity and improve student outcomes. The dashboards will continue to be refined and will be used in the future to support better data storytelling and strengthen the positive culture at El Camino, which encourages shared governance and collaborative decision-making.