

Research Brief

Sacramento City College

Office of Planning, Research, and
Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE)

Working together

Pursuing Excellence

Inspiring Achievement

Distance Education Course Success Fall 2015

M. Buechner, PRIE Dean, August 2016,

© 2016, Sacramento City College.

All rights reserved.

Research Brief

SCC PRIE Office

Distance Education Course Success Fall 2015

August 2016, M. Buechner, PRIE Office

This report includes data on course success rates for SCC students in face-to-face lecture courses and DE lecture courses. The following definitions are used:

- *A Distance Education (DE) course = a fully online course section or a hybrid course section that delivers 51% or more of the instruction time through the internet.*
- *Successful course completion rates are calculated by dividing the number of A, B, C, and P grades by the total number of grades awarded (A,B,C,P,D,F,NP,I,W), and multiplying the result by 100.*
- *Retention rates are calculated by dividing the number of A,B,C,P,D,F,NP,I grades by the total number of grades awarded (A,B,C,P,D,F,NP,I,W), and multiplying the result by 100.*

Overview: Course success rates for the overall college

Over the past four academic years, course success rates for DE courses have been slightly lower than the overall SCC course success rate.

Course Success by Course Modality	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015
Courses offered 51% or more online	64.2%	64.1%	64.4%	63.9%
SCC overall	66.5%	66.4%	65.7%	66.3%
Data source: PRIE planning data website				

The SCC Distance Education Academic Senate subcommittee reviews data on course success rates by course modality and discusses needed improvements to reduce any gaps. The 2016-17 Distance Education Program Plan reflects that review and discussion.

Course success by course modality and student group - Fall 2015

Key Points:

Some student groups had low course success rates in both modalities in Fall 2015.

For some groups, course success rate lower than 60% for both course modalities:

- African American students
- Hispanic/Latino students
- First-time new students

Some student groups had high course success rates in both modalities in Fall 2015.

For some groups, course success rate higher than 70% for both course modalities:

- Asian students
- Students not receiving a BOGW fee waiver

Some student groups had a gap in course success rate between the two course modalities in Fall 2015.

(Note: “gap” = difference greater than 3 percentage points)

For some groups, face-to-face course success rate more than 3 percentage points higher than DE course success rate:

- Students age 30-39
- White students
- First time new students

For some groups, DE course success rate more than 3 percentage points higher than face-to-face course success rate:

- Pacific Islander students
- Students of unknown gender

DE course = a fully online course section or a hybrid course that delivers 51% or more of the instruction time through the internet.

Successful course completion rates are calculated by dividing the number of A, B, C, and P grades by the total number of grades awarded (A,B,C,P,D,F,NP,I,W), and multiplying the result by 100

Age Group

No student age group had a course success rate of less than 60% or higher than 70% in either modality.

Students under 25 had lower course success rates in both modalities than the older age groups.

DE course success rates were similar to face-to-face rates for most age groups (less than 1 percentage point difference).

The age group with the highest course success rate in DE classes was the 20-29 year old group, followed very closely by the 40+ age group.

The age group with the highest course success rate in face-to-face courses was the 30-39 year old age group. This group had a gap in course success greater than 3 percentage points between the two course modalities.

SCC Course Success by Student Age Group for Face-to-Face Lecture and DE Fall 2015		
PRIE data		
Age group	Modality	<i>Course Success</i>
18 - 20	Face-to-face Lecture	61.6%
	DE	60.5%
21 - 24	Face-to-face Lecture	61.4%
	DE	60.7%
25 - 29	Face-to-face Lecture	65.9%
	DE	65.7%
30 - 39	Face-to-face Lecture	68.5%
	DE	62.9%
40 and Over	Face-to-face Lecture	66.1%
	DE	65.6%

Differences greater than 3 percentage points for a given group are shown in bold.

Success or retention rates less than 60% are shown in red italics.

*An asterisk * indicates N<60.*

Race/Ethnicity

In Fall 2015, course success rates were lower than 60% in both course modalities for African American and Hispanic/Latino.

Course success rates were higher than 70% in both course modalities for Asian students.

Gaps in course success by modality were small for most racial/ethnic groups. However, the gap in course success rate was greater than 3 percentage points for some groups:

- Pacific Islander students and students of unknown race had higher course success rates in DE courses.
- White students had higher course success rates in face-to-face courses.

SCC Course Success by Student Race/Ethnicity for Face-to-Face Lecture and DE Fall 2015 Fall 2015		
PRIE data		
Race/Ethnicity	Modality	Course Success
African American	Face-to-face Lecture	<i>47.9%</i>
	DE	<i>45.6%</i>
Asian	Face-to-face Lecture	70.8%
	DE	73.7%
Filipino	Face-to-face Lecture	69.1%
	DE	69.9%
Hispanic/Latino	Face-to-face Lecture	<i>59.7%</i>
	DE	<i>58.8%</i>
Multi-Race	Face-to-face Lecture	60.5%
	DE	<i>58.4%</i>
Native American	Face-to-face Lecture	<i>45.2%</i>
	DE	*
Other Non-White	Face-to-face Lecture	64.0%
	DE	*
Pacific Islander	Face-to-face Lecture	<i>58.5%</i>
	DE	64.8%
Unknown	Face-to-face Lecture	66.2%
	DE	70.1%
White	Face-to-face Lecture	70.5%
	DE	67.3%

Differences greater than 3 percentage points for a given group are shown in bold.

Success or retention rates less than 60% are shown in red italics.

*An asterisk * indicates N<60.*

Income (BOGW status)

The BOGW is an indicator of low income status. In Fall 2015, the course success rates in both course modalities was lower for students with a BOGW fee waiver than for those without the fee waiver.

Course success rates for face-to-face and DE courses were similar within each group (less than 1 percentage point difference).

SCC Course Success by BOGW status for Face-to-Face Lecture and DE Fall 2015		
PRIE data		
BOGW	Modality	Course Success
No	Face-to-face Lecture	71.1%
	DE	70.3%
Yes	Face-to-face Lecture	60.7%
	DE	60.3%

Differences greater than 3 percentage points for a given group are shown in bold.

Success or retention rates less than 60% are shown in red italics.

*An asterisk * indicates N<60.*

Gender

In Fall 2015, female and male students had similar course success rates in DE courses. Gaps in course success rate between course modalities were small for both male and female students.

Students of unknown gender had a course success rate lower than 60% in face-to-face courses. This group had a higher course success rate in DE courses than in face-to-face courses. This difference was greater than 3 percentage points.

SCC Course Success by Gender for Face-to-Face Lecture and DE Fall 2015		
PRIE data		
Gender	Modality	Course Success
Female	Face-to-face Lecture	64.2%
	DE	62.6%
Male	Face-to-face Lecture	61.9%
	DE	62.6%
Unknown	Face-to-face Lecture	56.8%
	DE	67.5%

Differences greater than 3 percentage points for a given group are shown in bold.

Success or retention rates less than 60% are shown in red italics.

*An asterisk * indicates N<60.*

Enrollment status (First time new student or not)

In Fall 2015, first time new students had course success rates lower than 60% in both face-to-face and DE courses. This difference was greater than 3 percentage points.

First time new students had a lower course success rate in DE courses than in face-to-face courses. This difference was greater than 3 percentage points.

Students who were not first time new students had similar course success rates in both lecture and DE courses.

SCC Course Success by Enrollment Status for Face-to-Face Lecture and DE Fall 2015		
PRIE data		
First-time New Student	Modality	Course Success
No	Lecture	64.6%
	DE	63.6%
Yes	Lecture	<i>57.3%</i>
	DE	<i>51.9%</i>

*Differences greater than 3 percentage points for a given group are shown in bold. Success or retention rates less than 60% are shown in red italics. An asterisk * indicates N<60.*