



Southeast
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Nine Point Eight Series

A deeper dive into SCC data from the Office of Institutional Research

Number 1
Winter 2018

The IR office developed this new series to promote effective use of valid and reliable data for decision-making and planning (strategic objective 9.8). We will have a new release at least once a year.

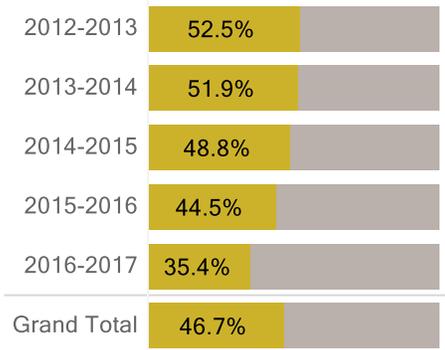
Data Exploration to Inform the Quality Initiative

As part of the Open Pathways option for accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), institutions are required to undertake a major Quality Initiative designed to suit its present concerns or aspirations. In August 2018, SCC will submit a Quality Initiative proposal that will focus on improving student success and outcomes.

In order to inform development of the Quality Initiative, the Institutional Research office conducted a preliminary study about the patterns and outcomes of students who received failing grades as compared to students who never received a failing grade at SCC. In this process, we looked at data from starting cohorts from 2012-13 to 2016-17. Continuing education and dual credit students were excluded. The data consists of 256,831 valid grades (through Fall 2017) from 21,599 unduplicated students. The data excludes sections without a valid grade assigned (e.g., lab sections). Follow-up analyses are planned; this document provides a summary of results to date.

Overall, nearly half of the students in this study (n=10,096; 46.7%) received at least one failing grade during their time at SCC. Students with earlier starting cohorts, who have been enrolled for a longer period of time and have taken and completed more courses, are more likely to have received a failing grade.

Percent of students who received at least one 'F' by starting cohort year and overall



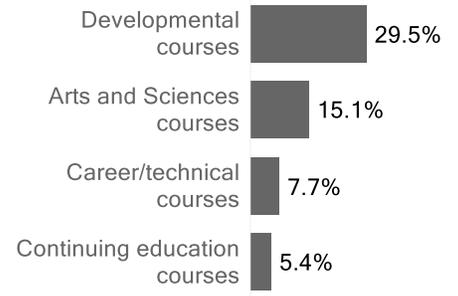
Of the students who received an 'F', more than half received their first 'F' during their first term enrolled.

Term sequence in which students received their first 'F'



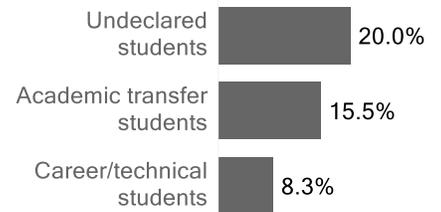
Developmental courses had the highest proportion of failing grades.

Fail rates by course group



Undeclared students received the highest proportion of failing grades and career/technical students the lowest.

Fail rates by student group



What happens when students receive a failing grade in their first term?

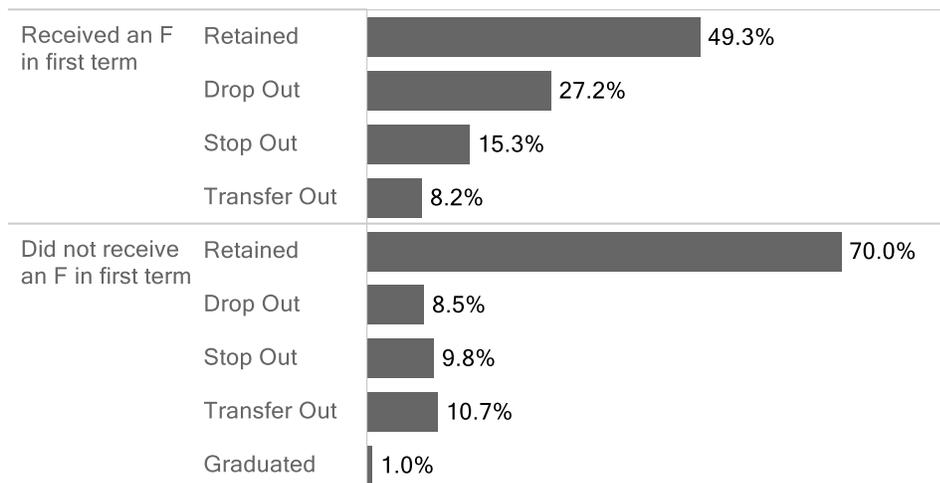
On average, students who failed a course during their first term of attendance were enrolled at SCC for fewer terms (3.1 terms) than those students who did not receive a failing grade during their first term (4.8 terms).

Average number of terms attended



When looking at the graduation/retention status for all students after their first term at SCC, those who received an 'F' during their first term were less likely to continue for a second term compared to those who never received a failing grade (49.3% and 70% respectively) and three times more likely to drop out (27.2% and 8.5% respectively).

Graduation/retention status at end of their first term



The complete report can be found on the IR web site at <https://tinyurl.com/ycgbb4f2>

Students who receive a failing grade are much less likely to earn an award from SCC; the odds are worse if their first 'F' comes in the first term. Among students who received an 'F' in their first term, only 4.0% went on to complete an associate degree and an additional 1.0% completed a certificate or diploma.*

If we focus on students who received a failing grade during their first term, we see that — though their risk of not completing is still very high — career/technical students are more likely to receive an award (10.2%) than either academic transfer (4.7%) and undeclared students (4.3%).*

Highest degree completed at SCC based on when students received an 'F'



Highest degree completed at SCC among students who received an 'F' in their first term by program type



Associate degree Certif./Diploma No degree

* Students with a starting cohort year of 2016-17 have been excluded since not enough time has elapsed for them to complete a program of study.