Saddleback College Course Retention and Completion

Five Year Trends

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S. Dean Crews

Executive Summary

Purpose and Scope

- This report assesses five year trends in the Retention Rate and Completion Rate outcomes comparing Saddleback College to Statewide totals on each.
- The report's objectives are to make policymakers, local college officials, and elected boards aware of system and college performance in specific areas of effort and to inform the public about overall system performance.
- As with all research, certain limitations must be considered. The limitations include the following:
 - The report is based on an analysis of enrollments. The number of enrollments is a duplicated number; that is to say that a single enrollment does not equal one student since each student may enroll in more than one class in a semester.
 - This report is based on an analysis of enrollments in credit classes only.
 Basic Skills and Vocational classes are not considered.
 - The report covers only certain specific outcomes Retention and Completion expressed as rates.
 - The analysis is based on data publicly available on the State Chancellor's office Data Mart.
 - o Short-term trend analysis demands a considered approach.

Key Findings

- The total number of credit enrollments at Saddleback College is declining faster than total enrollments statewide (14% compared to 4% over the period from 2011 to 2015).
- Credit enrollments by Hispanic students have increased from 13,585 in the Fall semester of 2011 to 13,826 in the Fall semester of 2015.
- Credit enrollments in classes taught using internet based simultaneous interaction methods of instruction have increased from 10,613 in the Fall semester of 2011 to 13,526 in the Fall semester of 2015, while enrollments in classes based on traditional non-distance methods of instruction have decreased from 52,088 in the Fall semester of 2011 to 40.077 in the Fall semester of 2015.
- Retention rates at Saddleback College exceed statewide retention rates for all major ethnic groups (African-American, Asian, Hispanic, and White Non-Hispanic).
- Success rates at Saddleback College exceed statewide success rates for all major ethnic groups (African-American, Asian, Hispanic, and White Non-Hispanic).
- Both Retention and Success rates at Saddleback College are increasing.

Introduction

Enrollment Count, Retention Rate, and Completion Rate are each calculated based on the number of enrollments, not the number of students. As such they are duplicated counts/rates. The computations for each are described on the Data Mart website.

Methodology

The Office of Research, Planning and Accreditation (OPRA) examined data publicly available on the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart (data mart). The data mart provides information about students, courses, student services, outcomes, and faculty and staff. The emphasis of the data mart is to answer the questions of administrators, educators, parents, students, state leaders, and professional organizations. Because the data mart is aimed at supplying information to a wide variety of users, the interface and query functions insure the data are easily accessed and processed.

Data for both Fall and Spring semesters over five years was first extracted on a state-wide and college-wide basis for each of the metrics described below. The five-year state-wide data covers either Fall or Spring semesters from 2011 to 2015. The five-year data for Saddleback College covers the same periods.

Data was exported to SPSS or Excel in order to facilitate analysis and reporting of results.

Disaggregation by gender, ethnicity, or type of instruction was only undertaken in those cases where such disaggregation did not produce only a minimal number of enrollments in a particular cell.

Charts were prepared to visually present the data to enhance understandability using the charting features of Microsoft Excel. As appropriate, linear trendlines were added to graphs and charts using the trendline function in Microsoft Excel.

Enrollment Count. Enrollment count is the number of enrollments that result in a grade of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I*, IPP, INP, FW, W, or DR.

Retention Count. Retention count is the number of enrollments that result in a grade of A, B, C, D, F, P, NP, I*, IPP, INP, or FW. In practical terms retention count represents all enrollments that result is a grade other than W (Withdrew after the last day to drop) or DR (Drop on or after census date and before the withdrawal period).

Success Count. Success count is the number of enrollments that result in a grade of A, B, C, P, IA, IB, IC, or IPP. In practical terms success count represents all enrollments that result in successfully completing the course.

Retention Rate. Retention rate is calculated using the following formula.

$$Retention \ Rate = \frac{Retention \ Count}{Enrollment \ Count} \times 100$$

Success Rate. Success rate is calculated using the following formula.

$$Success\ Rate = \frac{Success\ Count}{Enrollment\ Count} \times 100$$

Purpose

The report's objectives are to make policymakers, local college officials, and elected boards aware of system and college performance in specific areas of effort and to inform the public about overall system performance.

Limitations

This report is based on an analysis of enrollments. The number of enrollments is a duplicated number; that is to say that a single enrollment does not equal one student since each student may enroll in more than one class in a semester.

This report is based on an analysis of enrollments in credit classes only. Basic Skills and Vocational classes are not considered.

The report covers only certain specific outcomes – Retention and Completion expressed as rates.

The analysis is based on data publicly available on the State Chancellor's office Data Mart.

Judgments about institutional performance should not be based on the outcomes computed from a single semester or even a single year. Following the suggestions of Bahr, Hom, & Perry (2005) that cohort analyses should be based on at least three similar cohorts, this analysis considers trends over five years using data from Spring and Fall semesters. Five year trend analysis reduces the probability of identifying a college as "low performing" based on random variation in the data from year over year comparisons.















































