# San Diego Mesa College Notes Regarding Performance in 4-, 5-, 6-, 8-, and 16-Week Courses

Students may take short-term courses for any number of reasons: to brush up on a subject or take a refresher course, to hone in on one subject intensely, for the sake of scheduling and convenience, to shorten length of time-to-degree, or to complement the primary term courseload. One important consideration is that some subject matters are more conducive to the short-term format than others. For instance, Basic Skills and weighty science subjects with labs are seldom offered as short-term courses, while language or technical courses lend themselves well to the short-term format.

"Grade Distributions and Success Rates for 4-, 5-, 6-, 8-, and 16-Week Courses: Fall 2003 through Summer 2006" Tables

- Based on enrollments, rather than student headcount, from Fall 2003 through Summer 2006
- Excludes tutoring courses and cases in which the student "Never Attended."
- Includes grade distributions
- Shows success rates, which are calculated as the number of successful grade notations (A, B, C, Credit Received) divided by the total number of valid grade notations (A, B, C, D, F, Credit Received, No Credit, Withdrawal, Incomplete)

Major Findings: Comparing Short-Term Courses and Primary Term Courses

- Short-term courses had a lower withdrawal rate
- Short-term courses had a higher success rate
- District Institutional Research & Planning submitted a Study of Non-Primary Term Courses to the Chancellor's Cabinet on November 7, 2006. This study similarly found that in the San Diego Community College District non-primary term courses, which in this case were defined as non-16-week courses and may have included 18- and 20-week courses as well, had a much lower withdrawal rate and a higher success rate compared to primary term courses.

The success rates in the accompanying tables provide a snapshot, from one particular angle, of student performance in 4-, 5-, 6-, 8-, and 16-week courses at San Diego Mesa College. However, in order to get the full picture, we will need to look at multiple measures. Student success in related, higher-level courses that are further along the spectrum of course progression is one possible measure. Also of critical importance is the assessment of student learning outcomes, which will provide a more direct measure of student learning in the short-term classroom.

While some may criticize short-term courses as haste making waste, others assert that short-term courses bear the same integrity and provide an opportunity for more focused study, serving a unique and much-needed purpose. Clearly, there is a niche for short-term courses at San Diego Mesa College. The time and place for short-term courses, however, must be carefully considered, weighing in all of the appropriate factors and keeping the best interest of the students foremost in mind.

		NUMBER OF WEEKS										
F	Fall 2003	4		5		6		8		16		
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	57	31.7%	33	24.1%	3	23.1%	717	25.8%	15,104	24.9%	
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	52	28.9%	33	24.1%	4	30.8%	645	23.2%	11,274	18.6%	
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	11	6.1%	19	13.9%	2	15.4%	367	13.2%	7,901	13.0%	
	CREDIT RECEIVED	0	0.0%	3	2.2%	0	0.0%	8	0.3%	561	0.9%	
	LETTER GRADE D	1	0.6%	6	4.4%	1	7.7%	82	3.0%	2,581	4.3%	
	LETTER GRADE F	9	5.0%	3	2.2%	1	7.7%	187	6.7%	5,025	8.3%	
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	0	0.0%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	194	0.3%	
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	2	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	24	0.9%	343	0.6%	
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.0%	
	WITHDREW	22	12.2%	19	13.9%	0	0.0%	323	11.6%	10,832	17.8%	
	DROPPED	9	5.0%	20	14.6%	2	15.4%	417	15.0%	6,829	11.3%	
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
	REPORT DELAYED	17	9.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.3%	45	0.1%	
	Total	180	100.0%	137	100.0%	13	100.0%	2,778	100.0%	60,692	100.0%	
	SUCCESS RATE	77.9	1%	75.2	!%	81.8	3%	73.8	3%	64.7	%	

		NUMBER OF WEEKS											
Sp	oring 2004	4		5		6		8		10	ô		
			%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%		
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	39	39.0%	24	27.3%	43	62.3%	708	27.1%	15,169	25.2%		
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	29	29.0%	20	22.7%	3	4.3%	568	21.7%	11,333	18.8%		
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	6	6.0%	11	12.5%	0	0.0%	309	11.8%	7,305	12.1%		
	CREDIT RECEIVED	2	2.0%	3	3.4%	0	0.0%	14	0.5%	623	1.0%		
	LETTER GRADE D	1	1.0%	1	1.1%	1	1.4%	72	2.8%	2,476	4.1%		
	LETTER GRADE F	2	2.0%	4	4.5%	5	7.2%	163	6.2%	5,008	8.3%		
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%	202	0.3%		
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	3	3.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	15	0.6%	283	0.5%		
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.0%		
	WITHDREW	15	15.0%	9	10.2%	9	13.0%	429	16.4%	10,221	17.0%		
	DROPPED	3	3.0%	16	18.2%	8	11.6%	315	12.0%	7,404	12.3%		
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%		
	REPORT DELAYED	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	0.7%	154	0.3%		
	Total	100	100.0%	88	100.0%	69	100.0%	2,616	100.0%	60,184	100.0%		
	SUCCESS RATE	78.4	1%	80.0	6%	75.4	1%	70.	1%	65.4	4%		

<sup>\*</sup>DUPLICATED ENROLLMENTS, NOT STUDENT HEADCOUNT

<sup>\*\*</sup>EXCLUDES TUTORING COURSES AND ENROLLMENTS IN WHICH THE STUDENT "NEVER ATTENDED"

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>SUCCESS RATE = GRADES (A, B, C, Credit Recieved) / (A, B, C, Credit Received, No Credit, D, F, Incomplete, Withdrawal)

					NUMBER (	OF WEEKS			
Sur	nmer 2004	4		5	0	6	3	8	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	184	39.0%	2,672	39.2%	114	22.1%	3,678	32.2%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	118	25.0%	1,341	19.7%	122	23.7%	2,108	18.5%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	27	5.7%	748	11.0%	86	16.7%	1,175	10.3%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	4	0.8%	180	2.6%	6	1.2%	240	2.1%
	LETTER GRADE D	6	1.3%	154	2.3%	23	4.5%	298	2.6%
	LETTER GRADE F	20	4.2%	269	3.9%	29	5.6%	580	5.1%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	1	0.2%	42	0.6%	1	0.2%	67	0.6%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	2	0.4%	35	0.5%	3	0.6%	46	0.4%
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	WITHDREW	62	13.1%	743	10.9%	71	13.8%	1,496	13.1%
	DROPPED	44	9.3%	627	9.2%	59	11.5%	1,717	15.1%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	4	0.8%	2	0.0%	1	0.2%	3	0.0%
	Total	472	100.0%	6,813	100.0%	515	100.0%	11,408	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE	78.5	%	79.	9%	72.	1%	74.	3%

				NUMBER OF WEEKS							
F	Fall 2004	4		5		6		8	3	16	3
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	7	11.3%	17	28.8%	18	27.7%	785	26.5%	14,589	24.4%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	12	19.4%	13	22.0%	13	20.0%	626	21.1%	11,419	19.1%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	3	4.8%	4	6.8%	8	12.3%	416	14.0%	7,669	12.8%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	2	3.2%	1	1.7%	2	3.1%	11	0.4%	629	1.1%
	LETTER GRADE D	0	0.0%	3	5.1%	2	3.1%	101	3.4%	2,553	4.3%
	LETTER GRADE F	1	1.6%	1	1.7%	3	4.6%	239	8.1%	5,191	8.7%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	272	0.5%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.5%	37	1.2%	313	0.5%
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
	WITHDREW	27	43.5%	6	10.2%	9	13.8%	415	14.0%	10,134	17.0%
	DROPPED	10	16.1%	14	23.7%	9	13.8%	333	11.2%	6,852	11.5%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	67	0.1%
	Total	62	100.0%	59	100.0%	65	100.0%	2,965	100.0%	59,690	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE	46.2	2%	77.8	3%	73.2	2%	69.	9%	65.0	)%

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup>SUCCESS RATE = GRADES (A, B, C, Credit Recieved) / (A, B, C, Credit Received, No Credit, D, F, Incomplete, Withdrawal)

		NUMBER (	OF WEEKS
Spring 2	005 Intersession	4	1
		Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	1,139	41.8%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	482	17.7%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	229	8.4%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	51	1.9%
	LETTER GRADE D	64	2.4%
	LETTER GRADE F	110	4.0%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	14	0.5%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	10	0.4%
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%
	WITHDREW	336	12.3%
	DROPPED	285	10.5%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	2	0.1%
	Total	2,722	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE	78.	1%

					NUMBER OF WEEKS									
Spring	2005 (Regular)	4		5		6		8		16				
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%			
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	36	28.1%	11	12.0%	3	23.1%	652	26.3%	14,245	24.7%			
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	21	16.4%	15	16.3%	1	7.7%	590	23.8%	10,449	18.1%			
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	4	3.1%	10	10.9%	0	0.0%	276	11.1%	7,174	12.4%			
	CREDIT RECEIVED	11	8.6%	13	14.1%	1	7.7%	19	0.8%	622	1.1%			
	LETTER GRADE D	1	0.8%	3	3.3%	0	0.0%	67	2.7%	2,346	4.1%			
	LETTER GRADE F	4	3.1%	2	2.2%	2	15.4%	157	6.3%	4,605	8.0%			
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	2	1.6%	2	2.2%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%	222	0.4%			
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	42	1.7%	285	0.5%			
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.0%			
	WITHDREW	20	15.6%	19	20.7%	2	15.4%	334	13.5%	10,322	17.9%			
	DROPPED	28	21.9%	17	18.5%	4	30.8%	332	13.4%	7,288	12.6%			
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%			
	REPORT DELAYED	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	100	0.2%			
	Total	128	100.0%	92	100.0%	13	100.0%	2,476	100.0%	57,660	100.0%			
	SUCCESS RATE	72.0	)%	65.3	3%	55.0	6%	71.	8%	64.6	6%			

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup>SUCCESS RATE = GRADES (A, B, C, Credit Recieved) / (A, B, C, Credit Received, No Credit, D, F, Incomplete, Withdrawal)

					NUMBER (	OF WEEKS			
Sur	mmer 2005	4		5	5	6	3	8	3
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	684	48.4%	1,805	35.5%	121	28.5%	3,458	33.1%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	113	8.0%	1,200	23.6%	141	33.3%	1,884	18.0%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	46	3.3%	625	12.3%	66	15.6%	1,059	10.1%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	102	7.2%	98	1.9%	6	1.4%	160	1.5%
	LETTER GRADE D	11	0.8%	108	2.1%	14	3.3%	301	2.9%
	LETTER GRADE F	57	4.0%	194	3.8%	9	2.1%	539	5.2%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	37	2.6%	4	0.1%	0	0.0%	69	0.7%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	3	0.2%	20	0.4%	1	0.2%	47	0.5%
	INCOMPLETE WITH	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
	WITHDREW	206	14.6%	430	8.5%	31	7.3%	1,457	14.0%
	DROPPED	153	10.8%	541	10.6%	35	8.3%	1,463	14.0%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	2	0.1%	62	1.2%	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
	Total	1,414	100.0%	5,088	100.0%	424	100.0%	10,441	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE			83.	1%	85.	9%	73.	1%

						NUMBER C	F WEEKS				
F	all 2005	4		5		6	;	3	3	16	3
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	26	36.6%	119	44.6%	10	21.7%	779	27.9%	13,338	23.7%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	22	31.0%	62	23.2%	13	28.3%	624	22.4%	10,528	18.7%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	4	5.6%	15	5.6%	6	13.0%	303	10.9%	7,205	12.8%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	0	0.0%	5	1.9%	7	15.2%	21	0.8%	552	1.0%
	LETTER GRADE D	1	1.4%	4	1.5%	1	2.2%	65	2.3%	2,471	4.4%
	LETTER GRADE F	2	2.8%	14	5.2%	0	0.0%	198	7.1%	4,887	8.7%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	2.2%	7	0.3%	199	0.4%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	37	1.3%	284	0.5%
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	0.0%
	WITHDREW	2	2.8%	15	5.6%	3	6.5%	409	14.7%	9,741	17.3%
	DROPPED	14	19.7%	32	12.0%	5	10.9%	342	12.3%	6,998	12.4%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%	45	0.1%
	Total	71	100.0%	267	100.0%	46	100.0%	2,790	100.0%	56,255	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE	91.2	2%	85.5	5%	87.8	3%	70.	7%	64.3	3%

<sup>\*</sup>DUPLICATED ENROLLMENTS, NOT STUDENT HEADCOUNT

<sup>\*\*</sup>EXCLUDES TUTORING COURSES AND ENROLLMENTS IN WHICH THE STUDENT "NEVER ATTENDED"

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>SUCCESS RATE = GRADES (A, B, C, Credit Recieved) / (A, B, C, Credit Received, No Credit, D, F, Incomplete, Withdrawal)

		NUMBER (	OF WEEKS
Spring 2	006 Intersession		5
		Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	1,422	35.4%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	747	18.6%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	399	9.9%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	62	1.5%
	LETTER GRADE D	121	3.0%
	LETTER GRADE F	183	4.6%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	19	0.5%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	8	0.2%
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%
	WITHDREW	492	12.3%
	DROPPED	558	13.9%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	5	0.1%
	Total	4,016	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE	76.	2%

						NUMBER C	F WEEKS				
Spring	2006 (Regular)	4		5	<u>;</u>	6		8	3	16	6
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	41	32.5%	114	36.5%	32	43.8%	698	21.7%	12,515	23.2%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	19	15.1%	57	18.3%	4	5.5%	628	19.5%	9,683	18.0%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	4	3.2%	21	6.7%	13	17.8%	370	11.5%	6,602	12.3%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	28	22.2%	9	2.9%	0	0.0%	12	0.4%	583	1.1%
	LETTER GRADE D	0	0.0%	4	1.3%	0	0.0%	103	3.2%	2,072	3.8%
	LETTER GRADE F	1	0.8%	29	9.3%	5	6.8%	289	9.0%	4,772	8.9%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	2	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	213	0.4%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	16	0.5%	266	0.5%
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	2	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	3	0.0%
	WITHDREW	7	5.6%	25	8.0%	6	8.2%	511	15.9%	9,345	17.4%
	DROPPED	22	17.5%	53	17.0%	13	17.8%	539	16.7%	6,824	12.7%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	51	1.6%	962	1.8%
	Total	126	100.0%	312	100.0%	73	100.0%	3,221	100.0%	53,840	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE	88.5	5%	77.	6%	81.7	7%	64.	9%	63.8	3%

<sup>\*</sup>DUPLICATED ENROLLMENTS, NOT STUDENT HEADCOUNT

<sup>\*\*</sup>EXCLUDES TUTORING COURSES AND ENROLLMENTS IN WHICH THE STUDENT "NEVER ATTENDED"

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>SUCCESS RATE = GRADES (A, B, C, Credit Recieved) / (A, B, C, Credit Received, No Credit, D, F, Incomplete, Withdrawal)

		NUMBER (	OF WEEKS
Early S	Summer 2006	4	1
		Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	376	38.4%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	151	15.4%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	82	8.4%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	22	2.2%
	LETTER GRADE D	30	3.1%
	LETTER GRADE F	71	7.3%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	37	3.8%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	3	0.3%
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%
	WITHDREW	126	12.9%
	DROPPED	78	8.0%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	3	0.3%
	Total	979	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE	70.	3%

					NUMBER (	OF WEEKS			
Summer	2006 (Regular )	4		5	5	6		8	3
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
LETTER GRADE	LETTER GRADE A	774	46.5%	1,501	33.1%	138	27.5%	2,888	30.5%
RECEIVED IN	LETTER GRADE B	161	9.7%	939	20.7%	105	20.9%	1,902	20.1%
COURSE	LETTER GRADE C	64	3.8%	590	13.0%	81	16.1%	1,025	10.8%
	CREDIT RECEIVED	84	5.0%	118	2.6%	7	1.4%	144	1.5%
	LETTER GRADE D	18	1.1%	153	3.4%	25	5.0%	295	3.1%
	LETTER GRADE F	53	3.2%	230	5.1%	32	6.4%	573	6.0%
	NO CREDIT RECEIVED	11	0.7%	43	0.9%	1	0.2%	57	0.6%
	INCOMPLETE GIVEN	2	0.1%	25	0.6%	1	0.2%	39	0.4%
	INCOMPLETE WITH DEFAULT GRADE	0	0.0%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%	2	0.0%
	WITHDREW	248	14.9%	405	8.9%	47	9.4%	1,265	13.4%
	DROPPED	169	10.2%	493	10.9%	65	12.9%	1,255	13.2%
	IN PROGRESS	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	REPORT DELAYED	81	4.9%	35	0.8%	0	0.0%	28	0.3%
	Total	1,665	100.0%	4,535	100.0%	502	100.0%	9,473	100.0%
	SUCCESS RATE	76.5	5%	78.	6%	75.	7%	72.8%	

<sup>\*</sup>DUPLICATED ENROLLMENTS, NOT STUDENT HEADCOUNT

<sup>\*\*</sup>EXCLUDES TUTORING COURSES AND ENROLLMENTS IN WHICH THE STUDENT "NEVER ATTENDED"

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>SUCCESS RATE = GRADES (A, B, C, Credit Recieved) / (A, B, C, Credit Received, No Credit, D, F, Incomplete, Withdrawal)