Developmental Education and Gateway Course Success Overview

The Florida Department of Education’s PK-20 Education Informational Portal (commonly referred to as EdStats1) provides data on the success rates of students enrolled in developmental education and gateway courses. Data are provided for each course enrollment over a two-year period (2014-15 and 2015-16). Success rates (students earning a C or better) for both developmental education and gateway courses have increased over the past two years.

Developmental Education

From 2014-15 to 2015-16, course success rates improved, with the overall percent of students earning a C or higher increasing from 59 to 64 percent. In 2015-16, the colleges with the highest percent of passing rates were Indian River State College (75%), Daytona State College (73%), and Northwest Florida State College (72%), and Seminole State College of Florida (71%).

Increases in course success rates occurred in all subject areas. In 2015-16, reading had the highest success rate (74%), followed by writing (73%), and mathematics (59%). The most successful developmental education strategy was not consistent across subject areas. In 2015-16, co-requisite was the most successful strategy in mathematics courses (72%), while compression and modularized tied for the most effective in reading (75%), and contextualized was the most successful in writing (76%).

Gateway Courses

Gateway courses are the first courses that provides transferable, college-level credit allowing a student to progress in his or her program of study. English Composition Level I is required for all pathways while the required math course is dependent on the student’s meta-major pathway. From 2014-15 to 2015-16, course success rates improved, with the percent of students earning a C or higher increasing from 68 to 69 percent. In 2015-16, the colleges with the highest passing rates were South Florida State College (80%), Chipola College (78%), and Florida Gateway College and Pensacola State College (both with 77%).

Passing rates for English Composition I increased two percentage points (from 71 to 73%), while rates in each of the four math gateway courses either stayed the same or increased one percentage point. In 2015-16, the most successful math course was Liberal Arts Mathematics II (74%), followed by Elementary Statistics (71%), Liberal Arts Mathematics I (70%), and College Algebra (63%).

1 https://edstats.fldoe.org