



How Well Are Our Students Performing In Their Classes?

July 2022

Is there an optimal success rate that we as higher educational institutions should aim for in each classroom? Is there an acceptable number of students that should be “allowed” to withdraw from our classes every semester, regardless of personal or even academic performance? The table below displays the success and withdrawal rates by college for the last five fall semesters to instigate conversations among colleagues, especially during this time when enrollment is a challenge and funding is based on outcomes.

Rancho Santiago Community College District Success and Withdrawals Rates by College Fall 2017 - Fall 2021

		Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021
SAC	Enrollment	56,700	57,437	57,448	46,675	48,617
	% Success	71.4%	73.7%	72.3%	72.0%	72.0%
	% Withdrawal	15.2%	14.4%	15.5%	17.2%	16.9%
SCC	Enrollment	27,213	26,651	27,072	21,769	21,027
	% Success	68.3%	70.7%	70.5%	69.1%	69.7%
	% Withdrawal	16.7%	16.2%	15.6%	19.5%	19.4%

Source: RSCCD Research Data Warehouse

Santa Ana College

- Success (grades of **A, B, C, Pass**) rates have fluctuated from a low of 71.4% in fall 2017 to a high of 73.7% in fall 2018 and have since remained steady for the past three fall semesters at about 72%.
- Santa Ana College’s withdrawal (grades of **Excused Withdrawal, Incomplete, Military Withdrawal, Withdrawal**) rates varied from 14.4% to a high of 17.2% in fall 2020. It has slightly recovered to 16.9% in fall 2021.

Santiago Canyon College

- Santiago Canyon College’s success rates are slightly lower than SAC’s. It ranges from a low of 68.3% in fall 2017 to a high of 70.7% in fall 2018 and remained steady at about 70% since.
- Withdrawal rates for SCC range from 15.6% to 19.5%. SCC experienced the largest increase in withdrawals between fall 2019 (15.6%) and fall 2020 (19.5%) and maintained that same rate the following fall 2021 semester.

What strategies have we implemented to retain students and ensure they successfully complete their program of study at Santa Ana College and Santiago Canyon College, as well as establishing the foundation needed to continue their educational pathway?