

Repeated Course Enrollment – Fall 2012 Through Spring 2015

Repeated enrollment in courses due to previous failure or to improve a substandard grade has a substantial impact on student success, increasing time to degree, and either limiting the availability of seats for other students or requiring the institution to offer more seats, which negatively impacts the budget. This report, in conjunction with our recent reports on [high failure rate courses](#) and [course attrition](#), provides information that can guide planning to improve course retention, success and completion.

Methodology

For this study we examined the number of enrollments in all non-repeatable courses offered between Fall 2012 and Spring 2015. In summer 2012 the California Community Colleges Board of Governors adopted regulations that limited the number of times a student could repeat a class to make up for a substandard grade (D, F, NP, W, or FW) to three times. These courses are what we refer to in this study as non-repeatable courses. Repeatable courses—those for which students are allowed to repeat multiple times for credit—were omitted. Most repeatable courses include physical education, performing and visual arts classes, and courses for certificate programs such as automotive technology and court reporting.

Each time a student enrolled in a non-repeatable course for credit more than one time during that 3-year time period (Fall 2012 through Spring 2015) was counted as a repeated enrollment. We looked at enrollment over the 3-year period to ensure that the data were recent enough to inform planning.

This study shows the overall average percent of repeated enrollments for all courses offered and course-level repeats for a selected set of courses, those which were included in our recent analyses of high failure rate courses and course attrition. These are courses with ≥ 70 enrollment for half of the 6 Fall/Spring semesters during the 3-year period. After omitting repeatable courses this resulted in 39 high-enrollment courses. Table 1 shows the course enrollments and repeats for those 39 courses. Table 2 shows data on a subset of all courses for which the percentage of repeat enrollments was exceptionally high. Table 3 shows repeat enrollments for the 14 courses identified as high-failure rate courses in our previous study.

Findings

There were a total of 70,654 enrollments in non-repeatable courses between Fall 2012 and Spring 2015. Of these enrollments, 5.9% were repeated enrollments—that is, a student was taking the course for the second or third time during that time period.

Of the 39 high-enrollment courses (Table 1), 16 courses—including 5 Math, 5 English, and 2 Biology courses—had repeated enrollments higher than the 5.9% average.

The largest percentage of repeated enrollments in high-enrollment courses was in MATH103 (17.9%) and MATH101 (17.8%) and the lowest were NE90 (1.1%) and BEHS103 (1.2%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Repeated Course Enrollments-Courses Averaging >=70 Enrollment (Fall 2012-Spring 2015)

Course	First-Time Course Enrollments	Second-Time Course Enrollments	Third Time or More	Total Course Enrollments	Total repeats	Repeats as % of total enrollments
MATH103	1,557	293	46	1,896	339	17.9
MATH101	838	157	24	1,019	181	17.8
ENGL120	1,282	167	17	1,466	184	12.6
ENGL150	2,153	261	36	2,450	297	12.1
MATH115	1,252	146	16	1,414	162	11.5
BIOL110	1,650	187	15	1,852	202	10.9
ENGL098	720	75	4	799	79	9.9
ENGL151	1,302	120	16	1,438	136	9.5
MATH085	548	51	3	602	54	9.0
MATH095	486	45	1	532	46	8.6
ENGL092	551	47	2	600	49	8.2
BIOL224	403	34	0	437	34	7.8
PHIL110	702	48	4	754	52	6.9
POLS101	544	36	2	582	38	6.5
BIOL110L	1,341	80	10	1,431	90	6.3
CHEM114	630	39	2	671	41	6.1
CIS110	640	36	4	680	40	5.9
BIOL120	605	35	1	641	36	5.6
ECON102	429	25	0	454	25	5.5
SOC110	939	48	5	992	53	5.3
SPCH128	373	18	3	394	21	5.3
ECON101	630	32	3	665	35	5.3
PSY110	1,764	95	1	1,860	96	5.2
BUS112	651	32	1	684	33	4.8
SPCH120	771	33	1	805	34	4.2
PSY114	626	26	0	652	26	4.0
SPCH110	713	27	1	741	28	3.8
SPAN101	956	34	2	992	36	3.6
ANTH101	856	29	2	887	31	3.5
BIOL100	513	17	0	530	17	3.2
HIST117	703	21	0	724	21	2.9
ASTR101	908	27	0	935	27	2.9
BUS101	660	19	0	679	19	2.8
ANTH102	522	12	2	536	14	2.6
PSY112	442	11	0	453	11	2.4
ART130	613	11	0	624	11	1.8
BEHS103	508	6	0	514	6	1.2
NE090	624	7	0	631	7	1.1

Source: COM MIS Files, December 2015.

Table 2 shows the courses with the highest repeated enrollment of all the non-repeatable courses offered (regardless of the total enrollment size). Eight courses—7 of them Math courses and one English course—had 18% to 33% repeated enrollments.

Table 2. Courses With Highest Repeated Enrollment (Fall 2012-Spring 2015)

Course	First-Time Course Enrollments	Second-Time Course Enrollments	Third Time or More	Total Course Enrollments	Total repeats	Repeats as % of total enrollments
MATH103Y	145	60	12	217	72	33.2
MATH101Y	77	33	4	114	37	32.5
MATH095Y	69	29	1	99	30	30.3
MATH101X	157	47	14	218	61	28.0
MATH103X	232	58	8	298	66	22.1
MATH095X	104	26	1	131	27	20.6
ENGL098B	31	6	2	39	8	20.5
MATH109	308	58	10	376	68	18.1

Of the courses identified in our previous study as high failure rate, all but one are non-repeatable. Of the remaining 13, 9 have higher than the 5.9% average of repeated enrollments (Table 3). Courses required for graduation, transfer, and/or several AA/AS degrees-English, Math and Biology-had the highest percentage of repeated enrollment. BEHS103 and CIS101 had much lower than average repeated enrollments.

Table 3. Repeated Course Enrollments-High Failure Rate Courses (Fall 2012-Spring 2015)

Course	First-Time Course Enrollments	Second-Time Course Enrollments	Third Time or More	Total Course Enrollments	Total repeats	Repeats as % of total enrollments
MATH103	1,557	293	46	1,896	339	17.9
MATH101	838	157	24	1,019	181	17.8
ENGL120	1,282	167	17	1,466	184	12.6
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ENGL098	720	75	4	799	79	9.9
MATH095	486	45	1	532	46	8.6
ENGL092	551	47	2	600	49	8.2
PHIL110	702	48	4	754	52	6.9
POLS101	544	36	2	582	38	6.5
CIS110	640	36	4	680	40	5.9
MATH103A	258	14	1	273	15	5.5
CIS101	281	6	1	288	7	2.4
BEHS103	508	6	0	514	6	1.2