

**2015/2016 Full Program Review**  
**Discipline: Distance Education**

**Student Access and Success**

**I. Access** – Based on the enrollment numbers and demographic breakdown for your courses (available through the Data Dashboard), what significant factors or barriers are influencing student **access** to your courses or program? Factors could relate to issues at COM, outside of COM, or to the students' lives.

Common barriers to student success in DE are still largely related to time management and technology issues including lack of computer literacy skills and access to reliable technology devices. These issues are frequently further compounded by course design and accessibility issues.

**II. Student Success** – based on course completion rates and grades in your courses (available on the Data Dashboard), and more importantly, based on you and your colleagues experiences in class, what do faculty in your discipline feel are significant factors or barriers influencing student **success** in your courses or programs?

You could begin with: “Students who don’t succeed often struggle with \_\_\_\_\_,” and then analyze what you think are the reasons behind their difficulties which could range from socio-economic factors to issues more directly related to course work or presentation.

In Fall 2015, the DE course retention average as 84.18% compared to 80.08 in Fall 2014  
The College's overall course retention average for Fall 2015 was 89.21%

In Fall 2015 DE course success average was 64.16% compared to 57.75% in Fall 2014.  
The College's overall course success average for Fall 2015 was 75.79%.

While DE courses improved course success by 6.41%, the success rate still falls 11.63% below that of the College's overall average and 5.85% below a 70% standard benchmark.