



**Quick Fact Summary Number 5
Office of Institutional Effectiveness**

Outcomes Investigation Based on Students Obtaining a D or F at Midterm

April 4, 2018

The purpose of Quick Fact Summaries is to gather and report data so those requesting information may decide LSUE policy. For Number 5, a request was received from the Chancellor during the Direct Reports meeting of March 27, 2018. Specifically, the Chancellor asked about the historical numbers of Ds and Fs at midterm and the final outcome (grade) for each.

First, from Fall 2013 through Fall 2017, there were a total of 81,371 courses taken by LSUE students translating to 185 unique courses offered.¹ Note that Table 1 describes the frequency of course taking for all 10,056 students including students at the Eunice site, online, and all off-site locations.² In addition to the total number of courses taken, Table 1 details the frequency of Ds and Fs at midterm. Overall, there were 7,791 Ds and 9,933 Fs given during the time period studied. This translated to an average of 866 Ds and 1,104 Fs being given at midterm each semester.

Table 1. Number of Ds and Fs at Midterm for the Given Semester.

Term	Number of Courses	Number with Midterm Grade of D	Number with Midterm Grade of F or NC
FA 13	9114	950	1080
FA 14	9289	920	1190
FA 15	8669	842	945
FA 16	9721	838	1185
FA 17	10248	969	1164
SP 14	8433	853	1094
SP 15	8216	683	1100
SP 16	8288	797	972
SP 17	9393	939	1203
Overall	81371	7791	9933
Mean	9041	866	1104

Table 2. Percent of Ds and Fs at Midterm for the Given Semester.³

Term	Number of Courses	Percent with Midterm Grade of D	Percent with Midterm Grade of F or NC ⁴	Total Percent
FA 13	9114	10.4	11.8	22.3
FA 14	9289	9.9	12.8	22.7
FA 15	8669	9.7	10.9	20.6
FA 16	9721	8.6	12.2	20.8
FA 17	10248	9.5	11.4	20.8
SP 14	8433	10.1	13.0	23.1
SP 15	8216	8.3	13.4	21.7
SP 16	8288	9.6	11.7	21.3
SP 17	9393	10.0	12.8	22.8
Mean	9041	9.6	12.2	21.8

¹ Data is by academic year – fall and spring only including both eight week accelerated sessions within the fall and spring semesters. This time period was chosen since Modular Mathematics and MATH 1015 (Applied College Algebra) were both implemented in the Fall 2013 semester.

² The 10,056 students refers to unduplicated headcount.

³ Based on the total number of courses taken (81,371).

⁴ NC is no credit.

Table 2 analyzes the frequencies in Table 1 in terms of percentages so that comparisons can be made. From Fall 2013 through Fall 2017, there were, on average, a total of 9,041 courses taken by all LSUE students with 9.6% of them earning a grade of D at midterm and 12.2% earning a grade of F or NC at midterm for a total of 21.8%. Table 2 also indicates that the range of D, F, and NCs at midterm is between 20.6% in Fall 2015 to a high of 23.7% in Spring 2014. Essentially, nearly one-fourth (21.8%) of the courses taken in any given fall or spring result in a midterm grade of D or F according to Table 1 and Table 2.

Next, Figure 1 breaks out the end of the semester outcomes for the 7,791 Ds and the 9,933 Fs or NCs at midterm from Fall 2013 through Fall 2017. Almost half (3,735 or 48%) of the courses were successfully completed if a D was obtained at midterm (see yellow highlighting). In other words, students obtaining a D at midterm have a 48% chance of successfully completing the course at the end of the semester with an A, B, or C.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the 9,933 instances of F or NC at midterm. As Figure 1 demonstrates, there were 1,894 (19.07%) courses successfully completed at the end of the semester if the student obtained an F or NC at midterm (see green highlighting). In other words, students obtaining an F or NC at midterm have less than a 20% chance of successfully completing the course at the end of the semester.

According to institutional data, the top ten courses with the highest frequency of D, F, and NC at midterm accounting for 7,502 (42%) of all the 17,724 Ds, Fs, and NCs given at midterm are gateway courses such as

- ENGL 0001, 1001, and 1002 at 2,153 (19%) out of 11,238 total
- MATH 0001 and 0002 at 1,581 (27%) out of 5,877 total
- PSYC 2000 and 2070 at 1,110 (28%) out of 3,911 total
- MATH 1015 and MATH 1021 at 1,347 (32%) out of 4,221 total
- BIOL 1001 at 1,311 (42%) out of 3,091 total

It should be noted that in Fall 2017, LSUE implemented a Student Success Center that included tutoring in many of the courses listed above. In addition, LSUE intends on opening a writing center to assist students with ENGL 0001, 1001, and 1002 in Fall 2018.

This Quick Fact Summary provides data on the frequency of Ds, Fs, and NCs at midterm and the outcome at the end of the semester in response to a question posed by the Chancellor. This information will be passed on to Academic Council to assist in their efforts to increase student retention. Policy decisions will be left to the LSUE Administration and Academic Council.

Questions on this Quick Fact Summary may be directed to Dr. Paul Fowler, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation Liaison at pfowler@lsue.edu.

Figure 1. End of the semester outcome based on the frequency of D or F at midterm for Fall 2013 through Fall 2017.

