How do NC Grades Impact Graduation Rates?

Student Academic Pathways Project
Undergraduate Education and Academic Planning, San Francisco State University

Main Findings

Each additional NC received tends to lower the 6-year graduation rate by 4-5 percentage points.

Students receiving 2 or more NCs have much less success graduating within 6 years than those receiving 0 or 1 NC.

Exactly half the cohort that entered SFSU as first-time freshman in 2009 graduated within 6 years. The table on the right can be looked at in two ways (see below).

1. Strong differences exist between those who graduate and those who do not in terms of the number of NCs received.

2. There’s a large difference in the 6-year graduation rates between those who received 0-1 NCs and those who received 2 or more NCs.

The Data

6-Year Graduation Rate vs. Number of NCs Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of NC Grades Received</th>
<th>0-1</th>
<th>2+</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>1,743</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>2,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Graduate</td>
<td>1,502</td>
<td>514</td>
<td>2,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,245</td>
<td>787</td>
<td>4,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above can be looked at in two ways:

- **Graduate**: Among those who graduate, only 13.5% have 2+ NCs; Among those who don’t graduate, 25.5% have 2+ NCs.
- **Don’t Graduate**: Among those with 0-1 NCs, 54% graduate in 6 years; Among those w/ 2+ NCs, only 35% graduate in 6 yrs.

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How might you incorporate these findings into your role as teacher and advisor? Stick your ideas here!