Analysis of D, F, and W Courses and Student Retake Behavior
Questions

1. What percentage of students receive a grade of D, F, or W? Which courses?
2. What percentage of courses are retaken? And to what extent?
3. Which courses are retaken the most by first attempt grade?
4. How do the grades change after retaking a course?
Population

• Analyzed fall 2008 cohort data
  • 6 Academic Years
• Limited the student population to:
  • full-time
  • degree-seeking
  • first-time
• Focused on “DFW” Courses
• Total fall 2008 cohort = 2,944
• Total “DFW” headcount = 2,325 (79%)
Q1: Percentage of **Students** Receiving Grades of D, F, or W and which **Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort 2008</th>
<th>% of Total Cohort</th>
<th>N= 2,944</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total DFW Students</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D first attempt</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F first attempt</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D and/or F first attempt</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W first attempt</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM112</td>
<td>General College Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL161</td>
<td>Academic Writing II: Writing for Inquiry and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM101</td>
<td>Preparatory Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH180</td>
<td>Calculus I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH121</td>
<td>Precalculus Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM114</td>
<td>General College Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM232</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM234</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCH100</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH181</td>
<td>Calculus II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q2: Percentage of Courses Being Retaken and to What Extent

PERCENTAGE OF COURSE RETAKES BY FIRST ATTEMPT GRADE

- FIRST ATTEMPT, D
- FIRST ATTEMPT, F
- FIRST ATTEMPT, W

A World-Class Education, A World-Class City
Q3: Top Retaken Courses when Grade Received on First Attempt: D

D on First Attempt by Course Retake

- CHEM232
- CHEM101
- CHEM112
- CHEM114
- MATH121
- MATH181
- MATH180
- PHYS105
- CHEM234
- MATH210

Legend:
- 1st Retake
- 2nd Retake
- 3rd Retake
- 4th Retake
Q3: Top Retaken Courses when Grade Received on First Attempt: F

F on First Attempt by Course Retake

- MATH180
- ENGL161
- CHEM101
- MATH181
- CHEM232
- CHEM234
- CHEM112
- ENGL160
- MATH220
- CHEM114

1st Retake | 2nd Retake | 3rd Retake | 4th Retake | 5th Retake
Q3: Top Retaken Courses by Grade Received on First Attempt: W

W on First Attempt by Course Retake

- **CHEM234**
- **CHEM114**
- **ENGL161**
- **CHEM232**
- **CHEM112**
- **MATH210**
- **MATH181**
- **ENGL160**
- **PHYS105**
- **MATH180**

Legend:
- 1st Retake
- 2nd Retake
- 3rd Retake
- 4th Retake
- 5th Retake
- 6th Retake
Summary

For the 2008 fall full-time, first-time cohort

1. **What percentage of students receive a grade of D, F, or W? Which courses?**
   - 79% of the students received a grade of D, F, or W during the six academic years
   - Chemistry and math courses have the highest number of D, F, or W grades

2. **What percentage of courses are retaken? And to what extent?**
   - Between 23-29% of courses are retaken with the majority being retaken only once

3. **Which courses are retaken the most by first attempt grade?**
   - The courses being retaken are similar across first attempt grade but when the initial attempt results in a grade of D, the course is less likely to be retaken.

4. **How do the grades change after retaking a course?**
   - Retaking courses produces favorable outcomes with the majority of students receiving a successful grade after retaking a course