

De Anza College Office of Institutional Research and Planning

To: Senior Staff

From: Mallory Newell, De Anza Researcher

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Subject: Analysis of EW and All Other Grades for Spring 2020

In spring 2020, the campus went fully remote due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The college also had recently implemented a policy allowing students to change a failing grade to an excused withdraw (EW) which is used widely as a result of the pandemic. EW grades are considered a non-evaluative symbol according to District Policy AP 4230. This analysis looks at final grades for the spring 2020 term taking into consideration these changes.

Highlights:

- If EW grades are excluded from enrollment data, as suggested by District Policy AP 4230, success rates increased by 12 percentage points from the prior spring term to 91%. When including EW grades, success rates increased 2 percentage points from 79% to 81%.
 - Non success rates decreased 2 percentage points from the prior spring term to 9% and withdraws went from 10% to 0%.
 - It could be expected that students would take an EW grade rather than receive an F or D in the course, however that is not the case, EW grades appear to be replacing W grades, not replacing non passing letter grades. D grades decreased only 1 percentage point and F grades decreased 2 percentage points.
 - At the same time, A (including +/-) grades increased by 8 percentage points from 43% of all grades to 52% all grades.
- The exclusion of EW grades also results in a 13% decrease in enrollment for spring 2020, from 43,581 to 37,900.
- The highest rate of EW grades were awarded in EWRT002, EWRT1A and MATH10, comprising 12% of all EW grades awarded in spring 2020.
- Latinx students are greatly overrepresented in the rate in which they take an EW for a course while Asian students are greatly underrepresented in EW grades awarded and White students are equally represented when compared to their overall population in spring 2020.

Table 1. Overall Success Rates Excluding Excused Withdraws

	Success		Non Success		Withdraw		Total	
	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent
Spring 2018	35,486	78%	5,404	12%	4,762	10%	45,652	100%
Spring 2019	34,227	79%	4,987	11%	4,367	10%	43,581	100%
Spring 2020	34,392	91%	3,483	9%	25	0%	37,900	100%

- When excluding EW grades in the overall success rates, success rates increased by 12 percentage points from the prior spring term to 91%.
- Non success rates decreased 2 percentage points from the prior spring term to 9% and withdraws went from 10% to 0%.
- A further implication of removing EW grades is that total enrollment decreased 13% from 43,581 to 37,900.

Table 2. Overall Success Rates Including Excused Withdraws

	Success		Non Success		Withdraw		EW		Total	
	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent
Spring 2018	35,486	78%	5,404	12%	4,762	10%			45,652	100%
Spring 2019	34,227	79%	4,987	11%	4,367	10%			43,581	100%
Spring 2020	34,392	81%	3,483	8%	25	0%	4,580	11%	42,480	100%

- When including EW grades in the overall success rates, success, non success and withdraw rates remained more stable.
- Success rates increased two percentage points opposed to 12% when excluding EW grades.

Table 3. Success Rates by Modality without EW Grades

		Success		Non Success		Withdraw		Total	
		Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent
Spring 2018	Face to Face	27,101	80%	3,789	11%	3,152	9%	34,042	100%
	Online	7,126	75%	1,198	13%	1,215	13%	9,539	100%
Spring 2019	Face to Face	28,673	82%	3,198	9%	2,931	8%	34,802	100%
	Online	7,841	78%	1,134	11%	1,057	11%	10,032	100%
Spring 2020	Face to Face	25,981	91%	2,595	9%	22	0%	28,598	100%
	Online	8,411	90%	888	10%	3	0%	9,302	100%

When looking at success rates by Face to Face/Hybrid compared to Online, the gap in success rates between the two modalities goes away when excluding the EW grades in spring 2020, when all classes were offered remotely.

Table 4. Success Rates by Modality with EW Grades

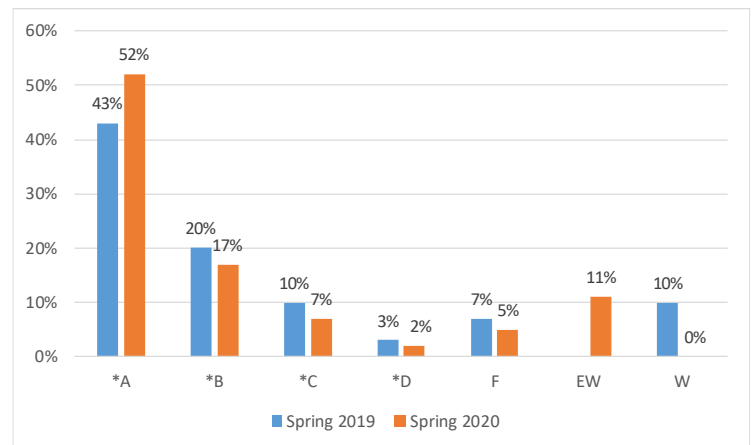
		Success		Non Success		Withdraw		EW		Total	
		Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent
Spring 2018	Face to Face	27,101	80%	3,789	11%	3,152	9%			34,042	100%
	Online	7,126	75%	1,197	13%	1,216	13%			9,539	100%
Spring 2019	Face to Face	28,673	82%	3,198	9%	2,931	8%	215	1%	35,017	100%
	Online	7,841	78%	1,134	11%	1,057	10%	60	1%	10,092	100%
Spring 2020	Face to Face	26,022	81%	2,582	8%	22	0%	3,538	11%	32,164	100%
	Online	8,411	81%	888	9%	3	0%	1,043	10%	10,345	100%

When including EW grades, success rates between Face to Face/Hybrid compared to Online is the same in spring 2020 when all classes were offered remotely.

- Additionally, non success and EW grades were also very similar between courses that were previously scheduled Face to Face or Hybrid and those that were previously scheduled online, indicating that faculty and students are excelling in the remote environment even if the Face to Face modality was their preference had instruction not been fully online.

Table 5. Grades Awarded by Year and Type

	Spring 2018		Spring 2019		Spring 2020	
	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent	Grades	Percent
A+	3,341	7%	3,392	8%	4,752	11%
A	11,866	26%	12,082	28%	14,156	33%
A-	3,171	7%	3,213	7%	3,295	8%
B+	2,424	5%	2,433	6%	2,265	5%
B	5,167	11%	4,662	11%	3,644	9%
B-	1,769	4%	1,652	4%	1,216	3%
C+	1,356	3%	1,198	3%	884	2%
C	3,498	8%	3,312	8%	2,165	5%
P	2,894	6%	2,283	5%	2,056	5%
D+	305	1%	233	1%	135	0%
D	1006	2%	889	2%	520	1%
D-	151	0%	169	0%	98	0%
F	3,352	7%	3,247	7%	2,101	5%
NP	590	1%	349	1%	372	1%
EW					4581	11%
FW					156	0%
W	4,762	10%	4,368	10%	25	0%
I			99	0%	88	0%
Total	45,652	100%	43,581	100%	42,509	100%



Notes: * indicates grades were plus and minus grades were combined.

- In spring 2020, while EW grades comprised 11% of all grades, A grades increased by 8 percentage points from 43% of all grades in spring 2019 to 52% all grades.
 - B and C grades decreased three percentage points each while D grades decreased 1 percentage point and F grades decreased 2 percentage points.

Table 6. EW Grades Awarded by Course

Subject	Course	EW Grades	%	Subject	Course	EW Grades	%	Subject	Course	EW Grades	%	Subject	Course	EW Grades	%
EWRT	D002.	195	4%	MATH	D001B	54	1%	MATH	D114.	37	1%	ARTS	D001A	28	1%
EWRT	D001A	188	4%	CIS	D022B	53	1%	ANTH	D002.	36	1%	ESCI	D001.	27	1%
MATH	D010.	180	4%	CIS	D022A	51	1%	MATH	D012.	35	1%	HUMA	D010.	27	1%
HUMI	D001.	72	2%	HIST	D017C	46	1%	PHYS	D050.	35	1%	PHIL	D004.	27	1%
PHYS	D004A	72	2%	LART	D250.	46	1%	CIS	D022C	34	1%	MUSI	D001A	26	1%
ASTR	D004.	71	2%	ECON	D001.	44	1%	GEO	D001.	34	1%	MATH	D022.	25	1%
COMM	D001.	70	2%	BUS	D010.	41	1%	BIOL	D010.	32	1%	PHYS	D004B	25	1%
MATH	D041.	67	1%	MATH	D001C	41	1%	HIST	D017A	32	1%	CHEM	D025.	23	1%
ACCT	D001A	61	1%	PSYC	D001.	41	1%	ICS	D004.	31	1%	MATH	D001A	23	1%
POLI	D001.	61	1%	BUS	D018.	40	1%	ACCT	D001B	30	1%				
COMM	D010.	58	1%	MATH	D042.	40	1%	ECON	D002.	30	1%				
PHIL	D001.	56	1%	MATH	D043.	40	1%	CIS	D035A	29	1%				

The highest rate of EW grades were awarded in EWRT002, EWRT1A and MATH10, comprising 4% of all EW grades awarded in spring 2020.

Table 7. EW Grades by Ethnicity

	All Students		EW Grades	
	#	%	#	%
African American	597	4%	155	5%
Asian	6,969	42%	1,120	33%
Filipinx	1,049	6%	251	8%
Latinx	4,153	25%	1,059	34%
Native American	64	0%	14	0%
Pacific Islander	119	1%	34	1%
White	2,716	16%	513	16%
Decline to State	912	6%	87	3%
Total	16,579	100%	3,233	100%

In spring 2020, 4,581 EW grades were awarded to 3,233 individual students. When comparing the racial/ethnic distribution of EW grades to the overall student population to determine if any group of students is disproportionately represented:

- Latinx students received the highest rate of EW grades at 34% of all EW grades, 9 percentage points above that of their representation in the total population in spring 2020.
- Asian students who take an EW grade are far lower than their representation in the population, by nine percentage points.
- White students were equally represented in EW grades and their proportion of the population.