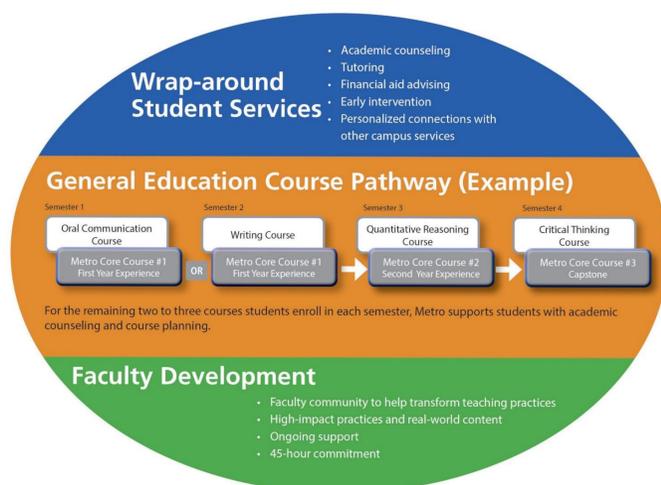


Abstract

Metro is a two-year learning community of two courses each semester that share themes such as social justice, education equity, community health, or ethnic studies. Metro courses satisfy general education requirements for all majors at SF State, so students can complete their bachelor’s degree in any major. Metro students receive wrap-around services including individualized tutoring, academic advising and support. Metro students also develop strong academic skills. They learn to write and speak with confidence and power, master mathematical concepts, and think critically about real-world issues.

Metro is a ‘school within a school’ for the first two years of college for up to 140 students. Each cohort of 70 students co-enrolls in three linked general education classes, called Metro Course Pathways, over four semesters.

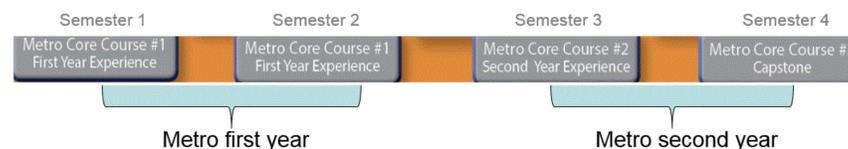


This study explored the impact on persistence and graduation of students’ extent of progress through the Metro Course Pathways. Specifically, we analyzed 5th and 7th term persistence and graduation rates among Metro students.

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Summary

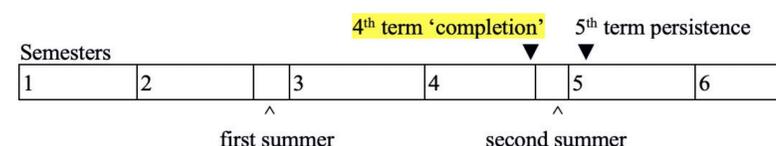


Metro students enroll in three linked general education classes, called Metro Course Pathways, over four semesters:

- First Year Experience Course #1, which can be taken in either the 1st or 2nd semester;
- Second Year Experience Course #2, taken in the 3rd semester; and
- Capstone Course #3, taken in the 4th semester.

This study explored the impact on persistence and graduation of students’ extent of progress through the Metro Course Pathways. Specifically, we compared 5th and 7th term persistence and graduation among Metro students who:

- Completed at least one Metro core course
- Persisted during the first two years at SF State (positive 4th term ‘completion’)

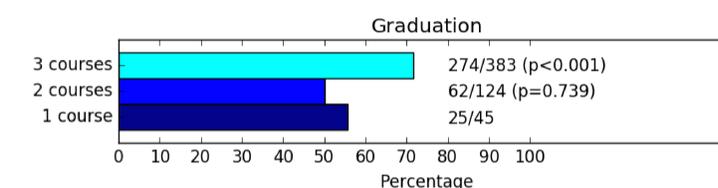
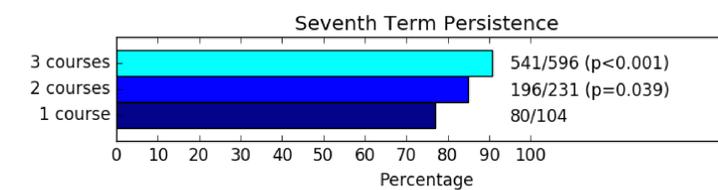
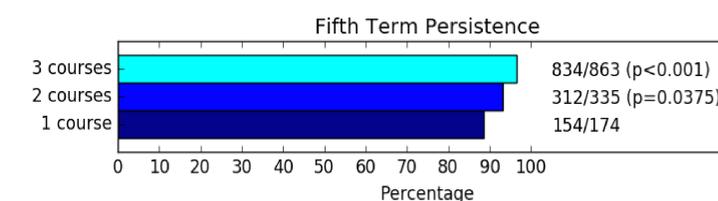


Questions Presented

- How do the persistence and graduation rates compare among the Metro students from these three pools:
 1. Metro students who took the First Year Experience Course and then left Metro while persisting at the university;
 2. Metro students who took the First Year and Second Year Experience Courses and then left Metro while persisting at the university; and
 3. Metro students who completed all three of the Metro Core Courses.

Results

- Persistence percentages are consistently higher and statistically significant for students who took two Metro courses versus those students who only took one.
- Graduation percentages are consistently higher, although not statistically significant, for students who took two Metro courses versus those students who only took one.
- **Persistence and graduation percentages are consistently and significantly higher for students who take all three Metro Core Courses versus those who took only two or one.**
- **The graphs demonstrate that increased Metro participation does lead to consistently higher persistence and graduation rates**



Conclusions

The study revealed statistically significant evidence of the impact of the Metro Course Pathways: students who complete a greater number of the Core Courses, thus receive a greater extent of Metro’s services and participate for a longer time in its long-duration learning community, enjoy higher 5th and 7th term persistence and graduation rates.