

High-Impact, Low-Success Courses: A Data-Driven Analysis for Student Success

Present to IPC

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Course Performance Overview

Defining Our Terms

High-Impact Courses

Courses required for many degrees and certificates, serving as gateways across academic pathways.

Low-Success Courses

Courses with success rates under 65%, indicating possible barriers to student progression.

Goal for Success

Ensuring high-impact courses also have high success rates to support student advancement.

Course Impact and Prioritization

Spotlight on High-Impact Courses

COURSE	TOTAL # OF PROGRAMS (CORE FOR DEGREES + CERTS)	GRAND TOTAL (CORE + GE + SELECTIVE)
CHEM 210	11	17
MATH 251	11	20
STAT C1000	10	26
BUS. 100	14	19
MATH 252	9	14
ECON 100	7	16
PHYS 250	7	15

Identifying the Priority: High-Impact & Low-Success

COURSE	# OF DEGREES	AVERAGE SUCCESS RATE	STATUS
ECON 100	7 (500 enroll)	57%	 High Priority
PHYS 250	7 (122 enroll)	49%	 High Priority
STAT C1000	10 (5000+ enroll)	64%	 Watch List

Closer look: **ECON100, PHYS250, & STATC1000**

ECON100

ECON100 has a moderate 57% success rate and is essential for seven degree programs and is a popular GE choice.

PHYS250

PHYS250 has the lowest success rate at 49%, required across seven programs, and is a vital link in many STEM pathways.

STATC1000

STATC1000 has a moderate 64% success rate and it is essential for 10 degree, and it is frequently THE transfer level math for non-STEM majors

Need for Intervention

Trends suggest targeted support to improve student outcomes in such critical courses will further institutional strides in improving student outcomes.

Strategic Actions

The Ripple Effect of Inaction

Student Financial Impact

Retaking failed courses increases student debt and delays graduation by up to a year.

Loss of Student Momentum

Graduation delays cause students to lose confidence and increase dropout risk significantly.

Equity Gap Exacerbation

Low success rates disproportionately affect underrepresented and first-generation students, widening equity gaps.

Institutional Performance Impact

High-impact, low-success courses reduce completion and transfer success rates affecting institutional sustainability.

Process & Interventions

Strategic interventions

Review course success data annually. Prioritize limited resources and direct towards subjects with greatest potential impact.

Faculty Collaboration

Hire tutors based upon faculty recommendations and student availability.

Ongoing effort to monitor through Early Alert system.

Differentiated Course Support

Embedded when asked for and schedules allow.

Drop-in support in the Learning Center.

Workshops & exam reviews.

Conclusion & Next Steps

Assess and Adjust

Continue turning data into actionable strategies to improve student success and institutional performance.

Targeted Interventions

Connect actions and resources with strategic initiatives and goals.

Continued Faculty Collaboration

Deepen faculty relationships with the Learning Center in order to identify potential tutors and incorporate differentiated support strategies.

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Questions

Stop Here

Executive Summary: The Core Challenge

High-Impact Courses

Courses required for many degrees that affect a large number of students' academic progression.

Low-Success Courses

Courses with a historical success rate below 65%, indicating significant student challenges.

Intersection Opportunity

Courses that are both high-impact and low-success offer the greatest chance for institutional improvement.

Strategic Focus

Targeting these critical courses enables meaningful strides in enhancing student outcomes.

The Big Picture: Overall Course Success

Stable Overall Success Rate

The average success rate of 76% indicates a generally healthy academic environment across tracked courses.

Semester Success Rate Fluctuations

Semester-by-semester data shows small fluctuations, indicating varying student performance between terms.

Importance of Targeted Interventions

Drilling down into individual courses is essential for identifying where students struggle and improving outcomes.