

# Do Short-Term Classes Realize a Student Success Windfall?

4/30/20

College Council

Bakersfield College

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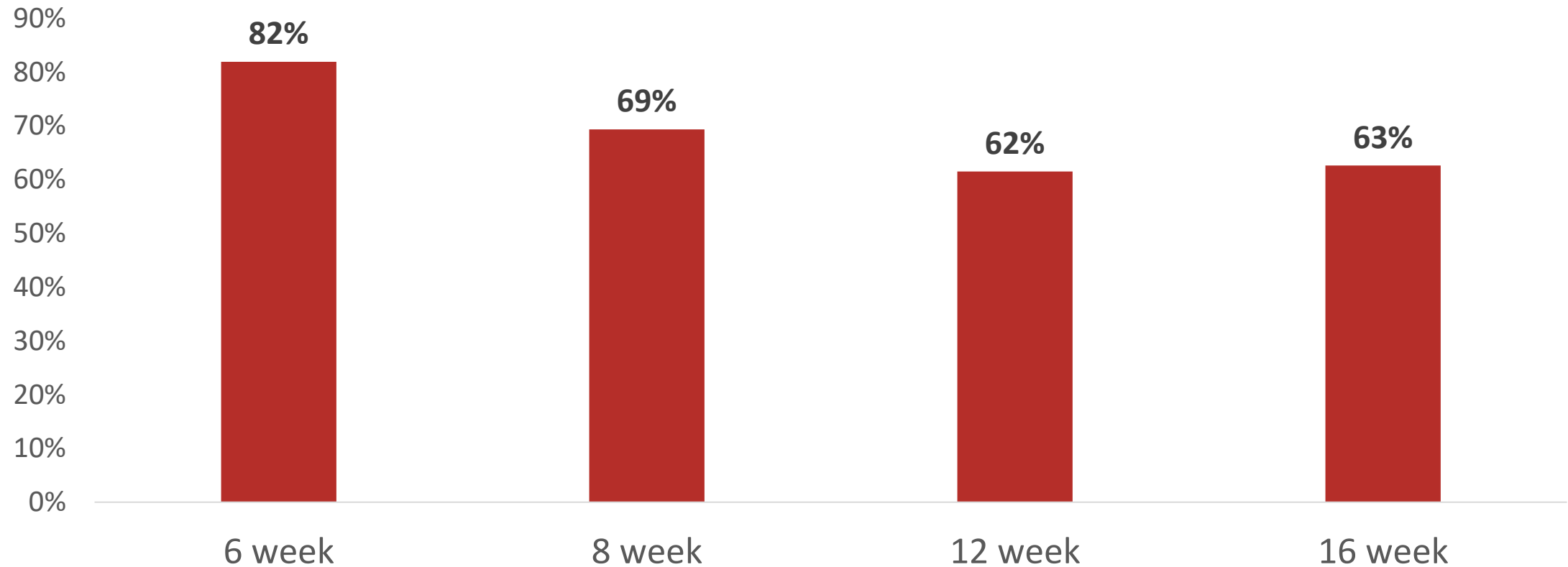
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# Analysis

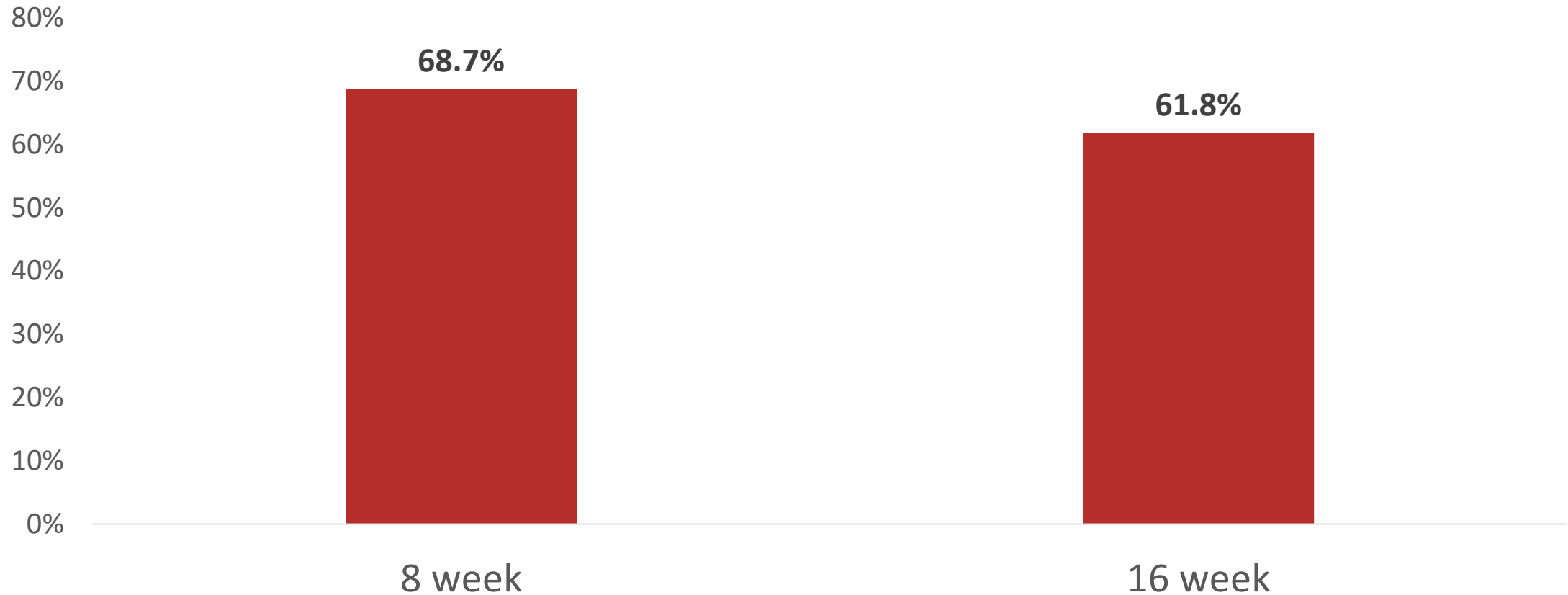
- All student enrollments from Summer 2015 through Fall 2019
  - 764,753 enrollments
  - 8,706 course sections
- Matched classes based on:
  - Same Course ID
  - Same instructor
  - Schedule type (e.g., face-to-face lecture, online asynchronous)
  - 835 matches; 176 matches for 8-week & 16-week class length
- Compared average course success across matched classes when semester length was different.

# Overall Naïve Comparison Across Class Length

Overall average success rate by Class Length Among Matched Classes



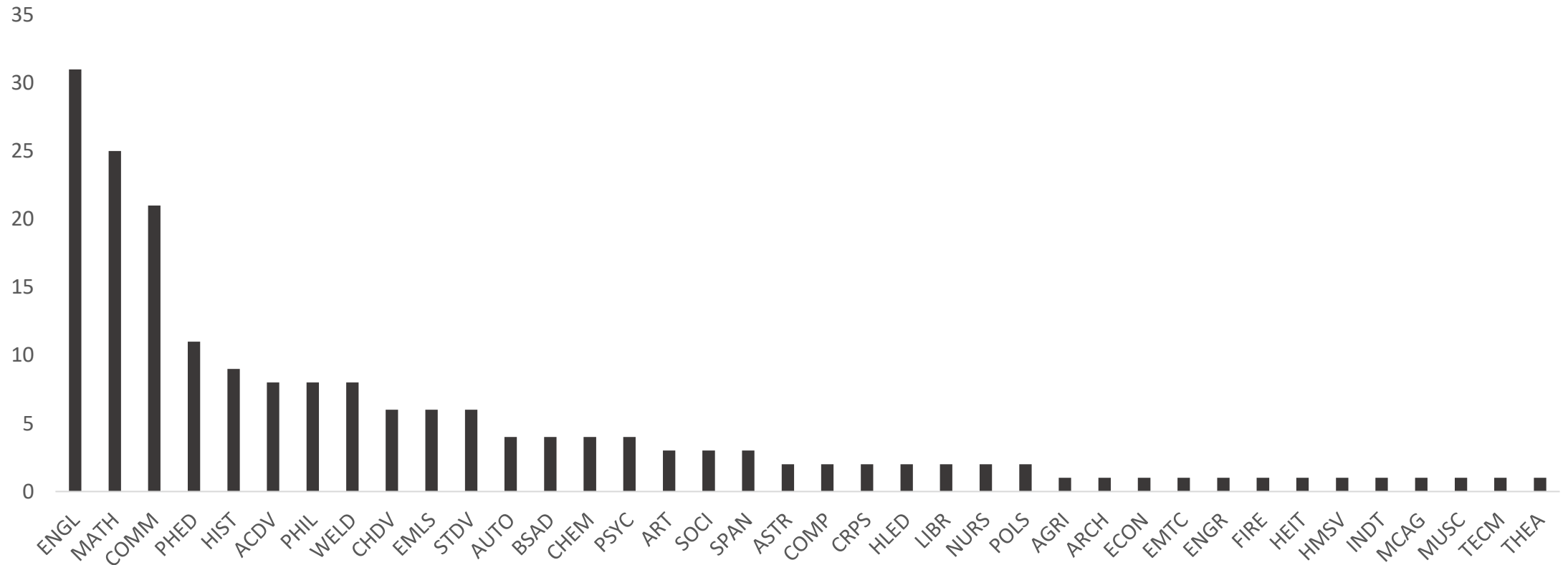
# Exact Comparison: Within-Subjects t-test



$t(175) = 3.67, p < 0.001$

# Representative Set of Courses in Analysis

Number of Matched Courses by Subject Area



# Discussion

- **There is a statistically significant success windfall** associated with a shorter class length across a variety of course subject areas.
- Simply offering a class in **an eight-week format yielded an average increase in student success of approximately 7%**, after controlling for the influence of different course curricula, schedule type, and instructors.
- Students in 8-week & 16-week classes have similar cumulative GPAs (2.47 vs. 2.48, respectively).
- It is likely that shifting more classes to an 8-week format versus a 16-week format will increase overall course success college-wide.
- There are theoretical reasons to expect improved success rates based on student engagement scholarship and memory research.