

BC Student Success Overview: What the Data Tells Us

College Council

12/11/2025

Sooyeon Kim

Office of Institutional Effectiveness



**BAKERSFIELD
COLLEGE**

Background & Context

- Inspiration from the Odessa College Leadership Institute



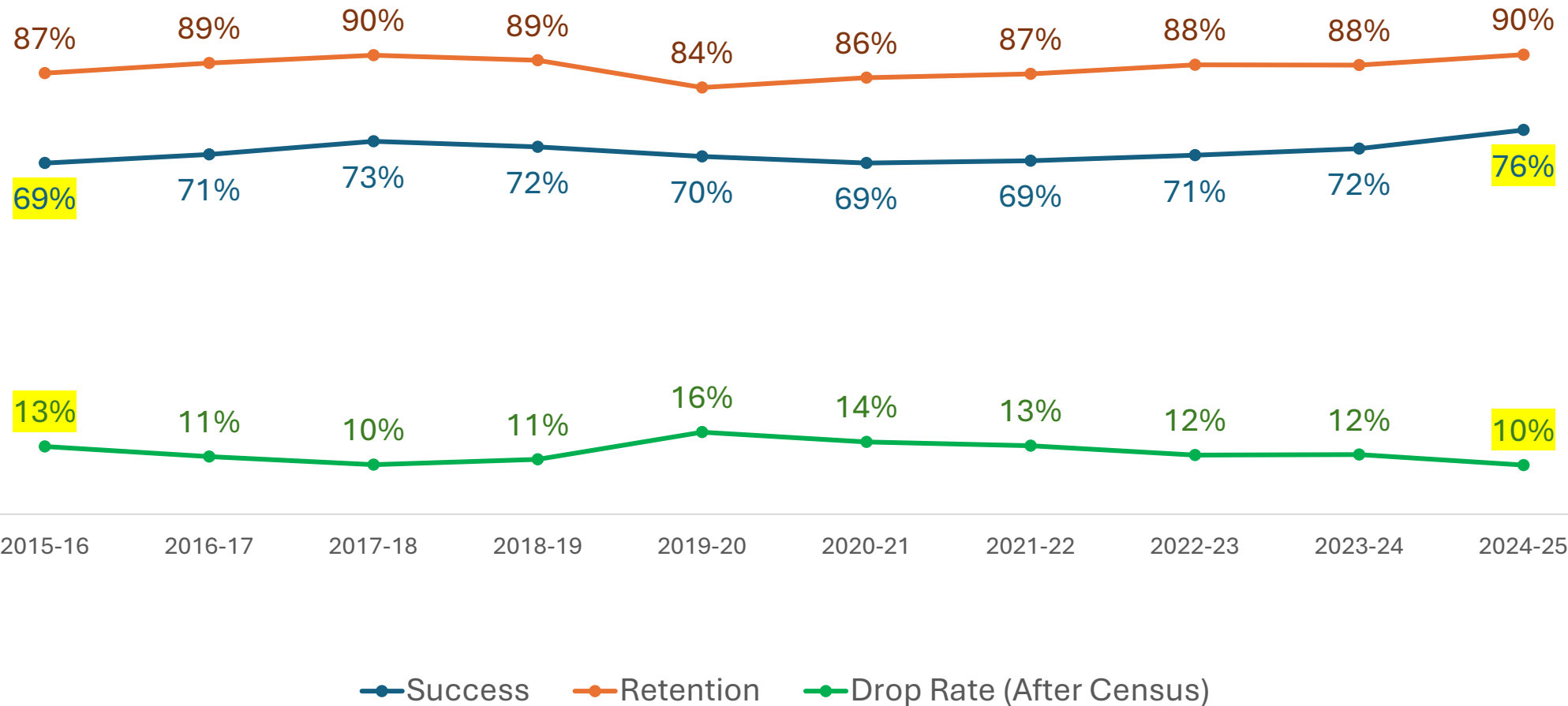
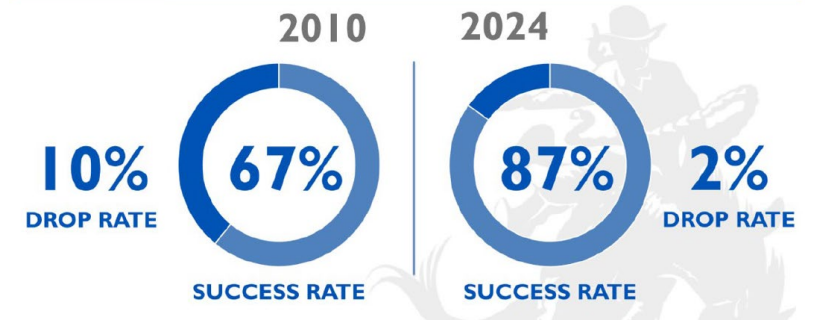
- Drop Rate Improvement and Instructor Impact
- 8-Week Model
- Building on Our Own Culture of Evidence at BC
 - Growing inquiry into 8-week course effectiveness
 - Drop rates capture student disengagement that success rates overlook



How We Calculate Success, Retention, and Drop Rates

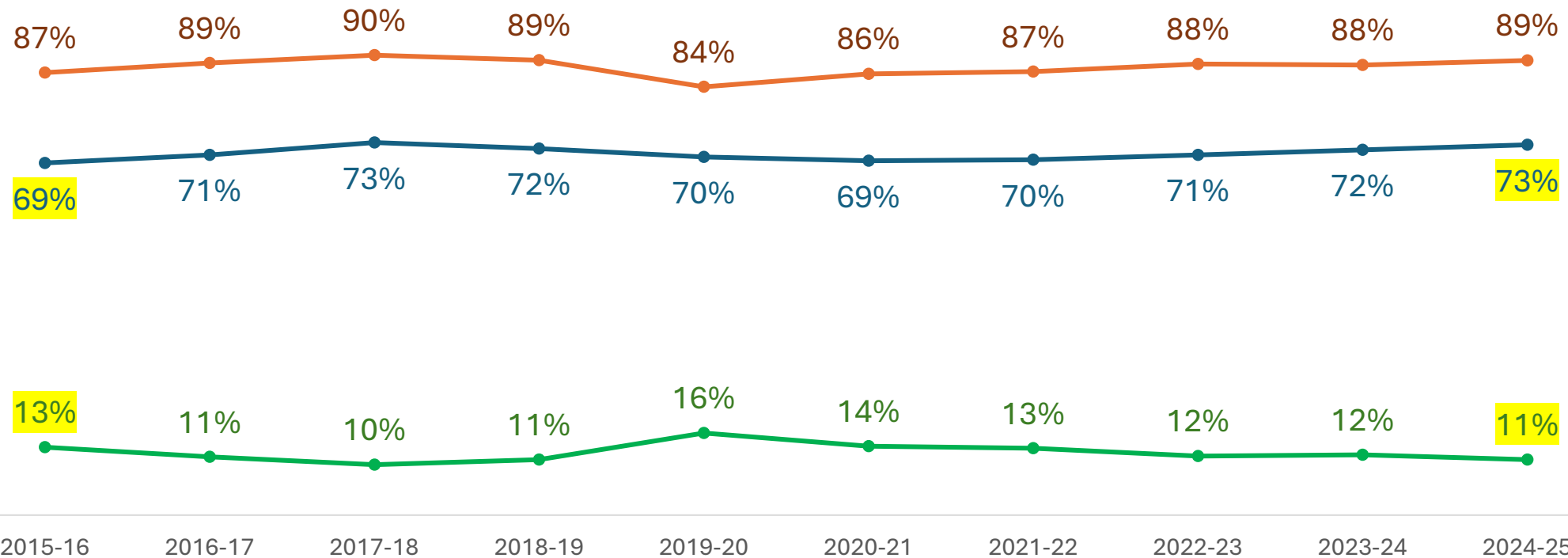
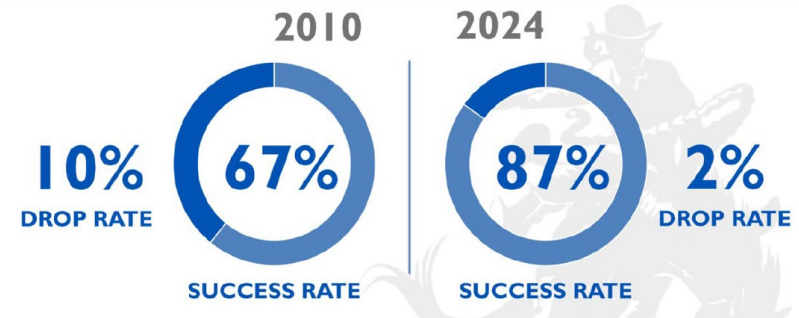
Success, Retention, Drop Rates	Grade	Success Rate	Retention Rate	Drop Rate	Notes
All enrolled students on/after census	A, B, C				Success Rate: % of students who successfully completed a course
	Pass				
	SP				
	D, F				Retention Rate: % of students who remained enrolled through the end of the course
	No Pass				
	I				
	W, EW, MW, SW				Drop Rate (after census): % of students who withdrew from a course
Not Included	AU, IP, RD, UG				

Credit Courses



Credit Courses*

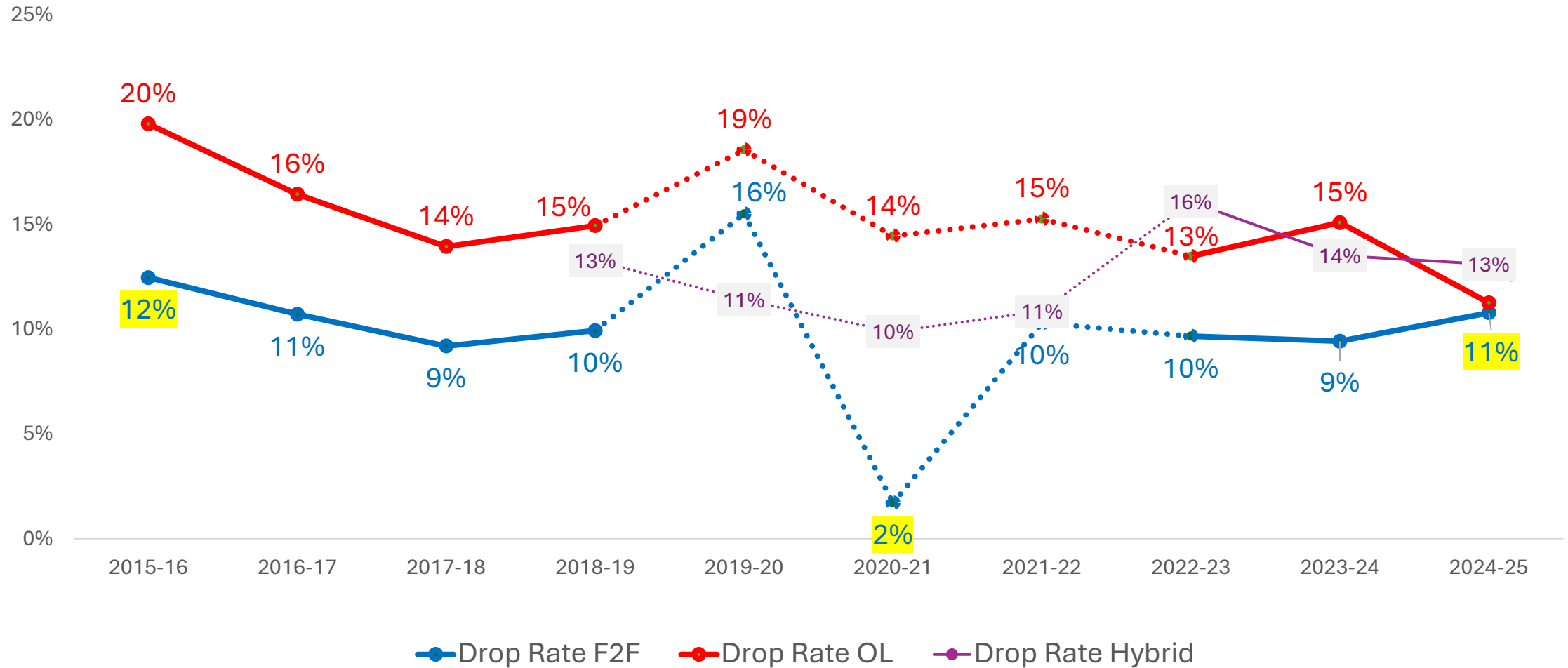
RSP and Dual Enrollments Excluded



—●— Success —●— Retention —●— Drop Rate (After Census)

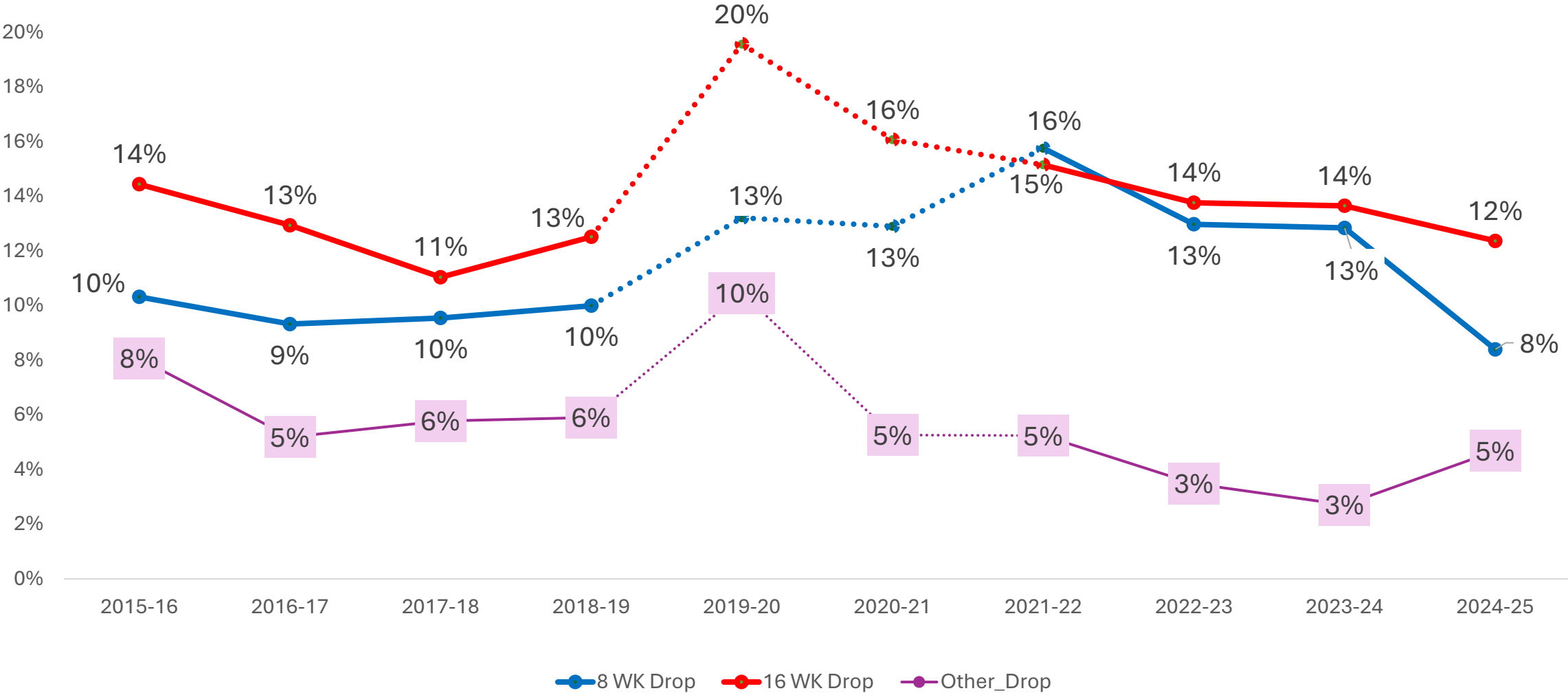
Drop Rates by Modality

Credit** (excluding RSP & Dual Enrollments)

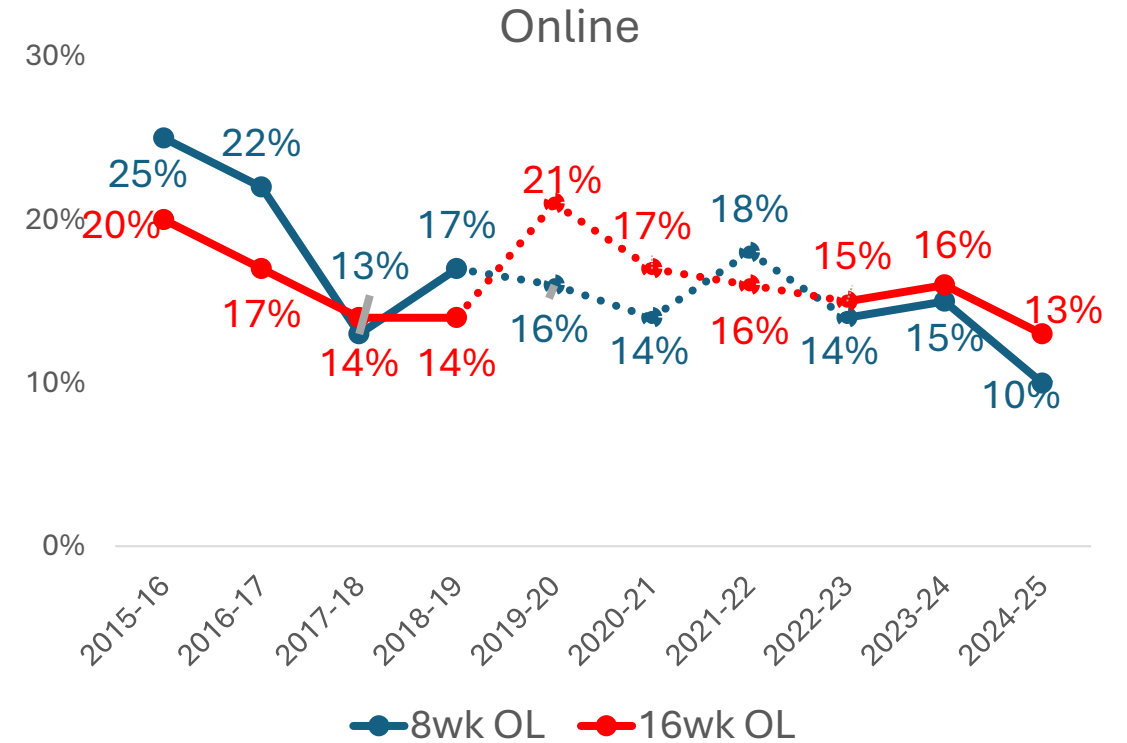
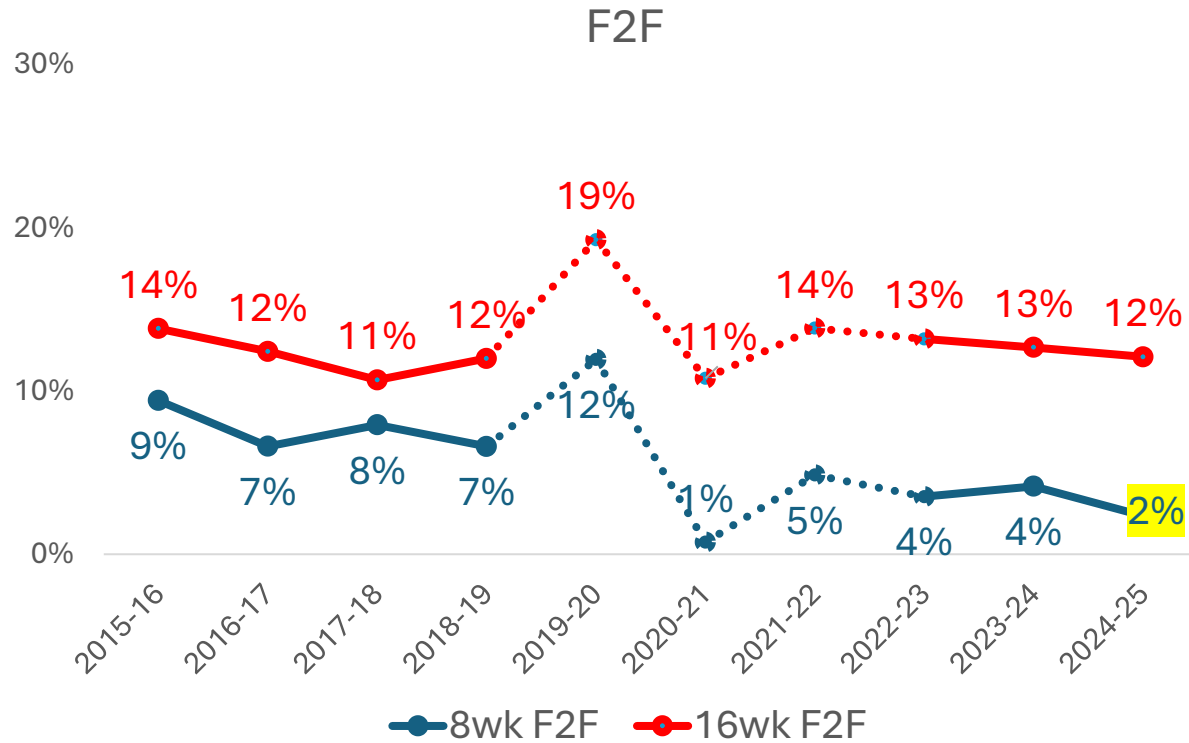


Drop Rates by Weeks of Class

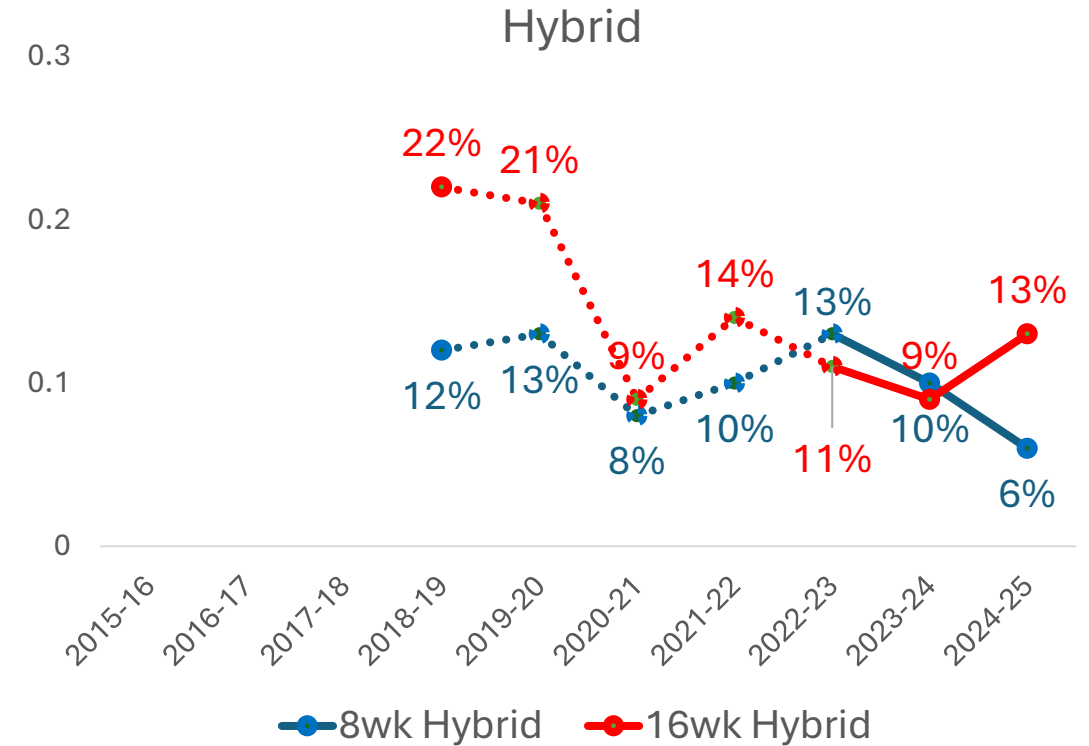
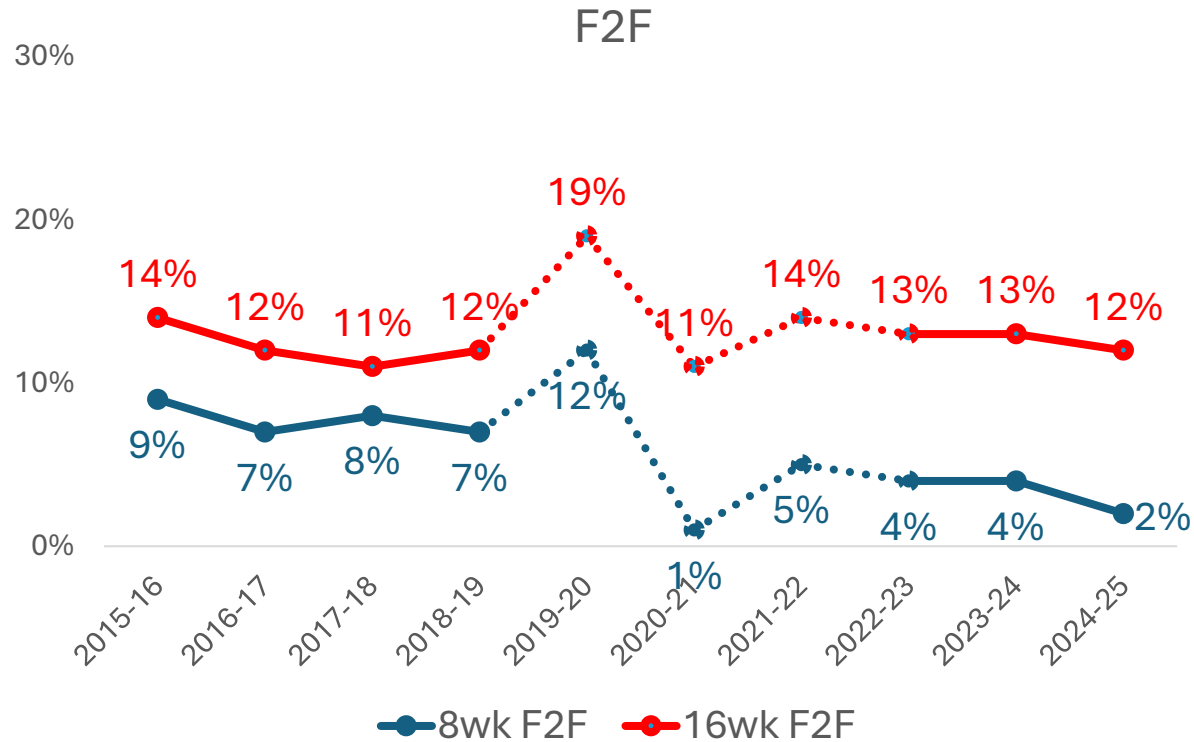
Credit** (excluding Summer, RSP & Dual Enrollments)



Drop Rates by Modality (excluding SU, RSP, & Dual enrollments)



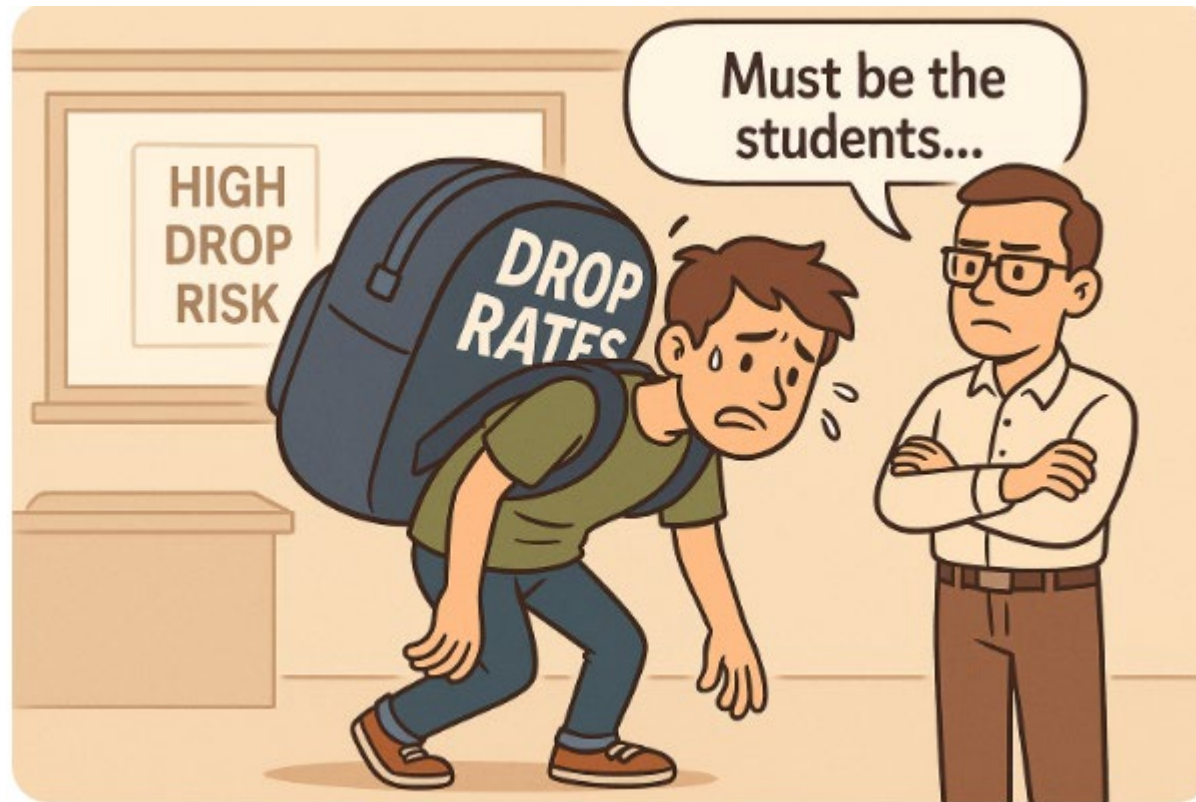
Drop Rates by Modality (excluding SU, RSP, & Dual enrollments)



Key Observations

- Over the past decade, our credit success and retention rates have improved—from 69% to 76% and from 87% to 90%, respectively. Additionally, dropout rates have declined from 13% to 10% over the same period.
- F2F courses generally have lower drop rates than online courses.
- 8-week courses generally have lower drop rates than 16-week courses, with a growing gap between them.
- The differences in drop rates across modalities and course lengths are generally modest—**except for 8-week face-to-face (F2F) courses**, which show a notably lower drop rate compared to other formats
 - Before the pandemic, 16-week online courses had lower drop rates. However, in recent years, 8-week online courses have shown a consistent decrease in drop rates, now performing better than the 16-week format.

High Drop Rates Really Just About the Students?



Comparison of High vs. Low Drop Rate Instructors

AY 2022-23 to AY 2024-25

Three-year drop rates for each instructor were calculated, using data from instructors with a combined enrollment of at least 1,000 students over the three-year period (N=93).

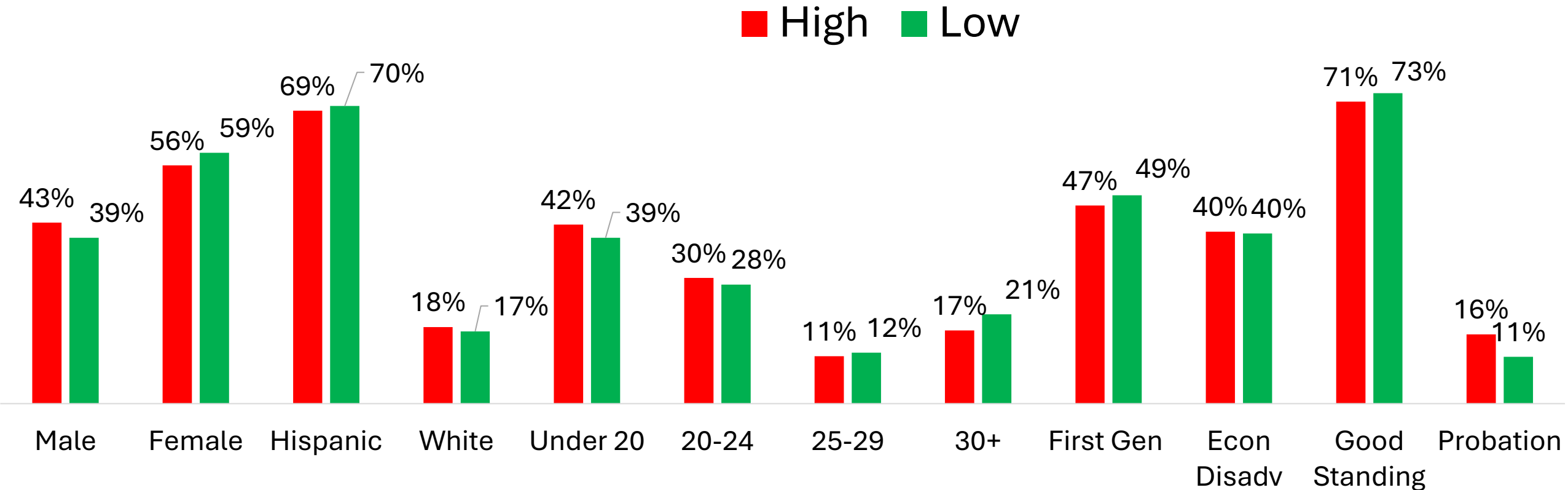
High Drop Rate instructors (n=18, 27,130 enrollments) vs. low drop rate instructors (n=18, 28,628 enrollments) were identified.

Drop Rates:

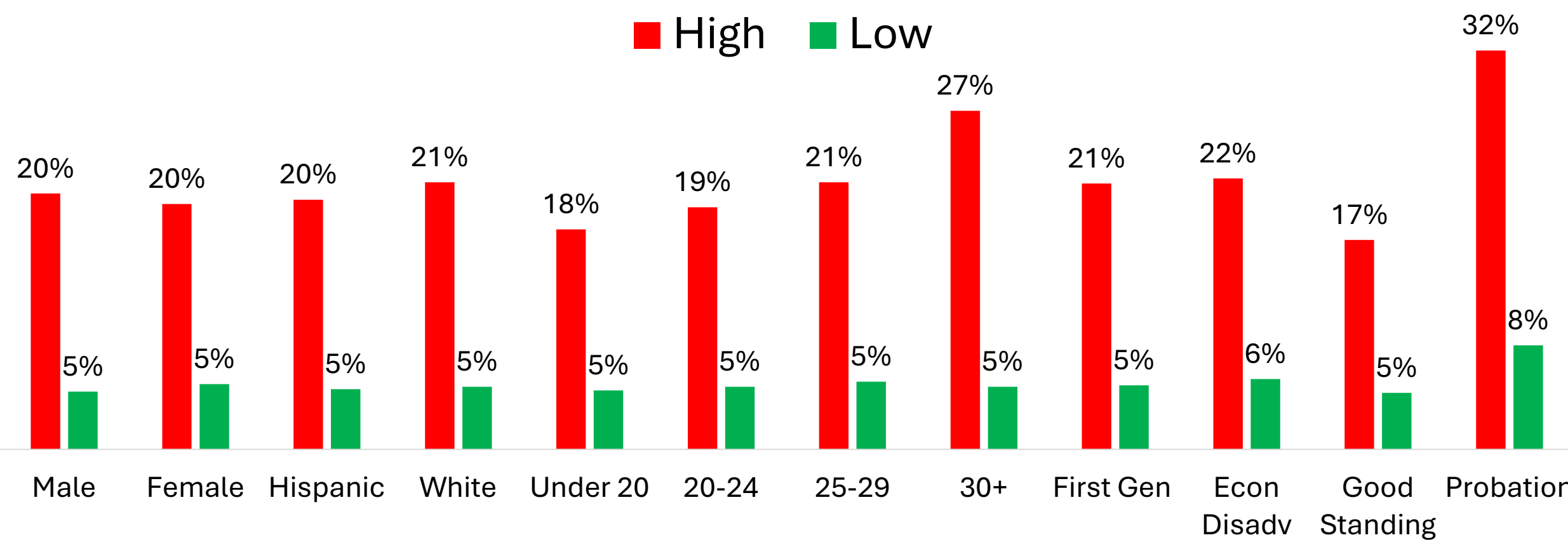
High Drop Rate Instructors: 22.9% to 24.1%

Low Drop Rate Instructors: 0% to 7.2%

There were no meaningful differences in **student** profiles between the high and low drop rate instructors



High drop rate **instructors** had more drops for All disaggregated student groups.



Discussion

