

# De Anza College Office of Institutional Research and Planning

**To:** Senior Staff

**From:** Lisa Ly, Senior Research Analyst

**Date:** August 15, 2023

**Subject:** Course Withdrawal Analysis, 2018-19 to 2022-23

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## Overview and Methodology

This report examines which week during the quarter students are likely to withdraw from a course. The data reflects credit and non-credit enrollments between 2018-19 and 2022-23 (five-year period). The date associated with each withdrawal grade (i.e., EW, MW and W) was used to assign the withdrawals to a week, and took into account whether the course was scheduled for full term, 10- or 8-week session, first/second 6-week session or term spanning. Withdrawals issued after a quarter ended were categorized to “outside of quarter. Students who withdrew were tracked to determine whether they remained enrolled at the college but in another course, and whether they enrolled in the subsequent term.

## Summary

- **Students were most likely to withdraw during week 8, followed by weeks 3 and week 5.**
  - Similar to the college, Biological, Health & Environmental Sciences (2BH), Creative Arts (2CA), Business/Computer Systems (2CB), Intercultural/International Studies (2IC), Language Arts (2LA) and Social Sciences & Humanities (2SS) highest withdrawals occurred in week 8, followed by weeks 3 or 5.
  - Applied Technologies (2AT) and Physical Education/Athletics (2PE) highest withdrawals occurred closer to the beginning of the quarter by week 4.
- **The majority of students (63%) who withdrew from a course remained enrolled in at least one other course at De Anza; and therefore, were retained at the college.** Of these students, 88% went on to enroll in the subsequent term. In comparison, of the remaining 37% who withdrew from their course(s) altogether and were not retained at the college, 69% of these students enrolled in a subsequent term.

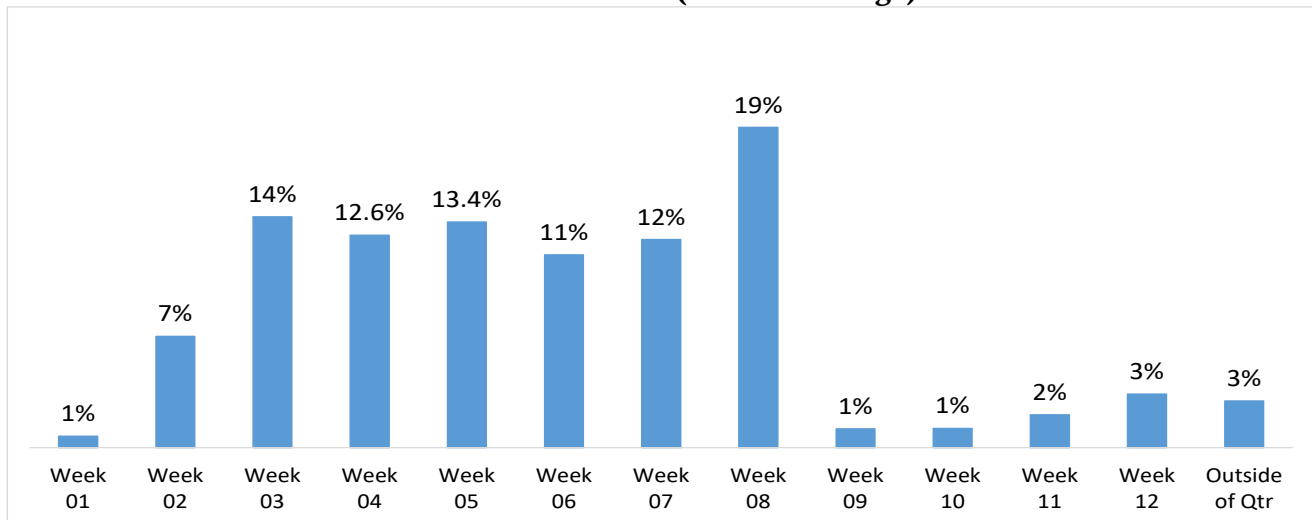
## Withdrawal Trends

Among the 724,623 total enrollments between 2018-19 and 2022-23, 69,588 were withdrew (10%).

- **College:** Withdrawal counts increased weekly up to week 3, held steady weeks 4 through 7 and peaked at week 8. **Students were most likely to withdraw during week 8, followed by weeks 3, 5 and 4.** Combined these four weeks accounted for nearly 60% of withdrawals.

Figure 1

**Week in the Quarter Students Likely to Withdraw,  
2018-19 to 2022-23 (5-Year Average)**



Withdrawals during weeks 1-2 were mostly from first/second 6-week sessions. Withdrawals during weeks 9-12 were mostly EW grades. Withdrawals that occurred outside of the quarter were EW grade petitions that occurred after a quarter had passed.

- **Division:** There were some variation in withdrawal trends by division. For each division in Table 1, the top three highest withdrawal weeks are highlighted as follows: dark green = highest withdrawal week; light green = second highest withdrawal week and yellow = third highest withdrawal week.
- Six divisions followed the college trend—Biological, Health & Environmental Sciences (2BH), Creative Arts (2CA), Business/Computer Systems (2CB), Intercultural/International Studies (2IC), Language Arts (2LA) and Social Sciences & Humanities (2SS) highest withdrawals occurred week 8, followed by weeks 3 or 5.
- Applied Technologies (2AT) and Physical Education/Athletics (2PE) highest withdrawals occurred closer to the beginning of the quarter term by week 4.

Table 1

**Withdrawal by Division, 2018-19 to 2022-23 (5-Year Average)**

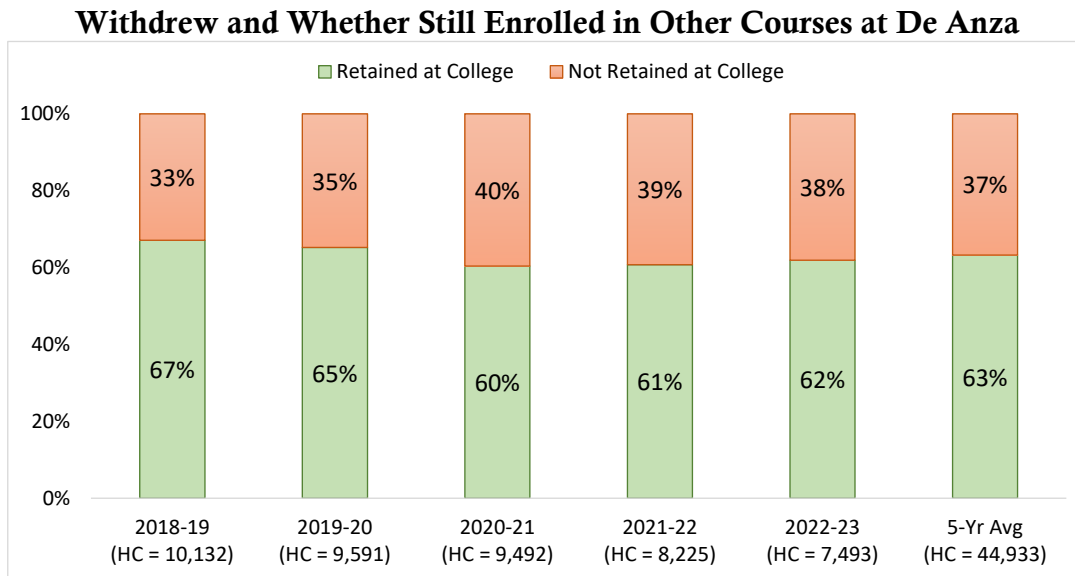
	Week 01	Week 02	Week 03	Week 04	Week 05	Week 06	Week 07	Week 08	Week 09	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Outside of Qtr	Withdrew Total	
														Count	Percent
2AT	1.8%	5.3%	15.3%	18.4%	13.3%	10.1%	10.7%	17.8%	0.5%	1.0%	1.1%	2.8%	1.9%	1,060	100%
2BH	0.9%	7.5%	13.3%	11.7%	13.2%	10.9%	12.6%	20.3%	0.8%	1.0%	1.8%	3.4%	2.7%	5,372	100%
2CA	0.2%	4.0%	13.7%	12.3%	14.5%	13.2%	12.2%	19.2%	1.0%	1.2%	1.8%	4.2%	2.4%	3,955	100%
2CB	1.2%	7.0%	14.6%	13.0%	13.8%	12.5%	12.3%	16.6%	1.1%	1.0%	2.0%	2.7%	2.4%	10,433	100%
2IC	0.2%	5.8%	15.3%	13.7%	14.4%	12.2%	12.9%	16.0%	1.0%	0.8%	1.7%	3.4%	2.6%	5,144	100%
2LA	0.3%	5.0%	14.0%	13.4%	13.7%	11.2%	12.2%	18.8%	1.4%	1.1%	1.9%	3.7%	3.3%	10,295	100%
2PE	4.7%	18.4%	16.4%	12.5%	12.3%	8.8%	9.8%	10.4%	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	2.2%	2.3%	2,454	100%
2PS	0.0%	3.8%	10.2%	12.0%	13.0%	11.7%	13.9%	24.5%	1.5%	1.5%	2.2%	3.0%	2.7%	16,257	100%
2SS	0.4%	9.0%	15.8%	12.2%	13.2%	10.7%	11.2%	17.1%	0.9%	1.2%	2.0%	3.2%	3.0%	13,424	100%
College	0.7%	6.6%	13.7%	12.6%	13.4%	11.5%	12.4%	19.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.9%	3.2%	2.8%	69,588	100%

Withdrawals during weeks 1-2 were mostly from first/second 6-week sessions. Withdrawals during weeks 9-12 were mostly EW grades. Withdrawals that occurred outside of the quarter were EW grade petitions that occurred after a quarter had passed. Divisions 2DS, 2LR and 2ST are not shown in the table since they accounted for less than 1% of the total withdrawal counts during the five-year period being examined; however, their withdrawal counts are included in the college total.

## College Retention and Persist to Next Term

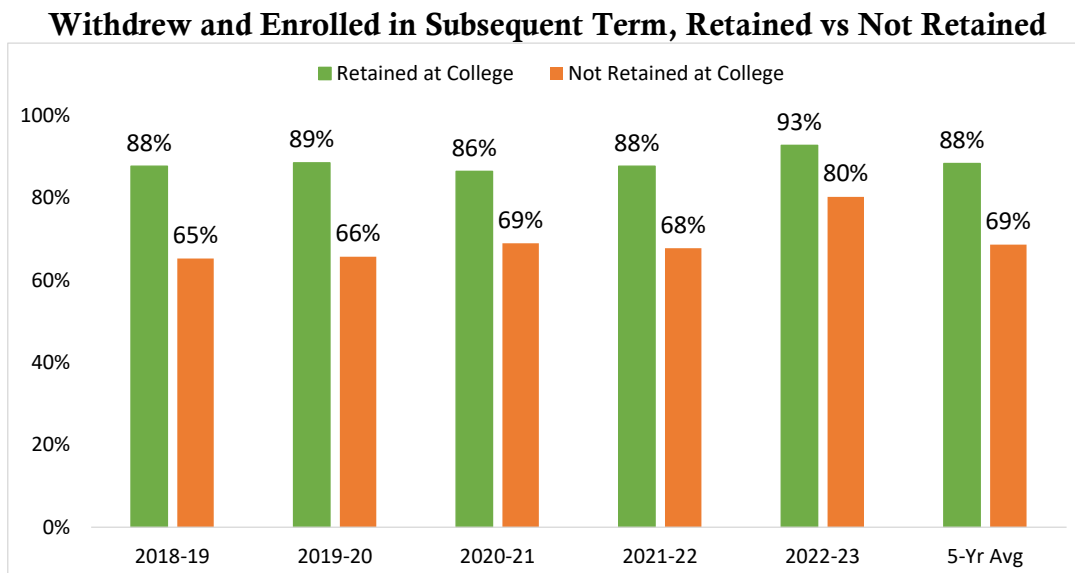
- The majority of students who withdrew from a course remained enrolled in at least one other course at De Anza; and therefore were retained at the college. Their college retention rate averaged 63%.

Figure 2



- Those who were retained at the college were more likely to be enrolled in the subsequent term than those who withdrew from their course(s) altogether, 88% vs 69%.

Figure 3



Persistence for students who withdrew from a spring quarter course was tracked to the subsequent summer and fall terms. Data for 2022-23, specifically those who withdrew in spring 2023 quarter, is not yet finalized. At the time of this report, summer 2023 session and fall 2023 registration were both in progress.