Course Failure—Fall 2015 & Spring 2016

Nathan Dickmeyer
Institutional Research & Assessment
January 31, 2017

Findings

- Nearly 1/3 of all **below-college level** course attempts ended in failure in 2015-16 (Figure 1).

- The failure rate of courses in 2015-16 having **more than four college credits** is nearly twice that of courses with one to four 4 college credits (Figure 2).

- The higher failure rate of high-credit courses occurs mostly at the **100 level**, not the 200 level (Figure 3).

- By two-letter department code, ES (as in **ESL**), US (the **USIP** courses), and MA (as in **MAT**) had the highest course attempted failure rates of 30%, 26% and 25% respectively (Figure 4).

- Nearly half of all the below 100 level EN (as in **ENG**) courses attempted were failed. By two-letter department code, only looking at courses less than 100 level, EN (as in ENG), MA (as in MAT), ES (as in ESL), and US (the USIP courses) had the highest course attempted failure rates of 47%, 40%, 30% and 26% respectively (Figure 5).

- Nearly 2,000 MA (as in **MAT**) course attempts below the 100 level were failed in 2015-16 (Figure 6).

- Although Figure 2 shows that courses with higher credit levels were more likely to be failed, students with lower credit loads shown in Figure 7 were more likely to fail. Students with equated credit **loads between four and nine credits** were 40% more likely to fail a course than students with equated credit loads between 13 and 15 equated credits.

- Nearly half of the 29 courses at all levels taken by **Digital Media Arts** students (admittedly a low number) did not receive credit for the courses attempted (Figure 8).

- **Music Recording Technology** students failed nearly one-third of all their courses (Figure 8) and one-quarter of their 200 level courses (Figure 9).

Figures

All figures show attempted credits used for enrollment counts that received no credit for the course in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016.

Fail to Earn Credit Rate by Level

Overall	Less than 100 level	100 level	200 level
16%	31%	14%	10%
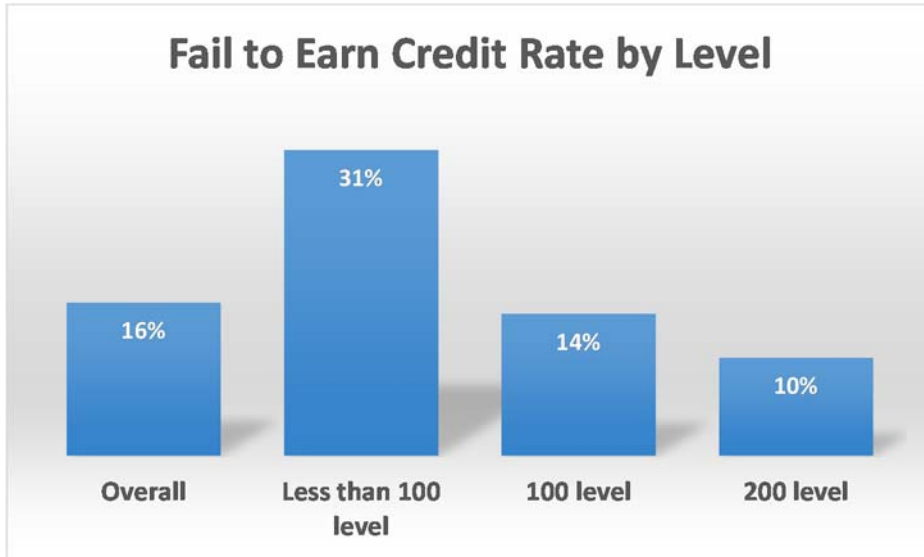
Figure 1

Figure 1 shows courses failed as a percentage of courses attempted overall and by level.

Fail to Earn Credit Rate by Course Credits

0	1	1.5	2	3	4	5	6
31%	4%	0%	10%	14%	14%	22%	23%

College Credits of Course
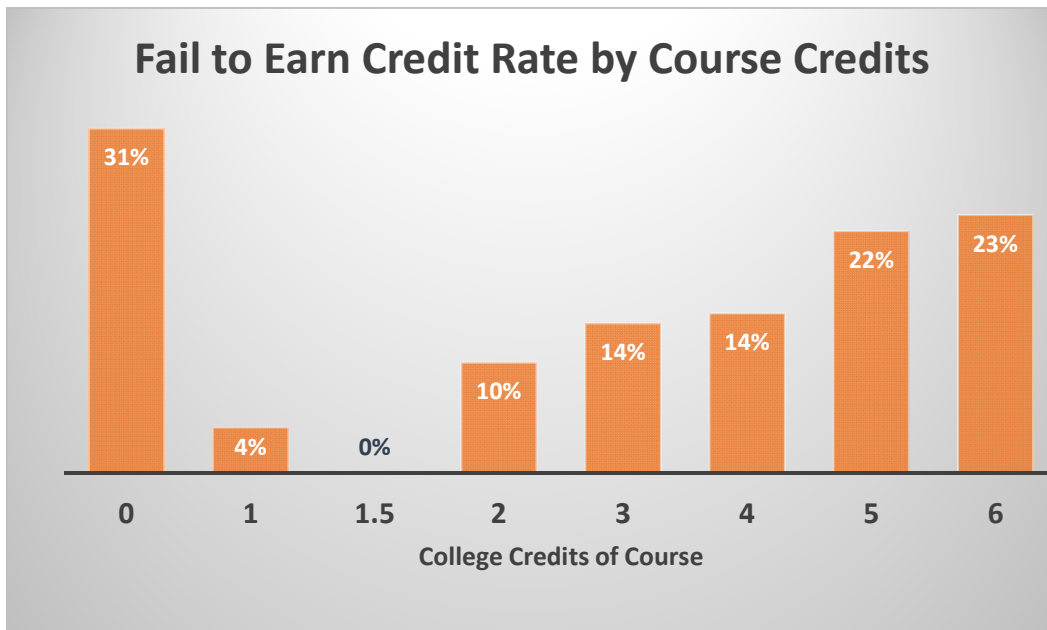
Figure 2

Figure 2 shows courses failed as a percentage of courses attempted by the number of college credits for the course.
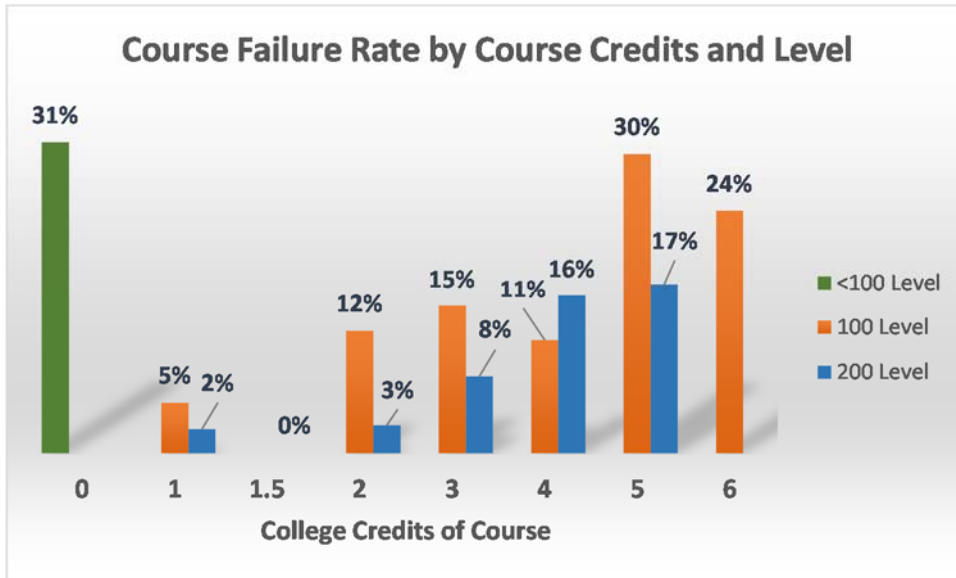
Figure 3

Figure 3 shows courses failed as a percentage of courses attempted by the number of college credits for the course and the level of the course.
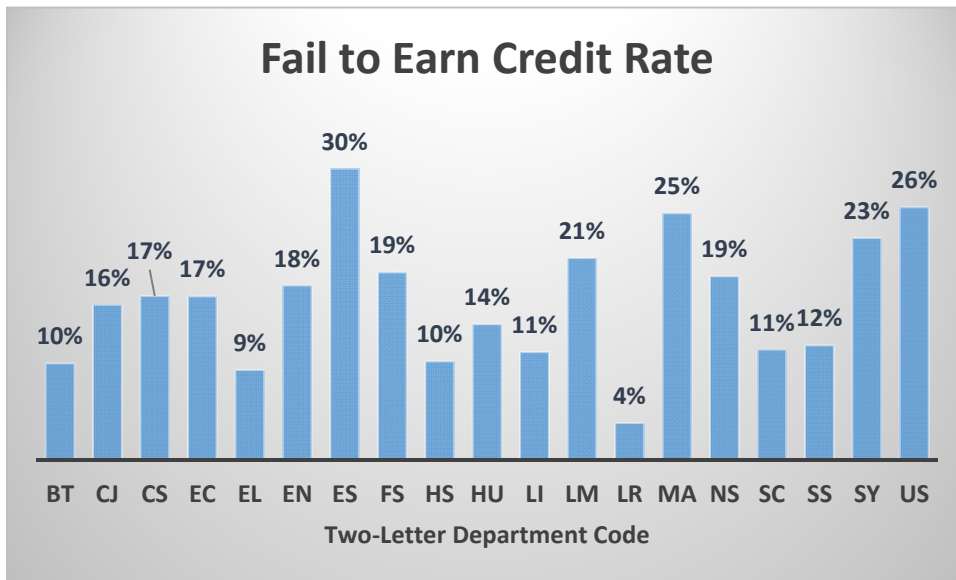
Figure 4

Figure 4 shows courses failed as a percentage of courses attempted by the first two letters of the course department code.

Fail to Earn Credit Rate <100 Level Courses Only

Department	Rate
CS	26%
EC	17%
EN	47%
ES	30%
FS	19%
HS	14%
MA	40%
US	26%

Two-Letter Department Code
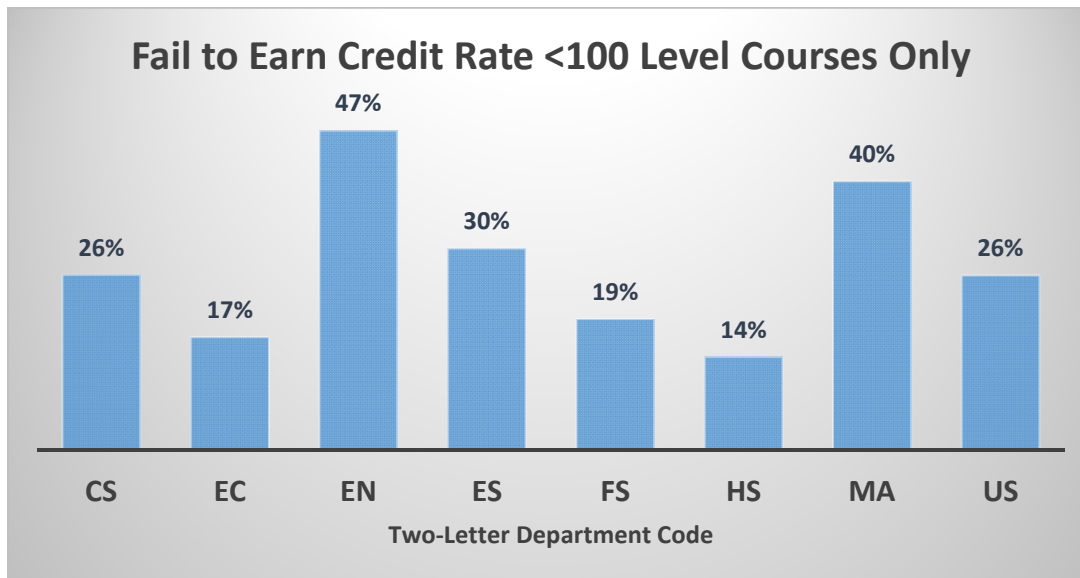
Figure 5

Figure 5 shows courses failed as a percentage of courses attempted in 2015-16 by the first two letters of the course department code for only courses lower than the 100 level.

Fail to Earn Credit Student Numbers <100 Level Courses Only

Department	Number
CS	368
EC	104
EN	527
ES	713
FS	138
HS	230
MA	1,982
US	240

Two-letter Department Code
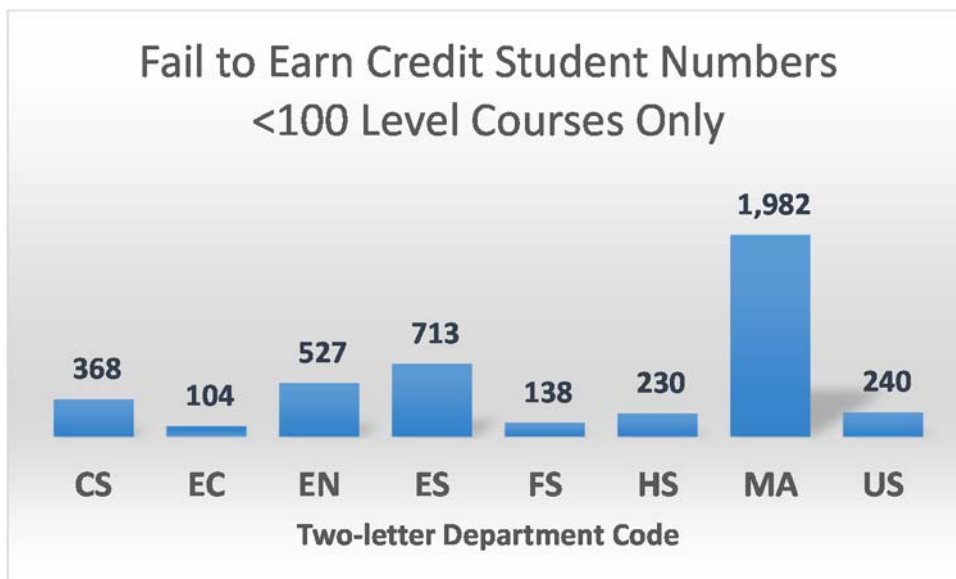
Figure 6

Figure 6 shows the *numbers* of course failures of less than 100 level courses (below-college-level) in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 by two-letter department codes.

Course Failure Rate by Equated Credit Attempted Load

	1-3 CREDITS	4-6 CREDITS	7-9 CREDITS	10-12 CREDITS	13-15 CREDITS	16-18 CREDITS	19+ CREDITS	ALL LOADS
Fall 2015	16%	21%	21%	17%	15%	12%	13%	16%
Spring 2016	15%	20%	20%	16%	15%	13%	12%	16%

Equated Credits Attempted in Semester (Load)

■ Fall 2015   ■ Spring 2016
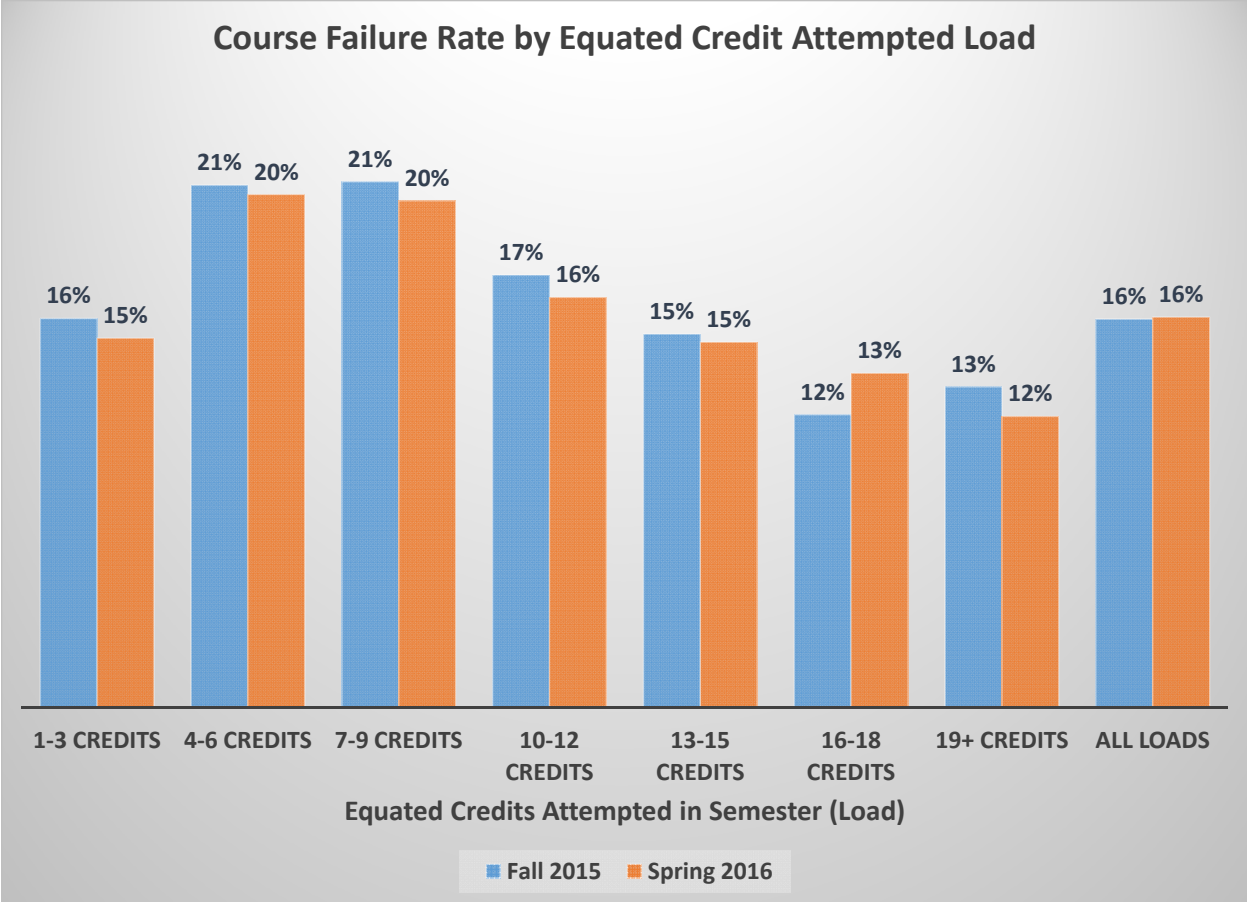
Figure 7

Figure 7 shows course failure rate in each semester of 2015-16 by the number of equated credits the student attempted (the student's load).

Figure 8 shows the course failure rate by major in 2015-16. Majors where students took fewer than ten courses are not shown. All course levels, including developmental, were included.

Fail to Earn Credit Rate by Major

Major	Rate
ACCOUNTING	11%
BIOLOGY	19%
BUS ADM: HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT	10%
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	15%
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	21%
COLLEGE NOW	11%
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	19%
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY: FINE ARTS OPTION	15%
COMMUNICATION STUDIES	14%
COMMUNICATION STUDIES MASS...	15%
COMMUNICATION STUDIES SPEECH PATHOLOGY	9%
COMMUNICATION STUDIES: PUBLIC...	11%
COMPUTER SCIENCE	15%
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY	25%
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	19%
DIETETIC TECHNICIAN	10%
DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS	45%
EDU ASSOC: BILINGUAL CHILD	10%
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	17%
EMERGENCY MED TECH/PARAMEDIC	28%
ENGINEERING SCIENCE: CIVIL ENG	13%
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	13%
FINE ARTS	18%
FINE ARTS: DESIGN STUDIES	10%
FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT	18%
HUMAN SERVICES: GERONTOLOGY	12%
HUMAN SERVICES: MENTAL HEALTH	14%
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	14%
INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	11%
LIBERAL ARTS: CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	13%
LIBERAL ARTS: CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: ENGLISH	11%
LIBERAL ARTS: CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: HISTORY	12%
LIBERAL ARTS: CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:...	15%
LIBERAL ARTS: CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:...	5%

Fail to Earn Credit Rate by Major

Major	Rate
LIBERAL ARTS: DEAF STUDIES	13%
LIBERAL ARTS: HISTORY	16%
LIBERAL ARTS: INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	9%
LIBERAL ARTS: JAPANESE STUDIES	12%
LIBERAL ARTS: JOURNALISM	15%
LIBERAL ARTS: MATH AND SCIENCE	19%
LIBERAL ARTS: MEDIA STUDIES	15%
LIBERAL ARTS: MUSIC	18%
LIBERAL ARTS: SECONDARY EDUCATION	16%
LIBERAL ARTS: SOC SCI AND HUM	19%
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	16%
MIDDLE COLLEGE	20%
MUSIC RECORDING TECHNOLOGY	30%
NETWORK ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY...	13%
NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY	21%
NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY: DIGITAL MEDIA	20%
NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY: GAME DEVELOPMENT	18%
NON DEGREE UNDERGRADUATE	15%
NURSING	9%
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT	5%
PARALEGAL STUDIES	11%
PHILOSOPHY	15%
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT	11%
PRACTICAL NURSING	13%
PROGRAMMING AND SYSTEMS	18%
PSYCHOLOGY	17%
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY	12%
SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATION	19%
THEATER	20%
TRAVEL AND TOURISM	11%
UNDCL HEALTH: NURSING	14%
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY	17%
WRITING AND LITERATURE	13%
WRITING AND LITERATURE: CREATIVE WRITING	13%

Figure 8

Fail to Earn Credit Rate by Major (200 Level Only)

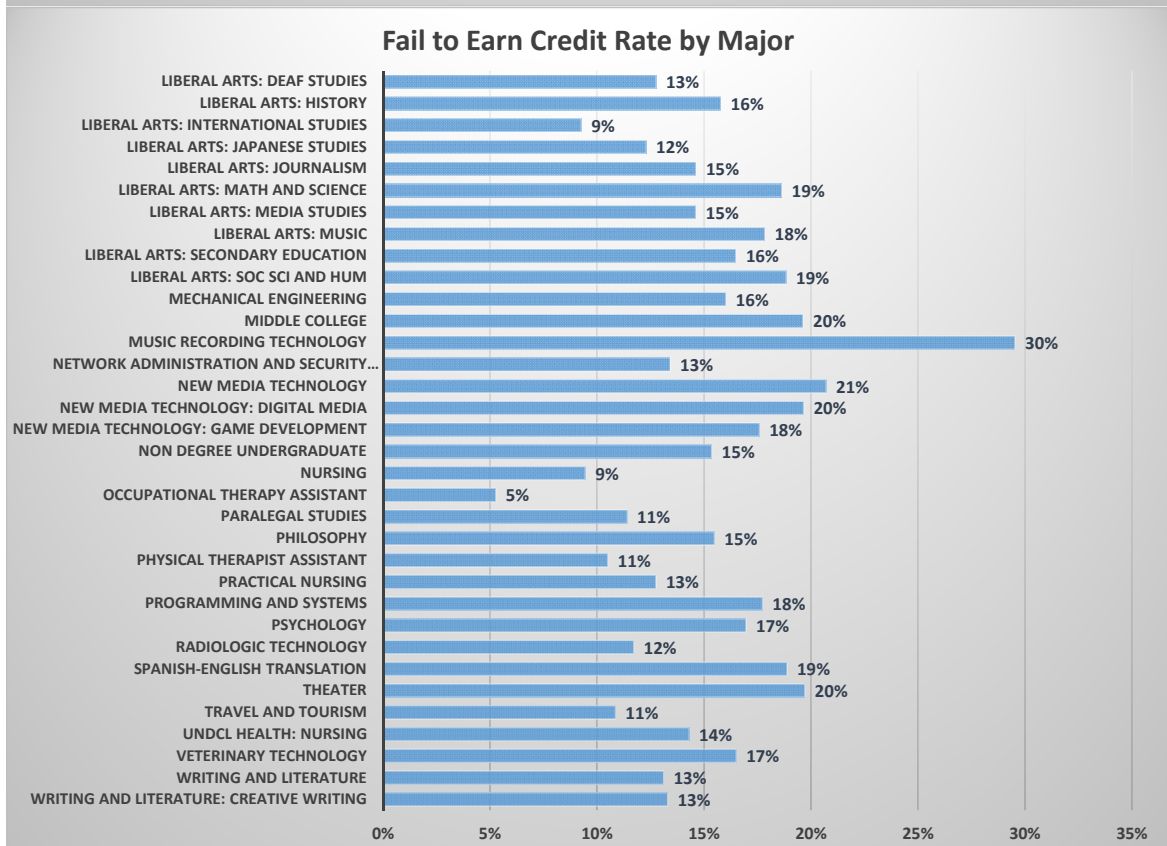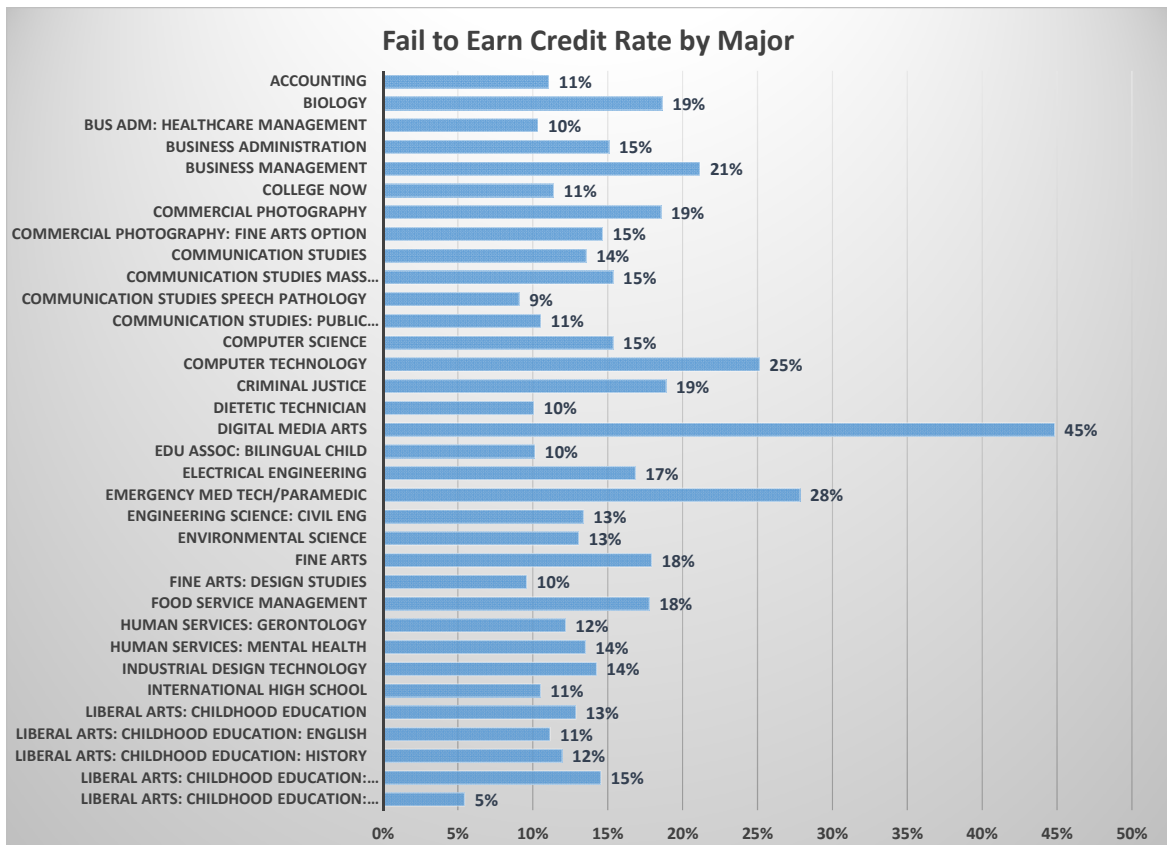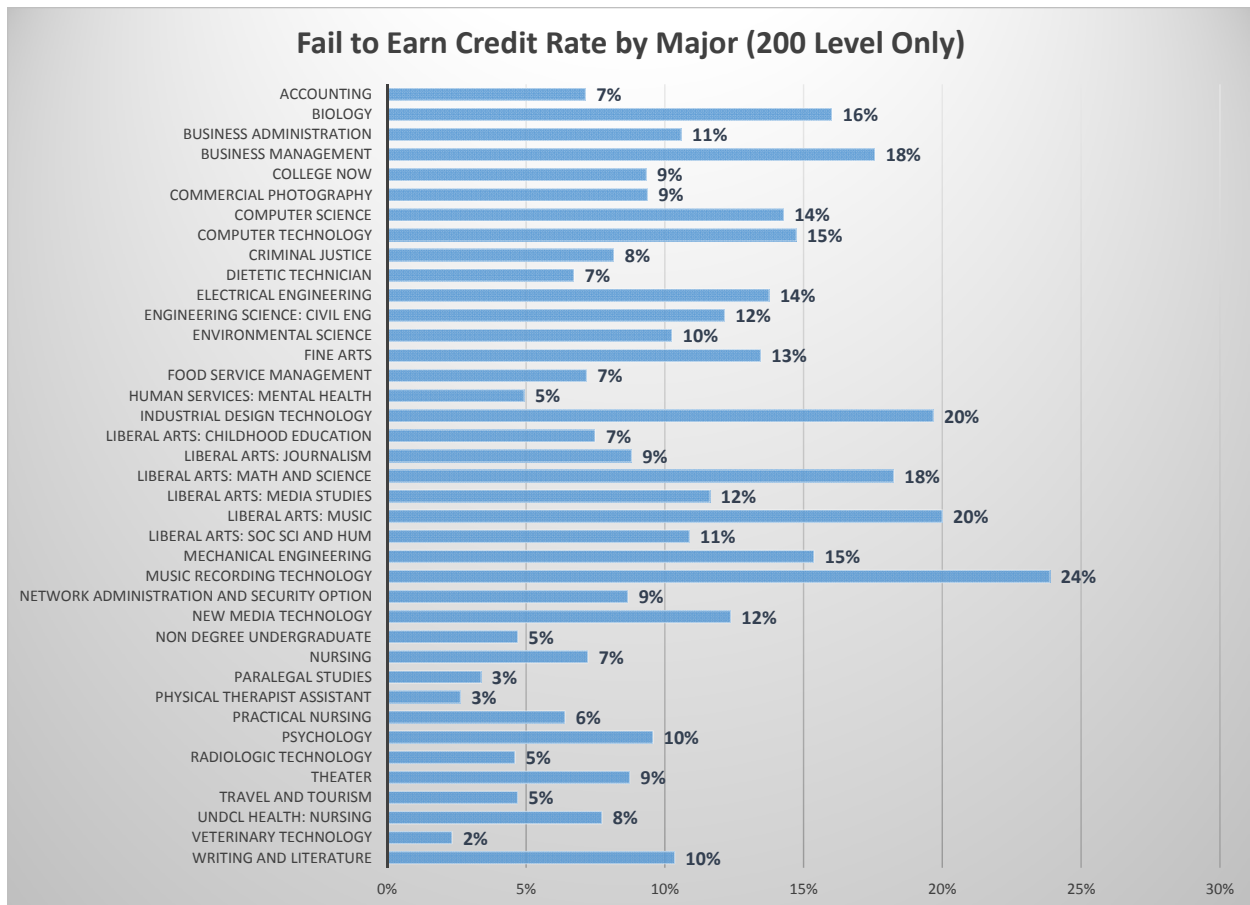| Major	Rate
ACCOUNTING	7%
BIOLOGY	16%
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	11%
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	18%
COLLEGE NOW	9%
COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	9%
COMPUTER SCIENCE	14%
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY	15%
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	8%
DIETETIC TECHNICIAN	7%
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	14%
ENGINEERING SCIENCE: CIVIL ENG	12%
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	10%
FINE ARTS	13%
FOOD SERVICE MANAGEMENT	7%
HUMAN SERVICES: MENTAL HEALTH	5%
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY	20%
LIBERAL ARTS: CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	7%
LIBERAL ARTS: JOURNALISM	9%
LIBERAL ARTS: MATH AND SCIENCE	18%
LIBERAL ARTS: MEDIA STUDIES	12%
LIBERAL ARTS: MUSIC	20%
LIBERAL ARTS: SOC SCI AND HUM	11%
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	15%
MUSIC RECORDING TECHNOLOGY	24%
NETWORK ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY OPTION	9%
NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY	12%
NON DEGREE UNDERGRADUATE	5%
NURSING	7%
PARALEGAL STUDIES	3%
PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT	3%
PRACTICAL NURSING	6%
PSYCHOLOGY	10%
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY	5%
THEATER	9%
TRAVEL AND TOURISM	5%
UNDCL HEALTH: NURSING	8%
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY	2%
WRITING AND LITERATURE	10%

Figure 9

Figure 9 shows course failure rate by major for 200 level courses only in 2015-16. Majors in which students took fewer than ten courses are not included.