

North Dakota University System Freshmen Remediation Rates

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Executive Summary

The remediation rate of first time college freshmen is an often cited data point used to indicate the percentage of students who begin college not fully academically prepared to enroll in college level coursework. In the NDUS, remediation rates are also referred to developmental course enrollment rates.

Remediation rates are presented in three parts, including rates for Mathematics courses, English Language Arts (reading, writing, and communication) courses, and an overall rate that considers whether a student is enrolled in any type of developmental course.

For the fifth consecutive year, overall remediation rates for NDUS have decreased. The overall rate has declined by 4.1% to 23.7% after a 2013 high of 27.8%. Numerically, this translates across the university system to approximately 300 less students enrolling in developmental coursework than were enrolling five years ago.

When analyzing at which institutions students are enrolling in developmental courses, the research universities have seen a drop in developmental enrollments by 7%, from 17.1% to 9.87%. Likewise, regional universities have seen an 8% drop in developmental enrollments, from 37.3% to 29.3%. Developmental enrollments at community colleges has seen some annual variation, but when compared to Fall 2014 rates has decreased by 2% (from 42.2% to 40.1%).

Scope of this Report

The research for this report was conducted at NDUS System Office by Institutional Research staff. The intent of this report is to address current questions surrounding enrollment of NDUS students in developmental courses, also known as remedial coursework. For this report, the cohort group(s) under study include the first time freshmen attending a NDUS institution during fall terms 2011 through 2018. Data used in this report come from census course enrollments as reported from the NDUS Campus Solutions student reporting system.

Use of this Data for Generalizing to North Dakota Population

It is critical to note that these NDUS cohort data are not limited to students who graduated from high school in North Dakota, and as such, the remediation rate data cannot be generalized to the North Dakota K-12 system. Remediation rates specific to North Dakota high school students are available via the state K-12 educational dashboards available at insights.nd.gov.

Definitions

Remediation Rate – The percentage of first time freshmen who enroll in either Mathematics or English language Arts developmental coursework.

Developmental Courses – college coursework that is designed to prepare students to complete postsecondary academic degree credit courses. Developmental courses do carry credit, however, they do not count toward degree requirements.

First time freshmen – any student attending NDUS whose entry status is “first year” and grade level is “freshman”. This includes students from North Dakota as well as those attending NDUS institutions from out of state.

Table 1*NDUS Aggregated Freshmen Remediation Rates – Percentage of Students Enrolled in ANY Developmental Coursework*

	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
NDUS Overall	21.90%	27.70%	27.90%	27.80%	27.40%	25.30%	24.80%	23.66%
Community Colleges				42.20%	39.80%	36.40%	43.10%	40.05%
Regional Universities				37.30%	38.70%	36.60%	32.00%	29.25%
Research Universities				17.10%	16.90%	15.50%	11.10%	9.87%

Note: Tier level rates are unavailable for 2011 through 2013.

Table 2*Freshmen Remediation Rates by NDUS Institution*

	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
BSC	41.90%	39.80%	35.10%	35.60%	34.00%	33.50%	36.50%	40.05%
DCB	62.70%	71.10%	68.30%	75.90%	67.20%	60.10%	55.90%	68.16%
LRSC	42.70%	53.70%	53.60%	52.80%	38.60%	46.10%	50.80%	50.00%
NDSCS	51.00%	47.20%	36.10%	36.90%	37.50%	28.80%	44.10%	51.48%
WSC	44.70%	51.60%	52.10%	52.60%	49.10%	48.10%	46.60%	45.73%
DSU	26.10%	35.00%	36.20%	35.70%	42.70%	34.50%	36.30%	36.46%
MASU	43.60%	56.70%	56.90%	54.80%	55.70%	48.30%	40.00%	46.76%
MISU	23.70%	19.10%	31.80%	26.00%	24.30%	30.30%	22.90%	13.60%
VCSU	Not Reported	52.10%	44.70%	45.80%	49.10%	43.40%	41.60%	44.24%
NDSU	12.90%	21.70%	18.10%	19.90%	20.00%	19.00%	13.50%	11.78%
UND	4.20%	12.80%	17.80%	13.40%	12.50%	10.70%	7.80%	7.50%

Table 3*Freshmen Mathematics Remediation Rates*

	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
BSC	24.10%	24.10%	23.80%	26.90%	30.90%
DCB	60.00%	53.30%	53.40%	45.10%	54.75%
LRSC	35.80%	30.30%	33.90%	37.20%	37.62%
NDSCS	21.00%	23.20%	17.50%	21.90%	26.15%
WSC	48.50%	42.50%	42.20%	37.60%	39.94%
DSU	29.00%	36.60%	28.20%	28.90%	31.49%
MASU	36.60%	30.90%	37.60%	26.40%	28.78%
MISU	22.80%	21.80%	26.80%	20.40%	*6.55%
VCSU	37.40%	39.20%	31.80%	25.70%	27.27%
NDSU	13.40%	14.50%	13.50%	13.30%	11.21%
UND	13.40%	12.50%	10.70%	7.80%	7.50%
NDUS Overall	20.40%	20.80%	19.40%	18.70%	18.02%
Community Colleges	28.80%	28.60%	26.50%	28.70%	33.53%
Regional Universities	29.60%	30.40%	29.70%	24.10%	19.05%
Research Universities	13.40%	13.70%	12.30%	11.00%	9.55%

**The significant drop in rate for Minot State University in 2018 can be attributed to an institutional change in remedial programming from enrollment in non-credit bearing remediation course to enrollment in credit bearing course with co-requisite support.*

Table 4*Freshmen English Language Arts Remediation Rates*

	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
BSC	23.10%	21.10%	21.90%	22.10%	23.50%
DCB	48.60%	48.70%	44.60%	41.00%	54.19%
LRSC	30.10%	25.00%	30.90%	33.90%	34.29%
NDSCS	29.70%	28.20%	21.80%	34.40%	44.90%
WSC	22.40%	24.70%	28.90%	27.00%	23.78%
DSU	11.90%	9.90%	12.70%	14.70%	11.05%
MASU	33.30%	38.90%	30.20%	28.60%	28.78%
MISU	6.60%	7.00%	9.70%	4.80%	7.81%
VCSU	21.70%	24.30%	24.70%	23.80%	28.48%
NDSU	8.90%	8.90%	8.80%	0.40%	0.70%
UND	0.00%	0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NDUS Overall	13.90%	13.80%	13.30%	12.00%	12.20%
Community Colleges	28.20%	26.30%	25.00%	29.50%	33.03%
Regional Universities	15.70%	16.30%	16.50%	14.20%	15.65%
Research Universities	5.10%	5.20%	5.00%	0.20%	0.39%