This research brief provides enrollment, GPA, and retention information about first-time students\(^1\) enrolled in SDV 100: College Success Skills. SDV 100 is designed to help students make a successful transition to college by providing them with essential skills to accomplish their academic goals.

Part I of this research brief presents the SDV 100 enrollment rate for students from three cohorts: Fall 2007, Fall 2008, and Fall 2009. In Part II, the GPA of students in these cohorts is compared to the GPA of students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 and, for the Fall 2009 cohort, comparisons are also made by demographic characteristics. In Part III, the retention rate of students in the cohorts who enrolled in SDV 100 is compared to the retention rate of students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 and, for the Fall 2009 cohort, comparisons are also made by demographic characteristics. Demographic characteristics include gender, race/ethnicity, age group, and enrollment status.

### Introduction

First semester enrollment rates of first-time students in SDV 100 increased while second semester enrollment rates remained steady for the three cohorts. GPA and fall to spring retention rates of students enrolled in SDV 100 first semester increased from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 and then slightly decreased for Fall 2009, while GPA for students enrolled in SDV 100 second semester decreased from Fall 2007 to Fall 2009. Overall, GPA and retention rates were higher for students in all three cohorts who enrolled in SDV 100 than for those who were not enrolled in SDV 100 for both first and second semesters. The same is generally true for all demographic subgroups in the Fall 2009 cohort such as gender, race/ethnicity, age group, and enrollment status. Within most demographic subgroups, students who took SDV 100 in first or second semester had higher GPAs or retention rates than those who did not take SDV 100 in the respective semester. Exceptions include GPA of Native American students enrolled in SDV 100 first semester, GPA of White, Native American, and other students enrolled in SDV 100 second semester, GPA of <18 and 45-59 year old students enrolled in SDV 100 second semester, retention of <18 year old students, and GPA of part-time students enrolled in SDV 100 second semester.

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\(^1\) First-time students are those who are attending any post-secondary educational institution for the first time.
Part I. SDV 100 Enrollment Rate of First-Time Students

Figure 1 presents the SDV 100 enrollment rate for three cohorts of first-time students: Fall 2007, Fall 2008, and Fall 2009. The figure shows the percentage of students who enrolled in SDV 100 in either their first or second semester. As shown in Figure 1, a higher percentage of students from all three cohorts enrolled in SDV 100 in their first semester than in their second semester (29.7% vs. 6.8% for Fall 2009 cohort). There was also an increase in the SDV 100 enrollment rate of first-time students in the first semester from Fall 2007 to Fall 2009 (19.5% to 29.7%). The SDV 100 enrollment rate of first-time students in second semester remained fairly constant during the same time period (6.4% to 6.8%).

![Figure 1. SDV 100 Enrollment Rate by Cohort](image)

Part II. GPA of First-Time Students

Part II compares the performance of first-time students enrolled in SDV 100 to the performance of first-time students not enrolled in the course. Performance is measured as the average of students' cumulative grade point average (GPA)\(^2\) at the end of the semester during which they were enrolled in SDV 100.

GPA by Cohort – First Semester

Figure 2 presents the average GPA of each cohort of students (Fall 2007, Fall 2008, and Fall 2009) who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course in their first semester. As shown in the figure, the average GPA was higher for students from all three cohorts who enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester compared to students who were not enrolled (2.37 vs. 1.95 for Fall 2009 cohort). Comparing the GPA of students enrolled in SDV 100 for each cohort, there was an increase in the GPA of first-time students in the first semester from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 (2.29 to 2.39) but a slight decrease from Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 (2.39 to 2.37).

\(^2\) Average Fall GPA is used to measure first semester performance. Average Spring GPA is used to measure second semester performance.
GPA by Cohort – Second Semester

In Figure 3, the average cumulative GPA is compared for students who enrolled in SDV 100 in their second semester and those who did not enroll in the course in their first year. Three cohorts are compared: Fall 2007, Fall 2008, and Fall 2009. The average GPA was higher for students from all three cohorts who enrolled in SDV during their second semester compared to students who were not enrolled during those terms (2.40 vs. 2.35 for Fall 2009 cohort). Comparing the GPA of students enrolled in SDV 100 for each cohort, there was a decrease in the GPA of first-time students in the second semester from Fall 2007 to Fall 2009 (2.48 to 2.40).

GPA by Gender – First Semester

Figure 4 displays the average GPA by gender for Fall 2009 cohort students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester. As the figure shows, the average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their first

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3 First-time students who took SDV 100 during their first semester are not included.
semester than for those who were not. This is true for both males (2.18 vs. 1.87) and females (2.57 vs. 2.05).

Figure 4. GPA by Gender- First Semester (Fall 2009)

![Bar chart showing GPA by gender for the first semester.](chart)

GPA by Gender – Second Semester

Figure 5 presents the average cumulative GPA by gender of students who enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester and those who did not enroll in the course in their first year. As the figure shows, the average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100. This was true for both males (2.34 vs. 2.29) and females (2.47 vs. 2.42).

Figure 5. GPA by Gender- Second Semester (Spring 2010)

![Bar chart showing GPA by gender for the second semester.](chart)

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4 First-time students who took SDV 100 during their first semester are not included.
GPA by Race/Ethnicity – First Semester

Figure 6 displays the average GPA by race/ethnicity for Fall 2009 cohort students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester. As the figure shows, the average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester than for those who were not for all but one group, Native American students, of which there were fewer students. The largest difference for the average GPA of students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester was for Hispanic students (2.35 vs. 1.61) followed by for Asian students (2.67 vs. 1.95).

Figure 6. GPA by Race/Ethnicity - First Semester (Fall 2009)

GPA by Race/Ethnicity – Second Semester

Figure 7 presents the average cumulative GPA by race/ethnicity of students who enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester and those who did not enroll in the course in their first year. As the figure shows, the results were mixed. The average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 for Black, Asian, and Hispanic students. The largest of these differences was for Asian students (2.53 vs. 2.28). The average GPA was lower for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 for White, Native American, and Other students. The largest of these differences was for Native American students (1.13 vs. 2.26) although there were small numbers of Native American students.

5 First-time students who took SDV 100 during their first semester are not included.
Figure 7. GPA by Race/Ethnicity - Second Semester (Spring 2010)

![GPA by Race/Ethnicity - Second Semester (Spring 2010)](image)

**Race/Ethnicity**

**GPA by Age Group – First Semester**

Figure 8 displays the average GPA by age group for Fall 2009 cohort students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester. As the figure shows, the average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester than for those who were not for all but one group, 60+ year old students, because none of this age students took SDV 100 in the first semester. The difference for the largest group of students, 18-21 year olds, was 2.32 versus 1.86.

Figure 8. GPA by Age Group - First Semester (Fall 2009)

![GPA by Age Group - First Semester (Fall 2009)](image)
GPA by Age Group – Second Semester

Figure 9 presents the average cumulative GPA by age group of students who enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester and those who did not enroll in the course in their first year.6 As the figure shows, the results were mixed. The average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 for 18-21, 22-24, 25-29, and 30-44 year old students. The average GPA was lower for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 for <18, 45-59, and 60+ year old students. The difference for the largest group of students, 18-21 year olds, was 2.34 versus 2.22.

GPA by Enrollment Status – First Semester

Figure 10 displays the average GPA by enrollment status for Fall 2009 cohort students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester. As the figure shows, the average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester than for those who were not for both full-time (2.39 vs. 1.97) and part-time students (2.31 vs. 1.94).

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6 First-time students who took SDV 100 during their first semester are not included.
Figure 1 presents the average cumulative GPA by enrollment status of students who enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester and those who did not enroll in the course in their first year. As the figure shows, the results were mixed. For full-time students, the average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 (2.42 vs. 2.22). For part-time students, the average GPA was lower for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 (2.34 vs. 2.50).

GPA by Enrollment Status – Second Semester

Figure 11 presents the average cumulative GPA by enrollment status of students who enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester and those who did not enroll in the course in their first year. As the figure shows, the results were mixed. For full-time students, the average GPA was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 (2.42 vs. 2.22). For part-time students, the average GPA was lower for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their second semester than for students who were not enrolled in SDV 100 (2.34 vs. 2.50).

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7 First-time students who took SDV 100 during their first semester are not included.
Part III. Fall to Spring Retention Rate of First-Time Students

Part III compares the fall to spring retention rate of first-time students enrolled in SDV 100 in the first semester to the fall to spring retention rate of first-time students not enrolled in the course in that semester.

Retention by Cohort – First Semester

Figure 12 presents the fall to spring retention rate of each cohort of students (Fall 2007, Fall 2008, and Fall 2009) who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course in their first semester. As shown in the figure, the retention rate was higher for students from all three cohorts who enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester compared to students who were not enrolled (86.4% vs. 73.3% for Fall 2009 cohort). The retention rate for students who enrolled in SDV 100 in first semester increased from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 (83.7% to 86.8%) but then remained fairly constant from Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 (86.8% to 86.4%).

Retention by Gender – First Semester

Figure 13 displays the fall to spring retention rate by gender for Fall 2009 cohort students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester. As the figure shows, the retention rate was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester than for those who were not. This is true for both males (84.7% vs. 72.3%) and females (88.2% vs. 74.5%).
Retention by Race/Ethnicity – First Semester

Figure 14 displays the fall to spring retention rate by race/ethnicity for Fall 2009 cohort students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester. As the figure shows, the retention rate was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester than for those who were not. This is true for all race/ethnicity groups. The differences are the largest for Native American (100.0% vs. 66.7%) and Other students (91.2% vs. 74.7%) although there were small numbers of Native American students.
Retention by Age Group – First Semester

Figure 15 displays the fall to spring retention rate by age group for Fall 2009 cohort students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester. As the figure shows, the retention rate was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester than for those who were not for all age groups except <18 and 60+ year olds. For the largest group, 18-21 year olds, the difference was 87.8% versus 75.6%.

![Figure 15. Fall to Spring Retention by Age Group (2009-10)](image)

Retention by Enrollment Status – First Semester

Figure 16 displays the fall to spring retention rate by enrollment status for Fall 2009 cohort students who enrolled in SDV 100 and those who did not enroll in the course during their first semester. As the figure shows, the retention rate was higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 during their first semester than for those who were not for both full-time (90.2% vs. 83.5%) and part-time students (72.3% vs. 63.9%).
In conclusion, for the Fall 2007, Fall 2008, and Fall 2009 cohorts, enrollment rates of first-time students in SDV 100 in first semester increased while enrollment rates of first-time students in SDV 100 in second semester remained approximately the same. For students enrolled in SDV 100 in first semester, GPA and fall to spring retention rates increased from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 and then slightly decreased for Fall 2009. For students enrolled in SDV 100 in second semester, GPA decreased from Fall 2007 to Fall 2009.

In all three cohorts and for both semesters, GPA and retention rates were higher for students who were enrolled in SDV 100 than for those who were not enrolled in SDV 100. Similarly, within most demographic subgroups, such as gender, race/ethnicity, age group, and enrollment status, students who took SDV 100 in first or second semester had higher GPAs or retention rates than those who did not take SDV 100 in the respective semester. This was not true for the following subgroups and semesters where the GPA or retention of students who took SDV 100 was lower than for those who did not take SDV 100: GPA of Native American students enrolled in SDV 100 in first semester, GPA of White, Native American, and other students enrolled in SDV 100 in second semester, GPA of less than 18 and 45-59 year old students enrolled in SDV 100 in second semester, fall to spring retention of less than 18 year old students, and GPA of part-time students enrolled in SDV 100 in second semester. No 60+ year old students were enrolled in SDV 100 in first or second semester.