Student Development (SDV) courses help provide a successful transition to college for first-time students by enhancing students’ academic skills and helping them develop their college and career plans. This Research Brief presents the SDV course enrollment rate for first-time students from three cohorts (Fall 2004, Fall 2005, and Fall 2006) in order to explore enrollment patterns in these courses during the first year of college. Enrollment rates are analyzed by cohort, campus, program, and enrollment status.

SDV Course Enrollment Rate by Cohort

Figure 1 displays the enrollment rate in SDV courses for three cohorts: Fall 2004, Fall 2005, and Fall 2006. For all cohorts, the majority of students did not enroll in an SDV course in their first two semesters. Of the students who enrolled in an SDV course in their first year, a higher percentage of students from all cohorts enrolled in their first semester. SDV course enrollment in the first two semesters decreased from Fall 2004 to Fall 2006.

Figure 1. SDV Course Enrollment Rate by Cohort

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Second Semester</th>
<th>Neither</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2004</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>2,932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2005</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,229</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>2,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,737</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>4,356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 SDV courses include SDV 100-College Success Skills, SDV 101-Orientation to: (a specific discipline), SDV 106-Preparation for Employment, SDV 107-Career Education, SDV 109-Student Leadership Development, SDV 195/295-Topics in: (topics vary by academic year).

2 First-time students are those who are attending any post-secondary educational institution for the first time.

3 Enrollment rates reflect the semester in which students enrolled in their first SDV course.
SDV Course Enrollment Rate by Campus

Figure 2 displays the enrollment rate in SDV courses by campus. Students who did not enroll in an SDV course in their first two semesters comprised the majority of students at each campus. Of those students who enrolled in an SDV course, students at the Annandale and Woodbridge campuses had the highest enrollment rates in the first semester (31.0% and 30.6%, respectively). During the second semester, students at the Medical Education (MEC) and Annandale campuses had the highest SDV course enrollment rates (14.1% and 12.1%, respectively). Students at the Alexandria campus had the lowest SDV course enrollment rates for both semesters (19.4% and 8.4%).

SDV Course Enrollment Rate by Program

Figure 3 presents the SDV course enrollment rate by program of study. As with the previous analyses, the majority of students in all groups did not enroll in an SDV course in their first year. Of the students who enrolled in an SDV course, those in the Associate of Arts (AA)/Associate of Science (AS) degree programs had the highest first- and second-semester enrollment rates (31.7% and 11.9%). In contrast, students who were not program-placed had the lowest first- and second-semester enrollment rates (13.2% and 6.8%).

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4 SDV course enrollment rates presented in Figures 2 through 4 are calculated by taking an average of the number of first-time students in the Fall 2004, Fall 2005, and Fall 2006 cohorts who enrolled in their first or second semester, or did not enroll in either semester.

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Figure 4 shows a comparison of SDV course enrollment for full-time and part-time students. As shown in the figure, the majority of full-time and part-time students did not enroll in an SDV course during their first two semesters. Of the students who enrolled in an SDV course in their first year, a higher percentage of both full-time and part-time students enrolled in their first semester. Furthermore, when comparing course enrollment during the first semester of full-time students to that of part-time students, a higher percentage of full-time students were enrolled (35.3%) than part-time students (13.8%).

Figure 4. SDV Course Enrollment Rate by Enrollment Status
Summary

This Research Brief presents the Student Development (SDV) course enrollment rate for first-time students from three cohorts (Fall 2004, Fall 2005, and Fall 2006). Enrollment rates were analyzed by cohort, campus, program of study, and full-time/part-time status. Presented below is a summary of findings:

- The majority of students in all groups analyzed did not take SDV courses in their first two semesters.

- The percentage of students who enrolled in SDV courses in their first two semesters decreased from Fall 2004 to Fall 2006.

- Among the students who took SDV courses in their first year, a higher percentage of students in all groups analyzed were enrolled in SDV courses in their first semester.

- The Annandale and Woodbridge campuses had the highest SDV course enrollment rates in the first semester. The Medical Education and Annandale campuses had the highest SDV course enrollment rates in the second semester.

- Students in the Associate of Arts (AA)/Associate of Science (AS) degree programs had the highest first- and second-semester SDV course enrollment rates.

- A higher percentage of full-time students were enrolled in SDV courses in their first two semesters than part-time students.