

# Rapid Track

## Enrollment, Grades, and Student Survey

Rapid Track courses were first introduced as a Del Mar College flexible scheduling option during the fall semester of 1998.

Rapid Track offers a new opportunity for highly-motivated students who can devote time to an accelerated program of study. The difference between a Rapid Track course and a "regular" semester-long course is in the length (six weeks instead of 16) and intensity (four days per week, Monday through Thursday, rather than every other day). The Rapid Track Associate Degree option is designed so students can complete an Associate in Arts degree in one year.

### Enrollment

The number of Rapid Track courses offered at Del Mar College has increased from 12 courses taught in the Fall 1998 to 15 courses taught in Spring 1998 and 16 in Fall 1999. During that same time, the unduplicated headcount in Rapid Track courses has increased from 93 in Fall 1998 to 162 in Spring 1999, and then decreased to 126 in Fall 1999.

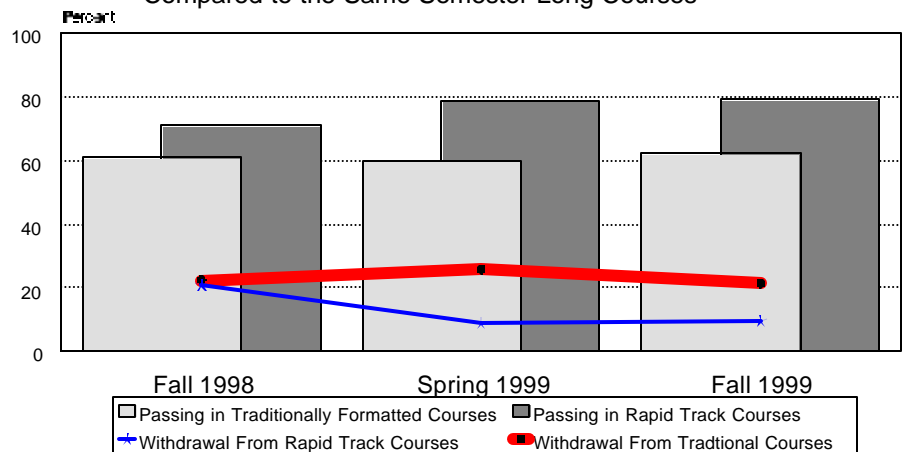
Twenty-three different courses have been offered in Rapid Track in the last year and one-half. Although the average class size the first semester offered was 16.9, last fall the average class size for Rapid Track decreased to 14.4 (compared to 28.0 and 25.8 respectively for the same courses taught in the traditional format).

As indicated by the basic demographics, students who elect to enroll in Rapid Track courses are very similar to students college-wide. When comparing the ethnic and age distribution of Rapid Track students to students college-wide, very little difference is found. However, proportionately more Rapid Track students are female (67.5 percent) compared to college-wide (59.3 percent) as seen in the Fall 1999.

### Grades

Grade distribution comparisons for Rapid Track courses and traditionally formatted courses with a Rapid Track section show Rapid Track students pass (A-D) their courses at a rate of 10 to 20 percent higher than students in the same courses taught in the traditional format. As the graph above indicates, Rapid Track courses not only have a higher passing rate but also have a lower withdrawal rate compared to traditionally formatted courses.

Passing and Withdrawal Rates For Rapid Track Courses Compared to the Same Semester-Long Courses



The Fall 1998 withdrawal rate (20.9 percent) for Rapid Track courses was only slightly less than the withdrawal rate of the same courses taught in the traditional 16 week duration (22.4 percent). However, in the spring and fall of 1999, the withdrawal rate for Rapid Track courses dropped significantly to 8.8 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively, while the withdrawal rate for the same courses offered in a traditional format remained just above 20 percent.

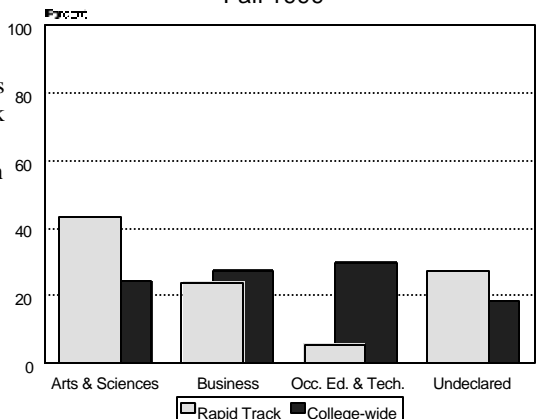
### Student Survey

A survey was administered to Rapid Track students in the fall of 1999. A total of 93 (a 74 percent response rate) surveys were completed and analyzed. One-third of survey respondents indicated that they had taken other Rapid Track courses prior to the current semester and another one-third were concurrently enrolled in a non-Rapid Track course that semester. The majority (90.3 percent) of survey respondents reported that they believe there is enough time to adequately cover the materials in a Rapid Track course. As a measure of overall satisfaction, students were asked if they would recommend Rapid Track to other students. The overwhelming majority (97.8 percent) responded yes. As another measure of satisfaction, two-thirds of current enrollees intent to take Rapid track courses in the future.

### Majors

Although all courses offered under Rapid Track are within the Arts & Sciences Division, only 43 percent of the survey respondents had declared an Arts & Sciences major (24 percent of students declare an Arts & Science major college-wide). Similar proportions of survey respondents (24 percent) declared a Business major as do students college-wide (24 percent). A higher proportion (27 percent) of survey respondents were undeclared compared to students college-wide (18 percent).

Students by Declared Major Fall 1999



Detailed tables comparing grade distributions for each Rapid Track course and details from the Rapid Track survey are available in the Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness.