

Impact of Not Enforcing Same-Day-Drop Non-Payment Policy

Prepared by Benjamin R. Gamboa

Purpose of Brief

This brief studies the impact of this temporary policy change on student access and success in Spring 2017.

Summary of Findings

- 77% of students paid their enrollment fees the same day they enrolled in the section, and 23% did not pay their enrollment fees yet.
- Only 15 students paid their enrollment fees a day or more after enrolling in the section.
- Unpaid enrollments accounted for approximately 274 FTES and \$1.37 million in additional allocation.
- The net increase in revenue from Spring 2017 students who have not yet paid their enrollment fees is approximately \$1.05 million.
- Students who did not pay their enrollment fees were substantially ($d = 0.27$) and statistically significantly ($p < 0.001$) more likely to successfully complete their course (82%) than students who paid their enrollment fees the same day (70%).

Overview

In fall 2016, the Academic Senates and leadership at Crafton Hills College (CHC), San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC), and District central services expressed interest in changing the enforcement of the same-day-pay-or-drop payment policy based upon prior research which showed a possible increase in FTES. After campus and districtwide discussions, college and district leadership temporarily suspended the enforcement of the same-day-pay-or-drop policy with the intent to study and revisit the decision. This brief studies the impact of this temporary policy change on student access and success in Spring 2017.

Implications

- A low number of late-payment students may indicate the messaging to students should be adjusted to more accurately reflect enforcement of the drop policy.
- Students in the non-payment group have a hold placed on their account and will not be able to enroll in other courses, request transcripts, or conduct other forms of business with the college until they remit payment for the Spring 2017 sections.
- More information is needed about students in the non-payment group having substantially higher course success rates.

Methodology

Payment records for Spring 2017 enrollments were obtained using the [Enrollment Charges and Payments](#) Informer report. Payment records were filtered to enrollment fee charges and credits associated with sections scheduled in Spring 2017 at CHC. The number of days between charges and credits (payments) was calculated based on the date the invoices were generated. The most recent charges and credits were used for students with multiple enrollments in the same section. Records were excluded when credits were posted prior to the charges, which excluded 44 total records. Students were grouped into three categories: Same-Day Payment (0 days between charge and credit), Late Payment (days between charge and credit was greater than 0), and Non-Payment (a credit does not appear after the charge). Grades on record for Spring 2017 sections at CHC were obtained using the [KW-Grades on Record](#) Informer report. Contact and clock hours for active CHC courses were calculated using the [Contact Hours from Courses](#) Informer report. **Limitations: Past due payments are actively being collected, and payments posted after October 3, 2017 are not included in this analysis. Contact and clock hours differ per section based upon specific scheduling decisions, so FTES generated per student is approximated in this analysis.**

Findings

Table 1 indicates the number of students in each payment group. Seventy-seven percent of students paid their enrollment fees the same day they enrolled in the section, and 23% did not pay their enrollment fees yet. Only 15 students paid their enrollment fees a day or more after enrolling in the section.

Table 1. Number of students by payment group.

Payment Group	N	%
Same-Day Payment	4,915	77.2%
Late Payment	15	0.2%
Non-Payment	1,434	22.5%

Note: Students may be duplicated if they had different payment behaviors for different sections.

Table 2 indicates the units enrolled, enrollment fees collected, approximate FTES generated, and approximate allocation from the State. Same-day payment enrollments generated 43,821 units, over \$2 million in fees collected, approximately 1,589 FTES, and approximately \$8 million in FTES-based allocations. Unpaid enrollments generated 6,903.5 units, a loss of \$317,561 in uncollected enrollment fees, approximately 274 FTES, and approximately \$1.37 million in FTES-based allocation. **The net increase in revenue from Spring 2017 students who have not yet paid their enrollment fees is approximately \$1.05 million.**

Table 2. Financial implications by payment group.

Payment Group	Units	Fees Collected	FTES	State Allocation
Same-Day Payment	43,821.00	\$ 2,015,766.00	1,589.38	\$ 7,953,665.78
Late Payment	89.50	\$ 4,117.00	3.31	\$ 16,554.54
Non-Payment	6,903.50	\$ (317,561.00)	274.39	\$ 1,373,119.92

Note: FTES and state allocation figures are approximated on default course contact/clock hours.

Table 3 indicates the successful completion of courses by payment group. Students who did not pay their enrollment fees were substantially ($d = 0.27$) and statistically significantly ($p < 0.001$) more likely to successfully complete their course (82%) than students who paid their enrollment fees the same day (70%).

Table 3. Course success by payment group.

Payment Group	Successful		Not Successful		Effect Size (d)	p-value
	#	%	#	%		
Same-Day Payment	9,489	69.9%	4,080	30.1%		
Late Payment	18	78.3%	5	21.7%	0.18	0.344
Non-Payment	1,731	82.1%	378	17.9%	0.27	< 0.001