



Rancho Santiago Community College District Influence of Same-College Completion of Chemistry Sequence on Course Success

January 2014

The Chemistry Department continues to study whether students' success in several identified chemistry course sequences is influenced by having taken all of the courses at a single college (or whether enrolling at multiple colleges results in comparable success). Using the data we can readily access for Santa Ana College or Santiago Canyon College, transcripts of chemistry students were analyzed and course success rates in the "highest course in a given identified sequence" compared. Data on the "209/219/229" and "249/259" course sequences are compiled from Fall 2009 thru Summer 2013 grades on file. Because the sample study is small, please use caution when comparing data. It is also recommended that effectiveness of any program should also be assessed from different perspectives.

Summary of Findings

- Successful completions in Fall 2009 through Summer 2013 by students in the 209/219/229 sequence are comparable for "SAC only" and "SCC only" cohorts (88%), and **three percentage points higher** for students who completed sequence classes at both colleges.
- Students in the 249/250 sequence were successful at similar rates of 94% and 95% (for "SAC only" and "SCC only" cohorts, respectively)—but show a **significantly lower** success rate (82%) when taking courses at both colleges (a very small count may be a cause for a magnified fluctuation in the percent calculation).

Rancho Santiago Community College District Completion of Chemistry Sequence from Fall 2009 – Summer 2013

Chemistry Course Sequence	% Success in Highest Course in Sequence			Total # Grades Rec'd
	college sequence completed at:			
	SAC & SCC	SAC only	SCC only	
Chemistry 209 & 219 & 229	91%	88%	88%	89%
total # grades rec'd	134	129	76	339
Chemistry 249 & 259	82%	95%	94%	95%
total # grades rec'd	11	197	18	226