



**GREAT FALLS COLLEGE**  
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

# **8 WEEK ADVANTAGE**

**GREAT FALLS COLLEGE | MSU**

Dr. Leanne Frost – Executive Director of Instruction

Dr. Eleazar Ortega- Institutional Research

Troy Stoddard – Director of Advising



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## Advantages to 8-Week Schedule

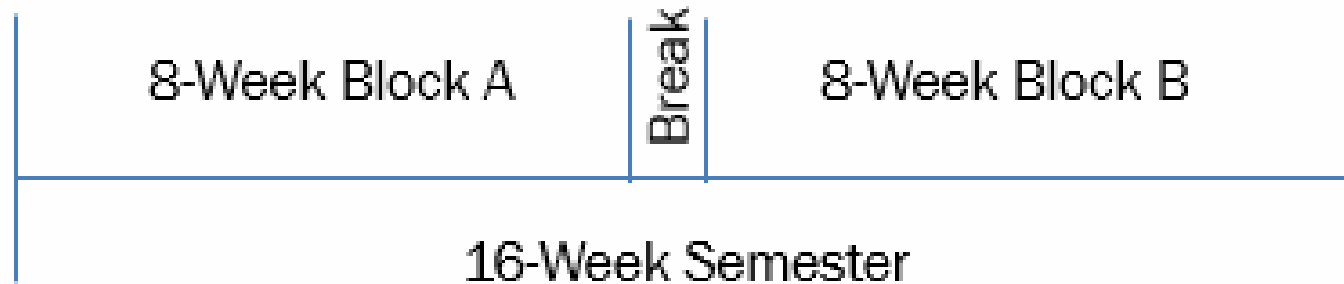
### **Goal: Increase retention and completion**

- Greater immersion in course material
- Increased student focus when taking fewer courses at one time
- Faster completion of prerequisite requirements
- Easier to recover when outside factors impact schooling
- Better able to manage taking more credits



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- Fall 2018 – All General Studies except math and sciences, Business & Technology
- Fall 2019 – All General Studies except biology, Bus & Tech, Trades
- Fall 2020 – All General Studies, Bus & Tech, Trades



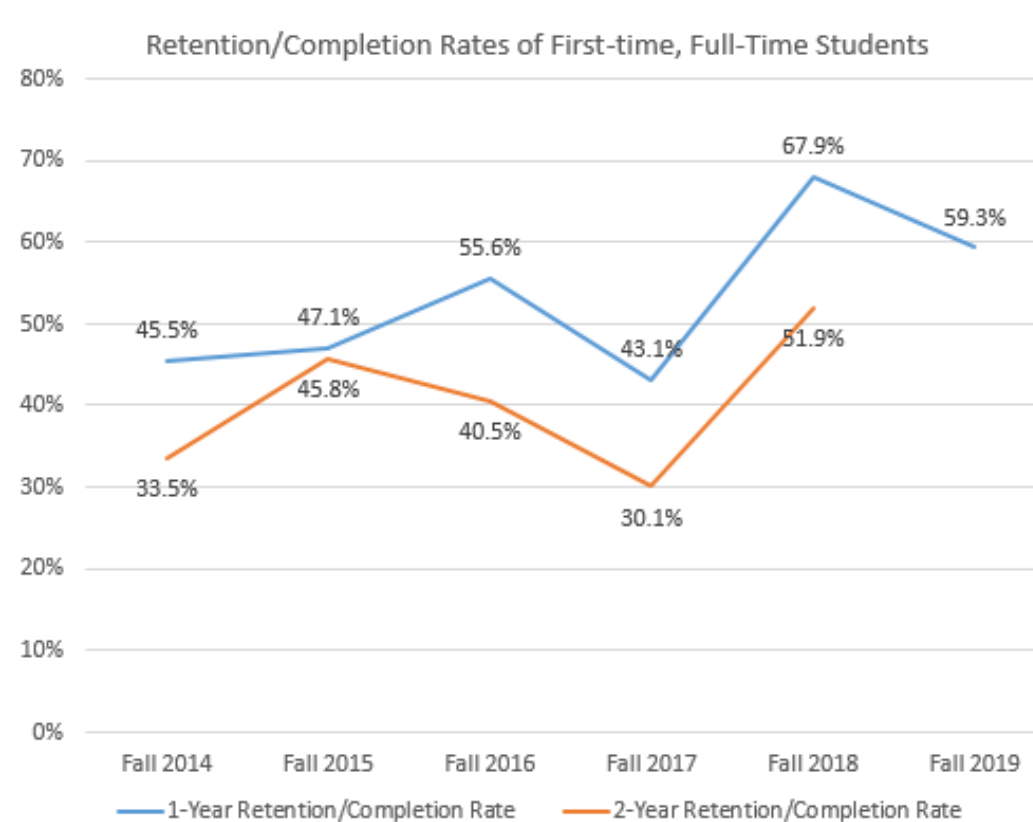
## Sample Student Schedule (15 credits)

Fall A		Fall B	
MTWR 10:15-11:30	WRIT 101 College Writing (3 credits)	MTWR 10:15-11:30	COMX 115 Interpersonal Communication (3 credits)
		MTWR 11:45 -1:00	PHL 110 Introduction to Ethics (3 credits)
MTWR 1:15-2:30	M095 Intermediate Algebra (3 credits)	MWF 1:00 - 2:40	M 121 College Algebra (3 credits)



## Results

- First-time, full-time fall 2018 cohort had a 1-year **retention/completion rate** higher than the fall 2014-2017 cohorts



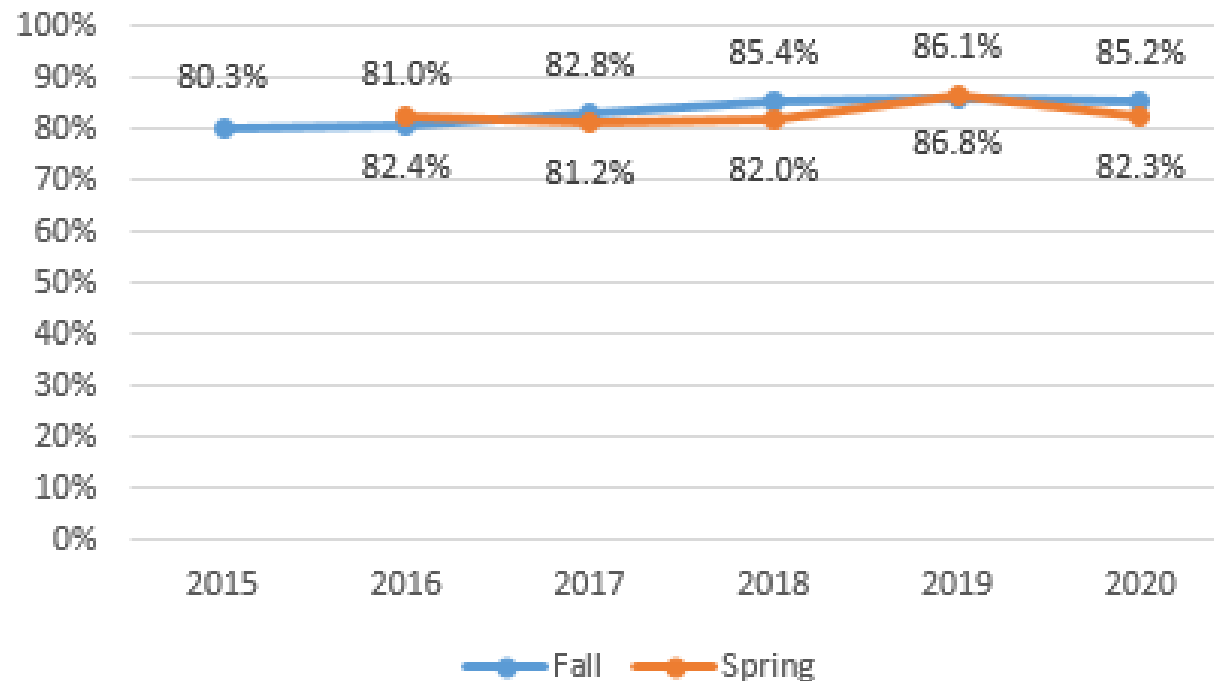


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- Matriculated students are completing more credits
- Maintained proportion of completed credits Spring 2020 despite COVID impact

Matriculated Students- Proportion of Attempted Credits Earned

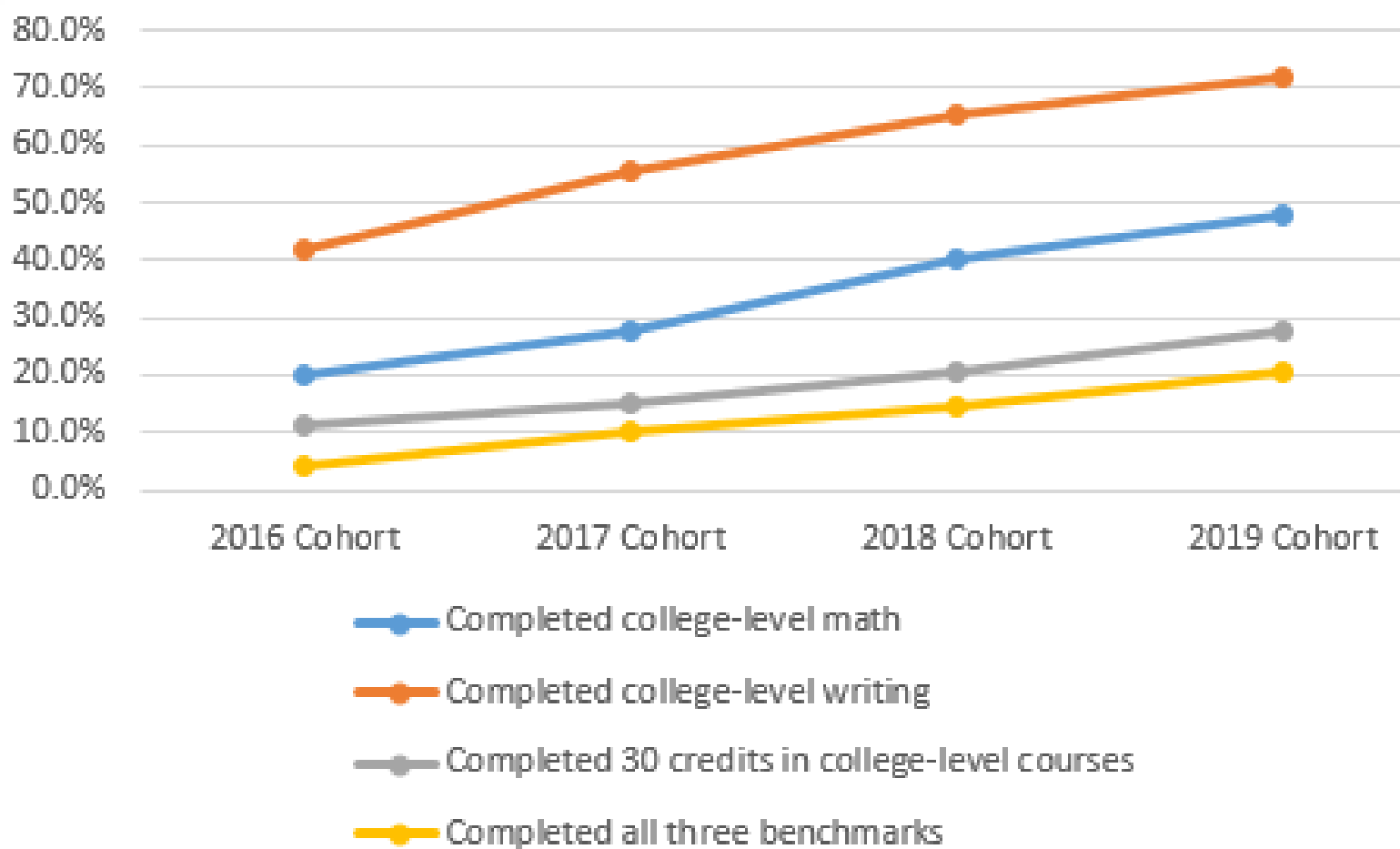




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- First-time students completed college-level math and writing at a higher rate

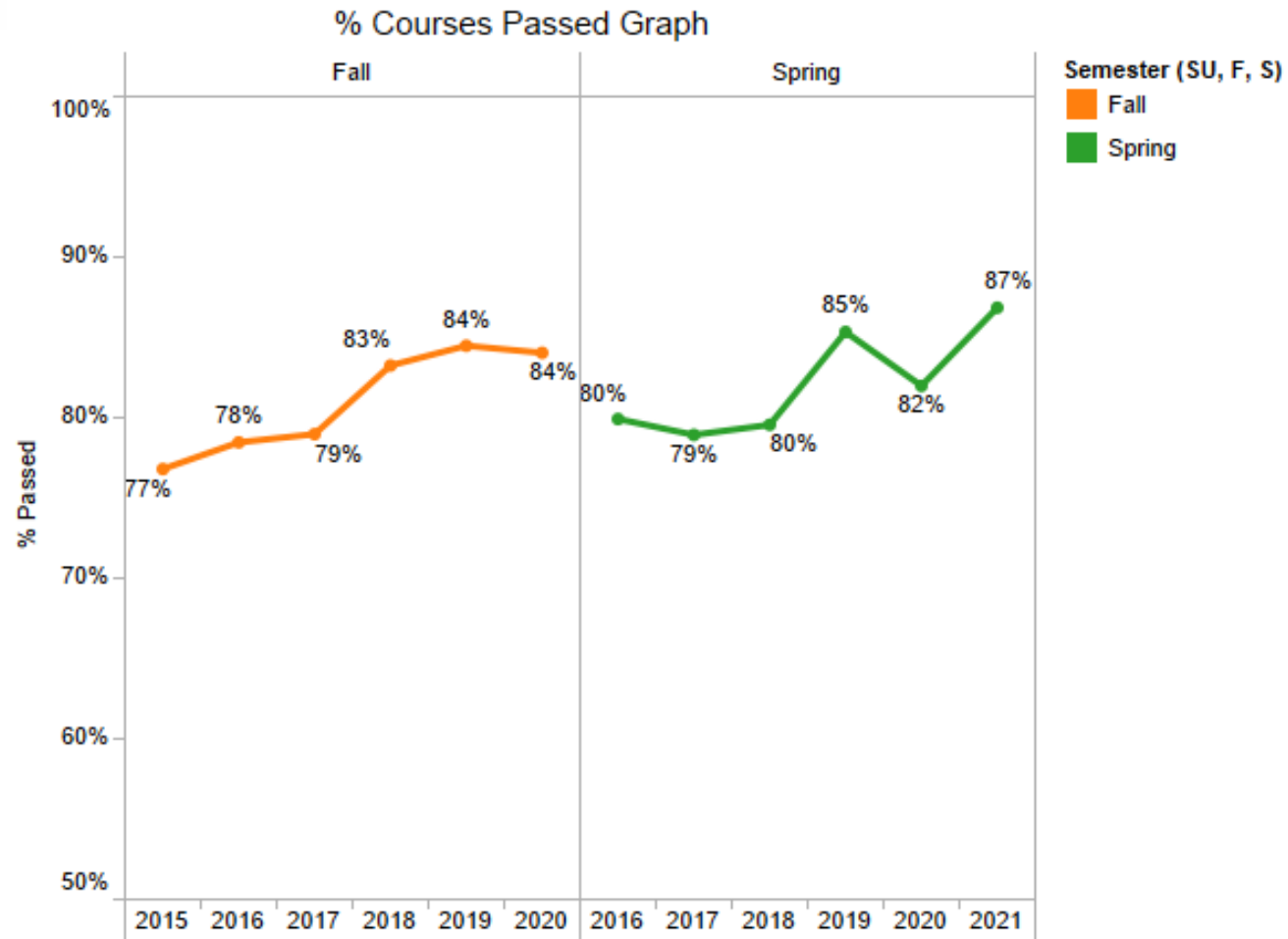




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- Students completed a higher proportion of GFC MSU courses with passing grades







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- Students enrolled after semester began:
  - Fall 2020, 70 students enrolled after semester began
  - Spring 2021, 54 students enrolled after semester began
- Increased census to end-of-term enrollment:
  - Higher FTE and headcount (HC) at end-of-term (EOT) compared to census date
    - Fall 2020, +62 HC, +12 FTE
    - Spring 2021, census to May 17, 2021, +43 HC, +5 FTE



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## What the Students are Saying

### **What do you like about the 8-Week Advantage?**

“Being a mother of 3 and have a job it allows me to balance life better.”

“I like how you can focus more on 2 classes at a time rather than 4 over the 16 weeks.”

“I love being able to get a full semester class done with in 8 weeks. It can definitely be tough but it’s very rewarding and I am grateful for this opportunity and to be able to finish my associates degree faster than planned!”

“It allows me to complete my degree in a shorter time than originally planned.”



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# Questions?

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