

Film's student success rate remains stable in the mid-70% range. Retention likewise hovers in the low 90% range. Our withdrawal rate over the past three academic years, 10% or less. We believe this data demonstrates strong student success; we attribute much of this success to the recent influx of new adjunct instructors, who are dedicated and innovative in their approach to helping students complete and succeed, as well as FT faculty lead who is actively engaged with a variety of academic support initiatives, pedagogy activities and collaborations across campus.

We want to note that for most underrepresented ethnic groups, our success rates had steadily improved over recent years (85%, approx.), but have dipped during the recent PR cycle (70%, approx.). We attribute this, speculatively, to an increased number of international students enrolling in film courses who are underprepared, and who seem to care more about having the units rather than succeeding academically in the course; and, more specifically, the spring Film 122 Mana/International Ed section, which was an “experiment” by the FT faculty member, who encountered various struggles with engaging and motivating students. Several students were not able to complete coursework adequately, and/or dropped the course.

The success rate difference between on-campus and OL has improved for Film, partially due to our instructors gaining special DE and OL training and professional development; along with robust collaboration between the OL instructors and DE coordinator. Film as a discipline seems to lend itself to OL teaching and learning. Our OL retention and success rates over the past few years have climbed above our traditional numbers—with, roughly speaking, retention in the low 90% and success in the low 80%. These percentages are more or less consistent across most demographics, including first generation students, suggesting that further bolstering our OL pedagogy and curriculum could help close equity gaps.

We'd like to note that during spring 18, Film participated in study abroad Florence, so we offered more sections than normal (10 v. 8 sections), causing our LOAD to go down slightly, as student enrollment in study abroad comes from various colleges outside the district. But our success rates and SLO achievement remains high. Film regularly supports and partners with study abroad, as it helps globalize our curriculum and institutional identity, while fostering student success (global citizenship, unique academic opportunity, etc.).