

Top 20 Courses Most Predictive of Graduation



Based on Historical Predictive Analytics Data from the Student Success Collaborative

OSU's Institutional Reports, generated by EAB's Student Success Collaborative, provide predictive analytics data based on historical student performance.

According to the analyses, these twenty courses are the most predictive of graduation from OSU. The analysis includes all degree-seeking undergraduate students who began at OSU between 9/27/2004 - 3/28/2011 (N = 34,895). The 2011 cutoff ensures that each cohort of students was given at least four years to graduate, allowing for analysis by graduation rate. As expected, many of these are Baccalaureate Core courses taken by a large number of students. SSC predictive course data is also available for specific academic colleges and majors.

1. Lifetime Fitness for Health	HHS 231	Skills
2. English Composition	WR 121	Skills
3. Introduction to Microeconomics	ECON 201	Social Processes & Institutions
4. Contemporary Families in the U.S.	HDFS 201	DPD or Social Processes & Inst.
5. Human Sexuality	HDFS 240	Social Processes & Institutions
6. Differential Calculus	MTH 251	Skills
7. Introduction to Sociology	SOC 204	Social Processes & Institutions
8. Comparative Cultures	ANTH 210	Cultural Diversity
9. Geography of the Non-Western World	GEO 105	Cultural Diversity
10. College Algebra	MTH 111	Skills
11. HIV/AIDS and STIs in Modern Society	H 312	Synthesis, Contemp. Global Issues
12. General Chemistry	CH 121	Physical Science
13. General Chemistry (majors series)	CH 231	Physical Science
14. Interpersonal Communication	COMM 218	Skills
15. General Psychology	PSY 201	Social Processes & Institutions
16. Lifetime Fitness	HHS 241	
17. Principles of Biology	BI 211	Biological Science
18. Geography of the Western World	GEO 106	Western Culture
19. Vector Calculus I	MTH 254	
20. General Chemistry (majors series)	CH 232	Physical Science

Course	Predictive Rank	N	Predictive Grade	OSU Min. Pass. Grade	Average Grade	Average Term Taken	Grad. Rate	% of Ds/Fs	% of Ws
HHS 231	1	24,315	C	D-	3.03	2.4	65%	8%	2%
WR 121	2	15,699	B	C- ¹	3.02	2.4	60%	7%	4%
ECON 201	3	12,213	C	D-	2.57	4.5	69%	12%	6%
HDFS 201	4	8,988	C	D-	3.30	4.4	74%	3%	2%
HDFS 240	5	9,064	B	D-	3.26	4.1	69%	4%	2%
MTH 251	6	9,803	D	C- ²	2.30	3.1	62%	23%	12%
SOC 204	7	9,359	C	D-	2.62	4.1	63%	14%	6%
ANTH 210	8	9,256	C	D-	3.11	4.1	69%	6%	4%
GEO 105	9	5,092	C	D-	2.91	4.3	69%	10%	4%
MTH 111	10	12,504	D	C- ²	2.13	2.6	58%	27%	11%
H 312	11	10,343	D	D-	3.29	8.4	86%	4%	2%
CH 121	12	8,472	C	C- ²	2.64	2.4	58%	19%	4%
CH 231	13	6,014	C	C- ²	2.64	1.7	65%	17%	4%
COMM 218	14	6,872	C	D-	2.86	6.4	79%	8%	2%
PSY 201	15	9,508	C	D-	2.67	4.2	67%	14%	3%
HHS 241	16	8,710	B	D-	3.64	2.5	69%	4%	3%
BI 211	17	6,872	D	C- ²	2.46	3.7	71%	16%	4%
GEO 106	18	4,992	C	D-	2.87	4.5	69%	10%	3%
MTH 254	19	6,012	D	C- ²	2.43	3.9	70%	18%	8%
CH 232	20	4,864	C	C- ²	2.64	2.8	71%	15%	3%

Predictive Rank – ranking of courses based on the distribution of grades, graduation rate for these grades, and historical enrollment

N – number of students included in the data who completed or attempted the course

Predictive Grade – the lower bound of the grade range predictive of graduation from OSU, based on historical graduation rates

OSU Minimum Passing Grade – minimum grade to receive credit and progress towards a degree at OSU; courses may have minimum grades above the default D- according to Baccalaureate Core rules¹ or prerequisite requirements² for higher courses in the subject

Average Grade – average grade received in this course on a 4-point scale

Average Term Taken – average term in which students attempted the selected course (excludes summer terms and transfer students for consistency)

Graduation Rate – percentage of students who graduated from OSU after attempting the selected course, graduation is defined as receiving a Bachelor's Degree from OSU at any point in the date range (9/27/2004 - 3/28/2011) rather than by 4- and 6-year rates

% of Ds/Fs – percentage of students who received a D or F in the selected course

% of Ws – percentage of students who withdrew from the selected course