

# Office for Education Policy

## Freshman Success Report

### ARKANSAS

After controlling for student demographic and programmatic characteristics, student academic prior achievement, student disciplinary infractions, student absences, district enrollment sizes, and district economically disadvantaged composition:

- Economically disadvantaged students in Arkansas are **7 percentage points less likely** to pass a course their freshman year compared to their more advantaged peers.
- *\*See Notes for more information*

### WHO IS FAILING?

*State Freshman Failure Percentage by Student Demographic/ Programmatic Characteristics (2020-21 and 2021-22).*

Student Group	Percent Failing	
	2020-21	2021-22
Overall % Failing	32	25
Male	35	28
Female	29	21
White	26	20
Black	50	38
Hispanic	33	26
Other Races	31	23
Free or Reduced-Lunch	40	30
Gifted and Talented	13	8
English Language Learners	41	36
Special Education	34	27

*\*The above information does not control for student demographic and programmatic characteristics, prior academic achievement, or district characteristics; this table is only descriptive rates.*

## WHAT COURSES ARE FRESHMEN FAILING?

### *Top Ten Courses Failed by Highest Failure Rates in State, 2020-21 and 2021-22*

2020-21	Failure Rate	2021-22	Failure Rate
Algebra I Part A	24	Algebra I Part B	18
Algebra I Part B	21	Algebra I	16
Algebra I	21	Algebra I Part A	15
Critical Reading I	21	Critical Reading I	14
Survey of Business	19	United States History	12
United States History	17	Physical Science	12
Art I	16	Programming Year 1	12
Spanish I	16	World History	12
Physical Science	16	Survey of Business	11
Family and Consumer Science	16	English 9	11

\*We only include a course as a part of the “Highest Failure Rates” column if at least seven percent of Arkansas freshmen are enrolled in the course. The above information does not control for student demographic and programmatic characteristics, prior academic achievement, or district characteristics; this table is only descriptive rates.

### *Top Ten Highest Enrolled Courses and Failure Rates in State, 2020-21 and 2021-22*

2020-21	Failure Rate	2021-22	Failure Rate
English 9	16	English 9	11
Physical Science	16	Physical Science	12
Algebra I	21	Algebra I	16
Health and Wellness	7	Health and Wellness	5
Civics (0.5 credit)	9	Civics (0.5 credit)	6
Physical Education	3	Personal Fitness for Life	3
Economics with Personal Finance	11	Economics with Personal Finance	8
Art I	16	Visual Art Foundations	9
Survey of Business	19	Athletics (0.5 credit)	0
Spanish I	16	Survey of Business	11

\*The above information does not control for student demographic and programmatic characteristics, prior academic achievement, or district characteristics; this table is only descriptive rates.

### **Notes:**

The Office for Education Policy provides these likelihoods of passing courses based on a pooled analysis of 2020-21 and 2021-22 Arkansas Freshmen. We control for student demographic and programmatic characteristics, student disciplinary infractions, student absences, prior academic achievement from ACT Aspire Math and ELA scores from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and district characteristics to measure the passing rate differences between similar demographic, programmatic, and academic students from the same districts.

We use Free-or-Reduced Lunch status as a proxy for poverty and economically disadvantaged students.

When we measure if students in the district, region, or state are Well Above Average, Above Average, Average, Below Average, or Well Below Average, we are comparing against the average district in Arkansas.

For more information about this analysis:

Contact OEP for more information about your report!

Office for Education Policy: [oe@uark.edu](mailto:oe@uark.edu)