

16-Week Schedule Student Survey Results

September, 2001

Office of Institutional Research

City, Mesa, Miramar Colleges are determining the feasibility of moving from an 18-week semester to a 16-week block schedule semester. A short survey was developed to obtain feedback from students regarding the shortened semester. Eight questions were included in the survey. A total of 1,930 survey responses were obtained from all three colleges in Fall 2001. The major findings are summarized in the following section:

- Overall, students would like to move to a 16-week semester. In the district, about 63% of the respondents indicated that they would prefer a 16-week semester (57.7% at City, 65.6% at Mesa, and 69.1% at Miramar).
- Over 50% of the students would like the start/end dates to be August 26-December 14 for the 16-week semester. About 27% of the students preferred September 3-December 21 as start/end dates.
- Over 77% of the students at all colleges believed that they would get the same quality of education from a 16-week schedule when compared to the 18-week schedule.
- Over 70% of the students at all colleges believed that the 16-week schedule would help them balance their school and work/family obligations.
- About 56% of the students would be interested in taking a 4-week class in January (between Fall and Spring).
- Over 20% of the students at all colleges would be interested in taking 5-6 weeks or 7-8 weeks short-term classes.
- Nearly 45% of the students would like more classes to be offered during weekday mornings. Students expressed little interest in taking classes on weekends.
- Over 60% of the students in the district indicated that their educational goal was to transfer to a 4-year institution (52.7% at City, 68.3% at Mesa, and 51.5% at Miramar).

16-Week Schedule Student Survey

1. Which semester length would you prefer given the differences stated above?

	City		Mesa		Miramar		SDCCD		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
a. 16-week schedule	403	57.7%	690	65.6%	121	69.1%	1,214	63.1%	
b. 18-week schedule	188	26.9%	228	21.7%	31	17.7%	447	23.2%	
c. No preference	107	15.3%	134	12.7%	23	13.1%	264	13.7%	
Total		698	100.0%	1,052	100.0%	175	100.0%	1,925	100.0%

2. Which of the following semester start/end dates would you prefer for a 16-week schedule?

	City		Mesa		Miramar		SDCCD		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
a. September 3-December 21	170	24.4%	297	28.3%	51	29.3%	518	27.0%	
b. August 26-December 14	354	50.7%	567	54.1%	82	47.1%	1,003	52.2%	
c. No preference	77	11.0%	91	8.7%	20	11.5%	188	9.8%	
d. Don't prefer a 16-week schedule	97	13.9%	93	8.9%	21	12.1%	211	11.0%	
Total		698	100.0%	1,048	100.0%	174	100.0%	1,920	100.0%

3. I believe I will get the same quality of education from a 16-week schedule when compared to the 18-week schedule.

	City		Mesa		Miramar		SDCCD		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
a. Agree	379	54.1%	598	56.9%	91	52.3%	1,068	55.5%	
b. Somewhat agree	144	20.5%	241	22.9%	38	21.8%	423	22.0%	
c. Somewhat disagree	47	6.7%	63	6.0%	11	6.3%	121	6.3%	
d. Disagree	88	12.6%	89	8.5%	18	10.3%	195	10.1%	
e. No opinion	43	6.1%	60	5.7%	16	9.2%	119	6.2%	
Total		701	100.0%	1,051	100.0%	174	100.0%	1,926	100.0%

4. I believe the 16-week schedule will help me balance my school and work/family obligations.

	City		Mesa		Miramar		SDCCD		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
a. Agree	345	49.4%	550	52.2%	85	48.9%	980	50.9%	
b. Somewhat agree	155	22.2%	239	22.7%	43	24.7%	437	22.7%	
c. Somewhat disagree	35	5.0%	41	3.9%	6	3.4%	82	4.3%	
d. Disagree	88	12.6%	101	9.6%	18	10.3%	207	10.7%	
e. No opinion	76	10.9%	123	11.7%	22	12.6%	221	11.5%	
Total		699	100.0%	1,054	100.0%	174	100.0%	1,927	100.0%

5. Would you be interested in taking a 4-week class in January (between Fall and Spring)?											
			City		Mesa		Miramar		SDCCD		
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
a. Yes			424	61.0%	562	53.6%	99	56.9%	1,085	56.6%	
b. No			271	39.0%	487	46.4%	75	43.1%	833	43.4%	
Total			695	100.0%	1,049	100.0%	174	100.0%	1,918	100.0%	
6. Which of the following short-term class formats would you most likely to participate in?*											
(select all that apply)											
			City		Mesa		Miramar		SDCCD		
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
a. 1-4 weeks			157	18.5%	222	16.4%	45	19.5%	424	17.4%	
b. 5-6 weeks			170	20.1%	307	22.7%	52	22.5%	529	21.8%	
c. 7-8 weeks			170	20.1%	300	22.2%	45	19.5%	515	21.2%	
d. 9-10 weeks			96	11.3%	148	10.9%	26	11.3%	270	11.1%	
e. 11-12 weeks			126	14.9%	153	11.3%	32	13.9%	311	12.8%	
f. Don't like short-term classes			128	15.1%	224	16.5%	31	13.4%	383	15.7%	
Total			847	100.0%	1,354	100.0%	231	100.0%	2,432	100.0%	
7. When would you like more classes to be offered? (select all that apply)*											
			City		Mesa		Miramar		SDCCD		
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
a. Weekday morning (before 12:00)			383	43.1%	634	47.5%	83	35.8%	1,100	44.8%	
b. Weekday afternoon (12:00-5:00pm)			186	20.9%	262	19.6%	36	15.5%	484	19.7%	
c. Weekday evening (after 5:00pm)			91	10.2%	101	7.6%	31	13.4%	223	9.1%	
d. Weekend morning (before 12:00)			66	7.4%	85	6.4%	25	10.8%	176	7.2%	
e. Weekend afternoon (12:00-5:00pm)			45	5.1%	64	4.8%	20	8.6%	129	5.3%	
f. Weekend evening (after 5:00pm)			38	4.3%	58	4.3%	17	7.3%	113	4.6%	
g. No preference			79	8.9%	132	9.9%	20	8.6%	231	9.4%	
Total			888	100.0%	1,336	100.0%	232	100.0%	2,456	100.0%	
8. What is your educational goal?*											
			City		Mesa		Miramar		SDCCD		
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
a. Earn an associate degree			171	21.8%	151	13.3%	29	14.2%	351	16.5%	
b. Earn a certificate			41	5.2%	35	3.1%	8	3.9%	84	4.0%	
c. Transfer to a 4-year institution			413	52.7%	776	68.2%	105	51.5%	1,294	60.9%	
d. Career related			56	7.1%	63	5.5%	22	10.8%	141	6.6%	
e. Personal improvement			49	6.3%	38	3.3%	18	8.8%	105	4.9%	
f. Undecided			33	4.2%	44	3.9%	17	8.3%	94	4.4%	
g. Other			21	2.7%	30	2.6%	5	2.5%	56	2.6%	
Total			784	100.0%	1,137	100.0%	204	100.0%	2,125	100.0%	
* students may selected more than one answers to one question so the total number is greater than the total number of responses.											