

Blue Water Middle College Academy

Covid-19 Extended Learning Plan Mid-year Report on Achievement of Educational Goals

Blue Water Middle College Academy Educational Goals from Extended Learning Plan:

“Educational goals for Blue Water Middle College Academy students in 2020 – 2021 are not benchmark-specific. They are broader due to the nature of a middle college and the age and grade level of our students. The overarching goals of the middle college since it opened include helping students successfully transition to college, succeed in their college courses and complete a program of study at St. Clair Community College (SC4) that results in an associate degree and/or professional certificate.”

These goals will be assessed at the end of each semester this year through the analysis of class grade data and college completion data for grade 13 students.

Fall Semester – Academic Success Data

BWMCA students took 1,399 SC4 courses in fall 2020.

470 grades were A or A- (33.6%)
370 grades were B+, B, or B- (26.5%)
228 grades were C+, C, or C- (16.3%)

125 grades were E (8.9%)
116 courses were dropped (W) (8.3%)

The percentages of A, B and C grades were just slightly lower than normal, but there was a higher percentage of E's and W's than in past semesters. In 2019, 6.5% of grades were E's and 6.7% of courses were dropped (W's). It appears that the effects of Covid-19 negatively impacted the success of BWMCA students.

Anecdotally, students and parents reported difficulty handling online coursework in both high school and college courses. SC4 made the decision to move all in-person, on campus courses to online only four days before the beginning of fall semester.

Impact on college completion

The impact of online learning due to Covid-19 on grade 13 students' completion of associate degrees will not be known until early this summer. The last two years, 57% of BWMCA graduates earned at least one associate degree upon graduation from the middle college. The higher number of E's and W's reported in fall 2020 semester may impact the college completion numbers, because it only takes one or two failed or dropped courses over their three years in the middle college to prevent a student from earning the 60 credits needed for a degree, or they may not pass a required grade or pass it with a high enough grade.

Comparing BWMCA student data with traditional SC4 student data

We have not been able to get grade data from SC4 for fall semester yet. While it is clear that Blue Water Middle College Academy students were negatively affected by the switch to online learning, the majority of BWMCA students continued to succeed in their courses. Almost three-quarters of the grades earned in fall 2020 were C or higher. It will be interesting to see how the grades of all SC4 students (traditional, dual enrollment and middle college) were impacted.