

2019 FACT BOOK



Santa Ana College

Santa Ana College's Occupational Studies Bachelor Degree Program (OS BDP) enrolled its first cohort in the fall semester of 2017. Students in the first OS BDP cohort ($n = 27$) have excellent academic outcomes (see *Tables 1* and *2* below), demonstrating the huge success of the program. The end of the spring 2019 semester marked a celebratory milestone – the first graduating class of the OS BDP. With the graduating class completing their studies at SAC, Dr. Linda Rose requested focus groups to learn about the experiences of students in the program. The former Program Coordinator, Michelle Parolise, MBA, OTR/L, was instrumental in carrying out the focus groups by collaborating with the Research Office on developing the focus group questions and coordinating student participation on weekends.

Academic Outcomes of The First Cohort of OS BDP Students

Table 1. Course success rates across all students from the first cohort by academic year.

Academic Year	Course Outcome	Count	%
2017-2018	Successful	155	92.8%
	Non-successful	4	2.4%
	Non-complete	8	4.8%
	Total	167	
2018-2019	Successful	209	97.2%
	Non-successful	2	0.9%
	Non-complete	4	1.9%
	Total	215	

Successful = grade of A, B, C or Pass.

Non-successful = grade of D, F or No pass.

Non-complete = grade of I or W.

Table 2. Average total attempted and completed semester units by term, as well as GPA weighted for units.

Academic Year	Term	Avg Total Attempted Sem Units	Avg Total Completed Sem Units	Avg Final Sem GPA Weighted for Units
2017-2018	Summer 2017	4.2	4.0	3.2
	Fall 2017	8.5	8.3	3.2
	Intersession 2018	—	—	—
	Spring 2018	10.0	9.3	3.6
2018-2019	Summer 2018	4.0	3.8	3.5
	Fall 2018	9.2	8.9	3.6
	Intersession 2019	3.0	3.0	3.3
	Spring 2019	13.0	13.0	3.7

OS BDP Focus Group Results

Two focus groups:

1. February 23, 2019 (n = 6)
2. March 23, 2019 (n = 4)

Students at each focus group were asked a series of 12 questions related to their experiences in the bachelor degree program, as well as their experiences in earning their associate's degree prior to beginning the bachelor degree program. For example, students were asked about the challenges they faced, advice they would give new students, and what SAC could have provided to help them be more successful. Each focus group lasted approximately 1 hour.

Response themes:

- Love the program! Great experience.
- Challenging but rewarding.
- Liked the affordability.
- Prioritizing and time management are key to success.
- Peer and family support help to overcome challenges of the program.
- Liked hybrid and accelerated courses.

Selected paraphrased responses representative of the themes:

- Love the program. Like the fast pace and the challenge. Liked being on your feet all the time. Overall, great experience with the program.
- Helped develop as a stronger clinician.
- Sense of accomplishment; worked full-time while being a student full-time.
- Feels prepared for master's degree programs; ready for graduate school level.
- Cheaper in comparison to other programs.
- Financially feasible compared to other colleges. Found a lot of benefits from the program so it was worth all the struggles and hard work.
- Balancing work and school; hybrid program helped with balancing.
- Work full-time and per diem and going to school, in addition to family (wife and kids). Balancing by prioritizing.
- Dedicate your time to the program because it is a heavy workload, but worth it.
- Cohort style of program helped.
- Support from classmates in program.
- Family support.
- Online aspect is accommodating, but also have social support from on campus.
- Happy medium between online and face-to-face.
- Liked getting more courses completed in a semester without having to take all four at once, i.e., two 8-week sessions, 2 courses each, totaling 4 courses per semester.
- Content was fitting for the duration; also helped get more done in one semester. Need to be more on top of things during the course because of the speed.