Class availability

Three surveys* of undergraduates (2010, 2011, 2012) reveal that overall availability of classes has improved with 84% of respondents reporting in winter 2012 that all their classes met a graduation requirement (or that they were able to enroll in all the classes in their plan). As shown in the graphic, class availability has trended upward.

For required major courses and for general education courses, 92% of students were successful in getting required courses—although to do so, they may have needed to select a non-first choice class.

There have been improvements in students’ ability to enroll in their first-choice classes—particularly for general education courses, where first-choice availability improved from 40% to 53% over this period. Access to first-choice major courses remained relatively steady over the period at about 63%.

As expected, however, access to courses in the major improves with student level. But, over the two-year period, access to courses in the major improved for lower division students.

At the upper division level, there were notable differences in class availability depending upon a student’s major.

As reported on both survey measures—(i) that all classes met a graduation requirement and (ii) that all classes were “first choice”—juniors in the social sciences had the most difficulty getting classes. In contrast, juniors in the physical and biological sciences and engineering had the highest class availability. For seniors, students in the arts and social sciences had the lowest class availability while seniors in the other divisions had the highest.

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* An annual online survey of undergraduate students, CLASS has been a collaboration between students (SUA) and Institutional Research since 2010. Overall response rates have ranged from 17% in 2012 to 23% in 2011.