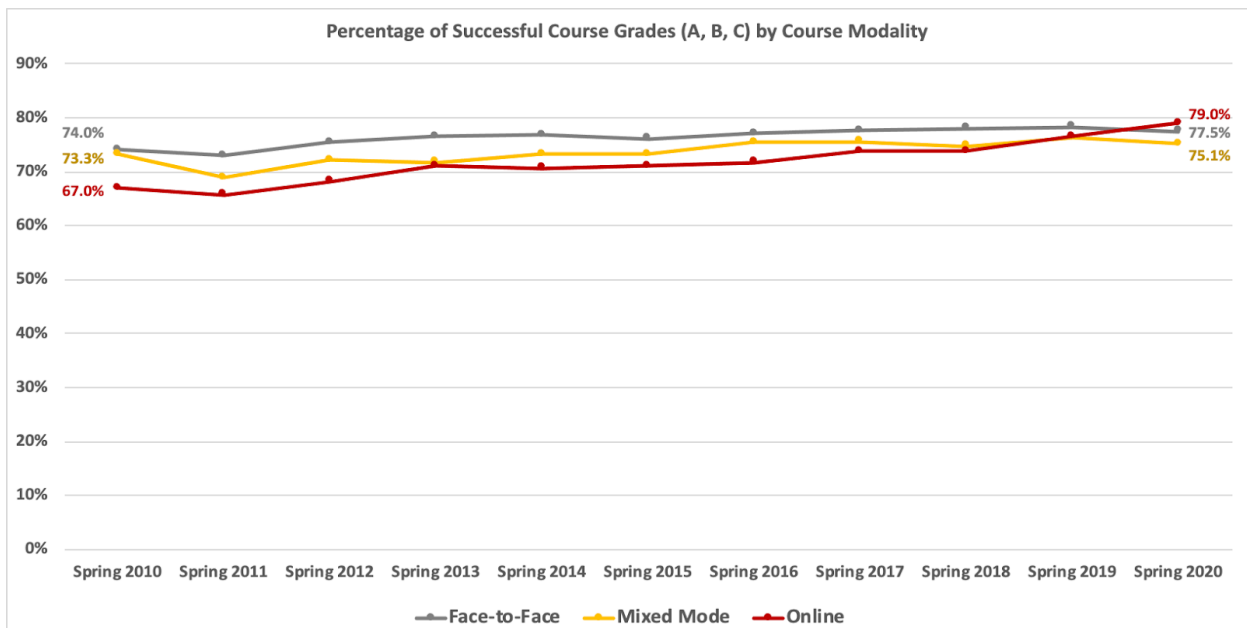# Plans for Fall 2020
Valencia College

Background

Valencia College closed campus operations beginning on March 16, 2020, in response to the emerging COVID-19 threat. As a result, the college moved more than 4,000 courses to a virtual format to allow students to complete the Spring 2020 semester and relocated nearly all employees to remote work environments. In early April 2020, the college decided to continue remote learning and working operations through July 31, 2020, and began deliberations on the processes, protocols, and frameworks required to reopen campus operations in a phased approach.

A Conditions to Reopen work team formed in April 2020 to create both the framework and the related operational protocols and plans that would allow the college to meet its top priorities: the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, and the continuity of our students' learning. This team created a four-phased Roadmap to Reopen which was endorsed by the college leadership and the Orlando Health Business Ready Task Force. The Roadmap serves as the primary framework for college decisions about adding programs, facilities, and departments to an existing phase of operations and to provide guidance to senior leaders in making the decision to move the college to a new phase of operations. The Conditions to Reopen work team recommended and the College President approved the college moving to Phase 2 on August 1, 2020 and remain in this phase through at least the Fall 2020 semester.
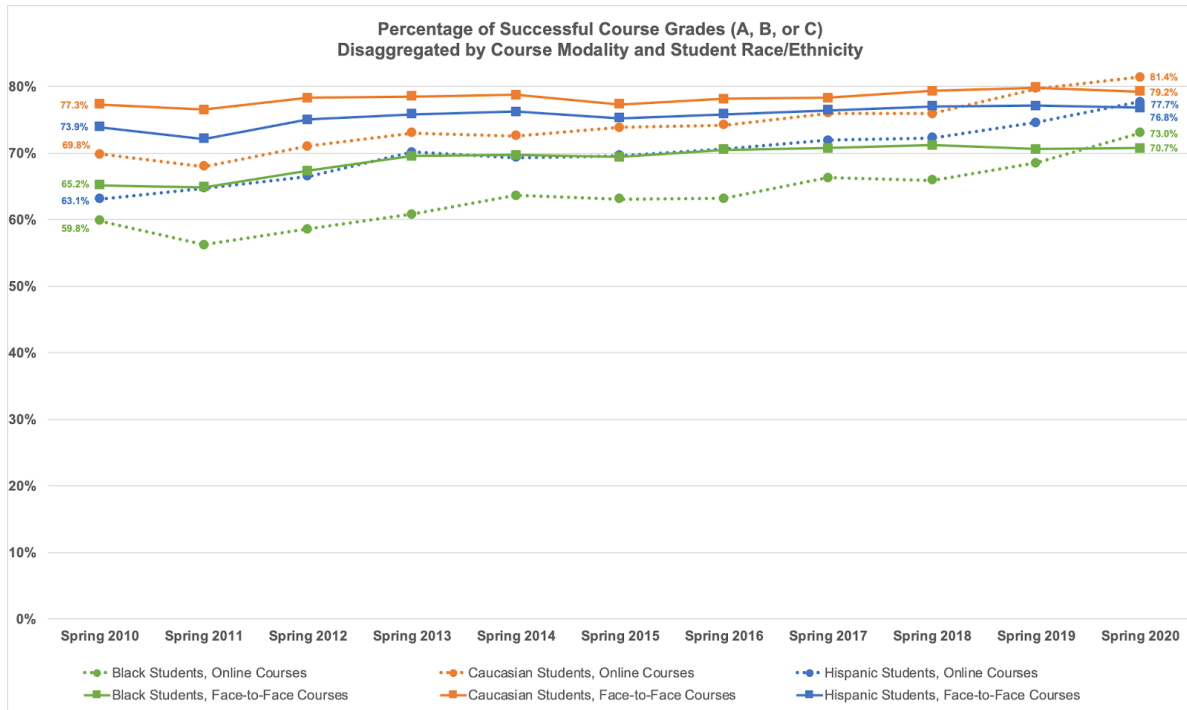
Fall Course Schedule

Working in parallel with the Conditions to Reopen work team, a Fall Course Schedule design team was formed in April 2020 to develop principles and recommendations for the Fall 2020 course schedule, with a goal of optimizing the learning experience for students while supporting continuity of learning. The design team was comprised primarily of faculty and academic deans.

Of particular interest and importance to the Design Team was minimizing the likelihood of another disruption to student learning similar to the abrupt transition online that occurred during the Spring 2020 semester. A review of student success data by modality, illustrated below, suggests that the disruptions caused by the pandemic disproportionately affected students who were enrolled in courses that were originally scheduled in the face-to-face modality. In fact, Spring 2020 marked the first semester at the college in which the rate of student success in online courses (79.0%) surpassed the rate of success in face-to-face courses (77.5%).

Percentage of Successful Course Grades (A, B, C) by Course Modality

Given our commitment to equitable student outcomes, it is important to add that a similar analysis of course success data disaggregated by course modality and student race/ethnicity suggests that students of each race/ethnicity experienced similar patterns of disruption in Spring 2020. Rates of success were higher in online courses (represented by the dotted lines in the figure below) than in face-to-face courses (represented by the solid lines in the figure below) in Spring 2020 for students of each race/ethnicity.

These student outcomes data validate the Fall Schedule design team recommendation that the college restrict the option of face-to-face or mixed-mode offerings **only to those courses that cannot be delivered in an online format**. This learning-centered approach allows the college to continue to focus on developing high-quality learning experiences for courses that can be delivered online, avoid the possibility of an abrupt transition in the middle of the semester for most courses, prioritize facilities utilization for courses that otherwise could not be offered, and uphold our commitment to safety by limiting the numbers of individuals on our campuses.

The Design Team advised that courses being considered for face-to-face delivery be prioritized based on community needs, impact on student progression toward program completion, and operational considerations. The team also supported a recommendation for the development of a new modality, called Real-Time Virtual, that will allow students and faculty to meet synchronously, at designated times, via an online videoconferencing platform.

Faculty, deans, campus presidents, and vice presidents worked collaboratively to develop a list of courses recommended for face-to-face or mixed-mode delivery. These recommendations were reviewed by the Conditions to Reopen work team and Faculty Council and approved by the College President.

As a result, in Fall 2020, Valencia plans to offer approximately 100 unique college credit courses and 90 unique continuing education courses in a face-to-face or mixed-mode format. Valencia typically offers approximately 1,100 unique college credit courses in Fall; all other courses will be offered in an online and/or real-time virtual modality.

Roadmap to Reopen Task Forces

In order to operationalize the guidance in the Roadmap to Reopen, detailed protocols are needed to assist local campus operations teams in preparing facilities for the return of our faculty, staff, and students. In addition, clear expectations are necessary for how facilities will be cleaned and maintained, how employees will experience both the workplace and their work responsibilities, and how our students, faculty, and staff will experience learning environments — both to ensure consistent application of protocols and also to build confidence among the community in returning to campus operations.

Four task forces were formed and charged by the Conditions to Reopen team with devising recommendations for how the college will prepare for reopening in four key areas: Preparing the Facilities, Preparing the Workforce, Preparing the Workplace, and Preparing the Learning Environment. The task force reports are currently under review by Orlando Health's Business Ready Task Force, and establish protocols and plans for general facilities preparation and maintenance, facilities preparation prior to opening, and scheduling of employees and classes as well as on-site daily operations plans for staffing, entry/access to campus, the cleaning of activated spaces, laboratory settings, and guidelines for business operations including vendors. In addition, a team is finalizing the plans and protocols for COVID-19 illness reporting, contact tracing, and clearances required to return to work/learning. Once finalized, all protocols and plans will be available on the [Roadmap Webpage](.).

As the college makes decisions to add programs, facilities, or departments to an existing phase or decides to move the college operations to a new phase, these operational protocols will guide local teams, with support from college-wide experts in operations and facilities, in preparing the facilities, workforce, workplace, and learning environments for reopening.