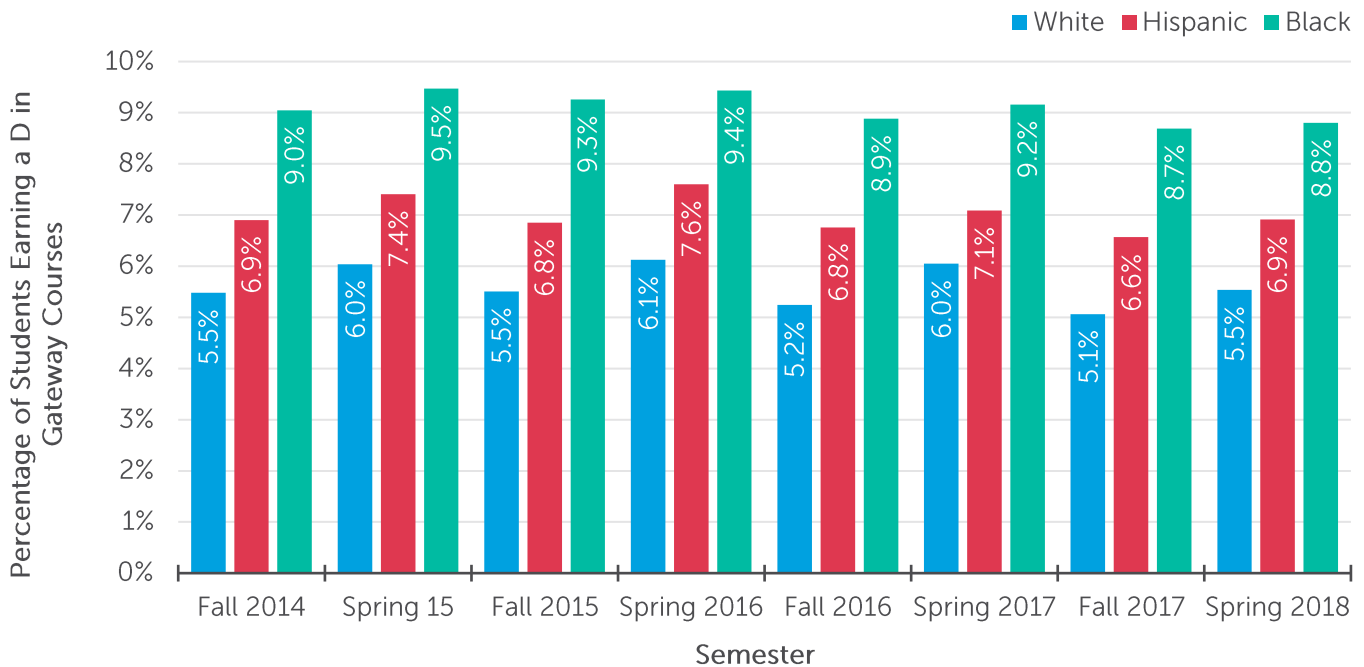


# Dastardly “D”

*A grade of “D” was found to be more common for Black and Hispanic students than white students.*



Source. Author’s analysis of publicly available data for a group of institutions. To support the focus of the story and the transparency of data the group of institutions is not provided.

Notes: N’s of those who earned a grade of “D” were approximately 10,000 in the fall and 8,000 in the Spring. The grades are for Math and English gateway courses.

While Mississippi is [the only state](#) to prohibit a general education course grade of “D” to transfer and a review of regional accreditor websites did not present a policy position, it is general knowledge and [has been reported on](#) in the higher education space that a course with a grade of D rarely transfers into an upper division program. This leads to students being required to retake courses they were led to believe they passed.

A review of publicly available data found that a higher percentage of black students consistently received a grade of D in gateway courses, followed by Hispanic students. The consistency of outcomes illustrates an engrained trend: even as the number of students earning a grade of D decreased from 19,506 in the 2014-15 year to 17,678 in the 2017-18 year, the gaps remained. This Points of Interest shows that a grade of “D” was found to be more common for black and Hispanic students than white students.

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