

# Student Scheduling Preferences Survey

## Pilot Study Results – Fall 2017

*Prepared by*

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SAN DIEGO  
MIRAMAR  
COLLEGE



# Survey Overview

- Understanding students' scheduling preferences is of vital importance to maintaining Miramar College's commitment to honoring our student body's diverse needs and improving scheduling, enrollments, retention, and persistence.
- In collaboration with the IEPI Bridge Project Leads, the Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE) undertook a survey of Miramar College students to understand their scheduling preferences.

# Research Method

Design: Online survey

Target Population: Miramar College Students

Sampling: Census

Administration: Distributed via email, advertised on the college website and twitter feed, and promoted around campus

# Overview of Participants

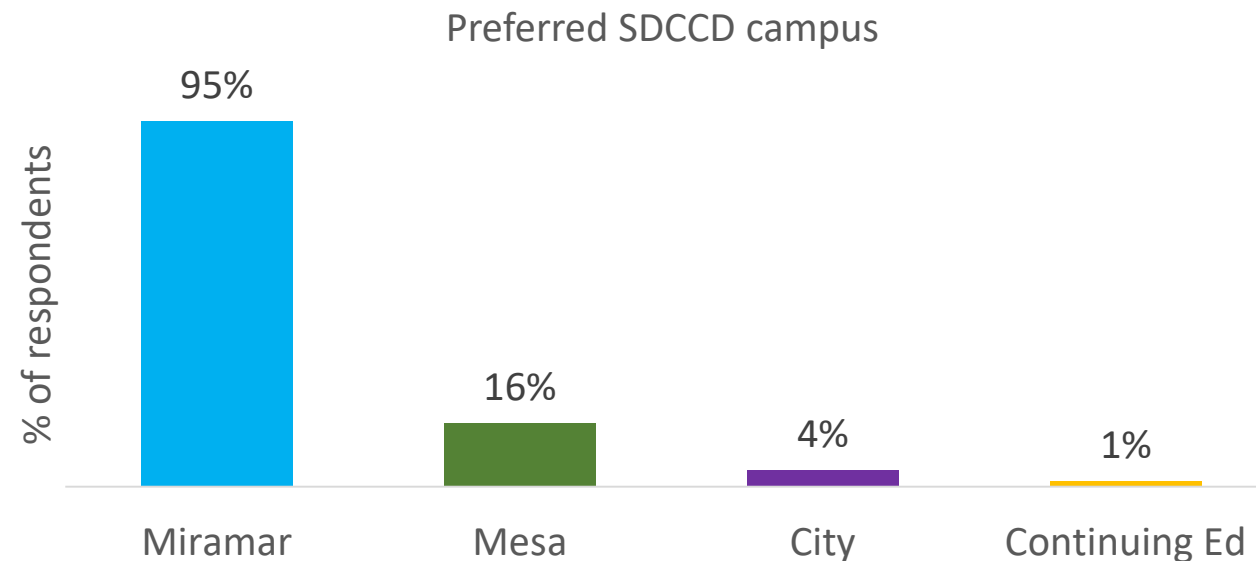
- 1401 respondents provided valid answers to the survey.
- Students from the following areas/planned majors were highly represented among survey takers:
  - biology (9%)
  - business (8%)
  - administration of justice (6%)
  - nursing (6%)
  - undecided/undeclared (8%)

# Summary of Findings: College-level

- Although the perceived quality of a Miramar College education is a driver for students, campus proximity to students' work and home and other aspects of convenience (such as parking availability) heavily shape students' choice.
- Sixteen week courses serve the majority of students (85%).
- Students generally prefer fewer course meetings (e.g., two) per week.
- The majority of students prefer course meetings to take place during the traditional work week (e.g., Monday-Thursday). However, some students do prefer courses to be held on Fridays and/or the weekend.
- More students prefer morning courses.

# Student Preferences: SDCCD Campus

- 95% percent of students indicated that Miramar College was among their preferred SDCCD campuses on which to take courses.
- Miramar College was the sole preference of 79% of all respondents (n=1107).

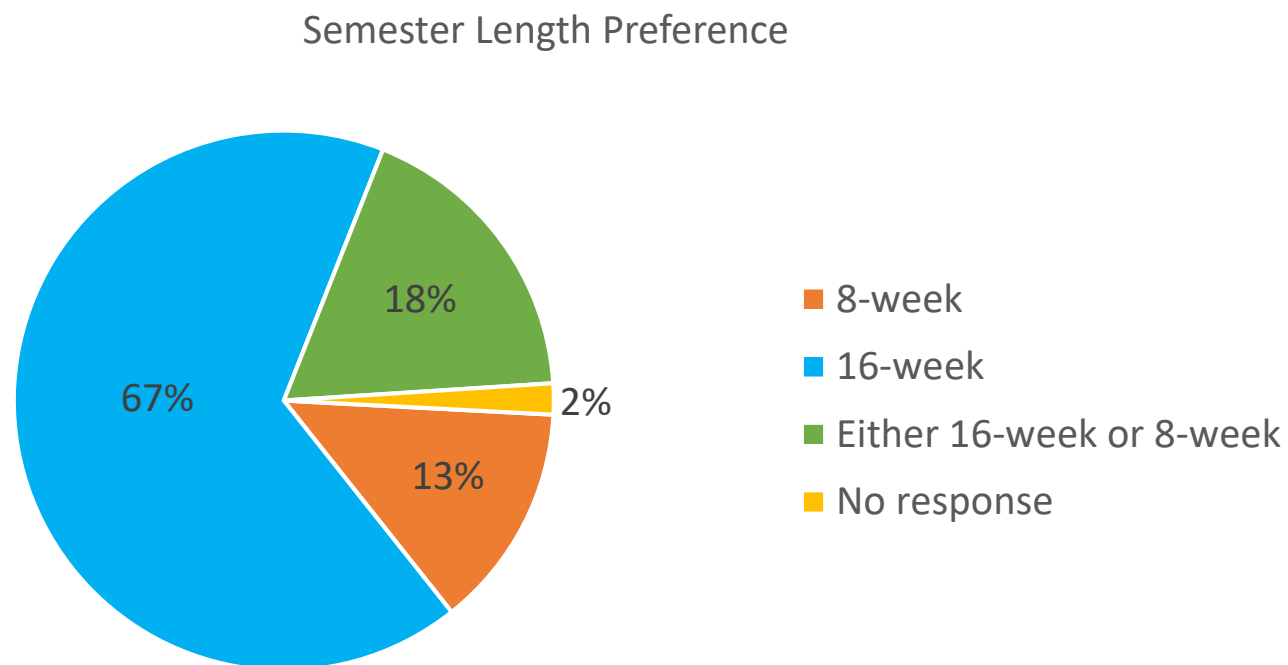


# Student Preferences: Miramar College

- Accessibility to home and work
  - “Miramar is closest to my job/home”
- Ease of parking
  - “I like the Miramar campus. It’s not as large as [other SDCCD campuses]. It’s manageable for me to leave work, get there to park and walk to my class to be there on time. Never have issues with parking.”
- Attractiveness and perceived safety of campus
  - “It is local to my house. I feel safe.”
  - “Near home. Peaceful and beautiful.”
- Educational experience
  - “Miramar is close to me and convenient. ALSO it has amazing professors.”
  - “I know as a student I'll get the attention I need to get the best education at Miramar.”

# Student Preferences: Semester Length

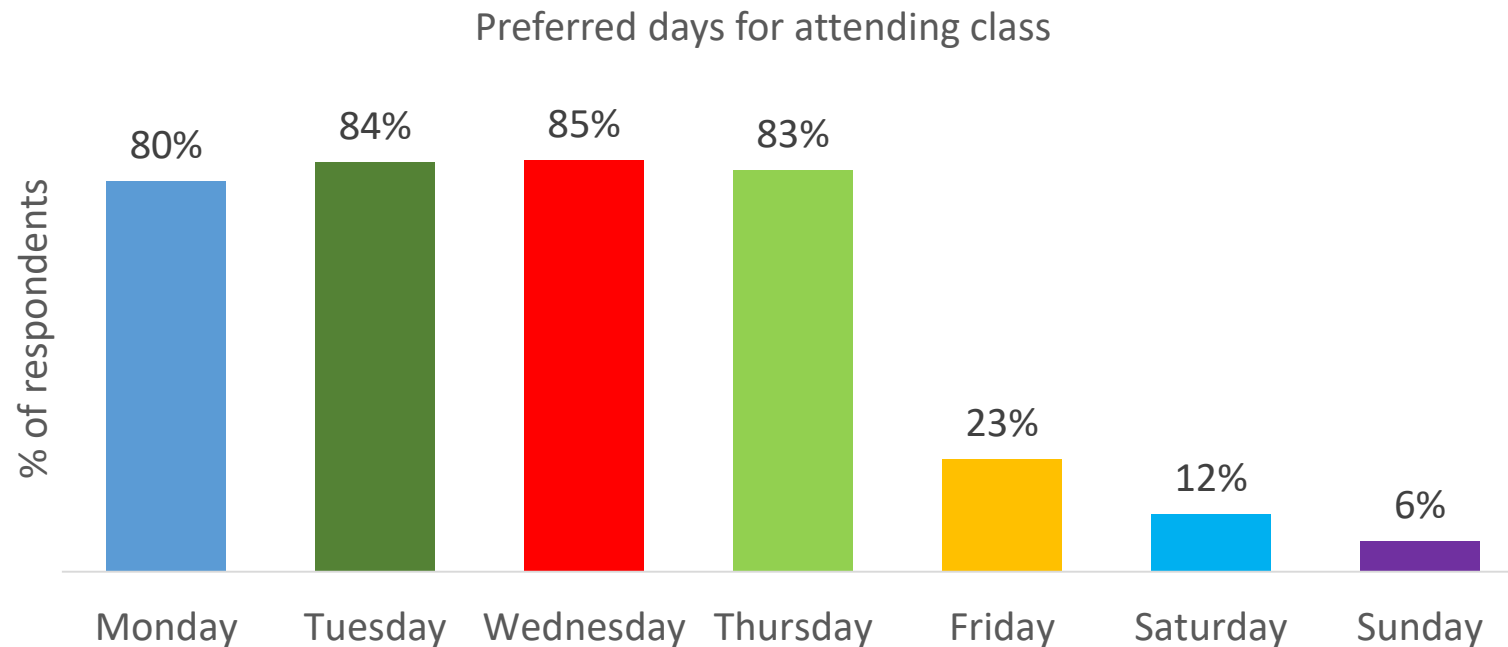
- 67% of students prefer a 16-week semester only, 13% prefer an 8-week semester only, and 18% prefer both semester lengths.





# Student Preferences: Day of Week

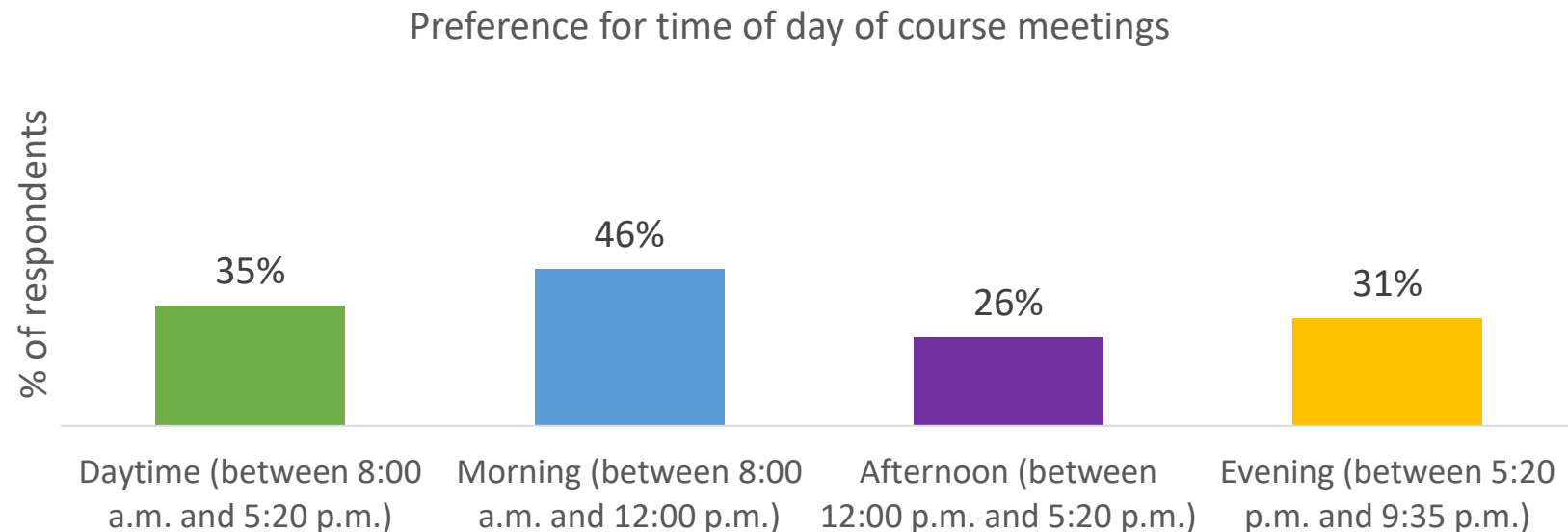
- Overwhelmingly, respondents prefer classes to be held Monday through Thursday. Approximately 23% of all respondents prefer courses to be held on Fridays and a smaller percentage prefer weekend classes.



\*\*Respondents could chose more than one answer.

# Student Preferences: Time of Day

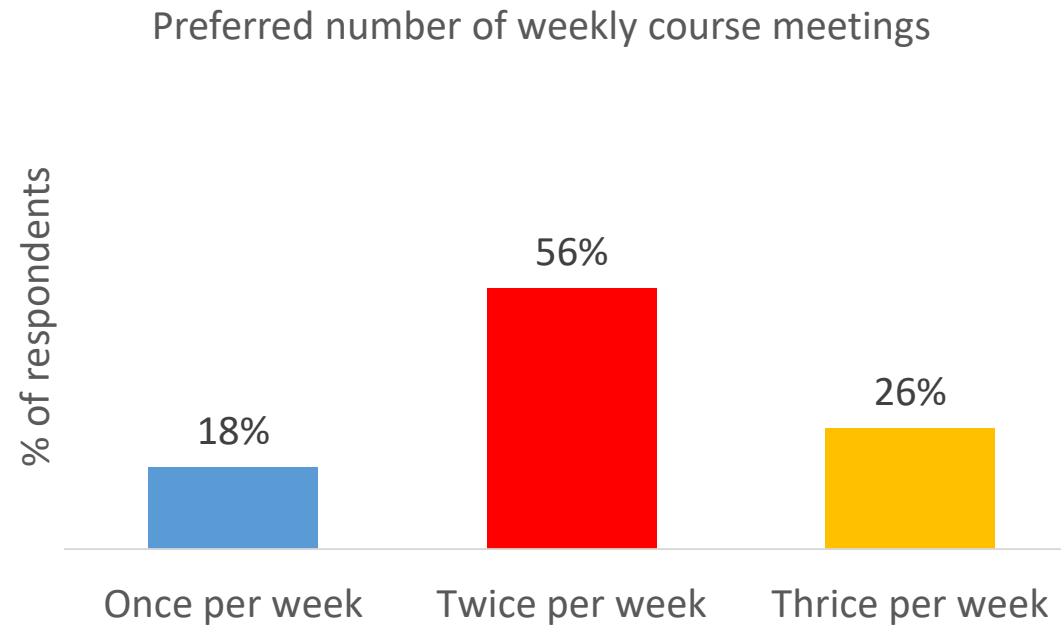
- The majority of students expressed a preference for course meetings that are scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. However, there is a less clear pattern, with many students also preferring afternoon and evening courses.



\*\*Respondents could chose more than one answer.

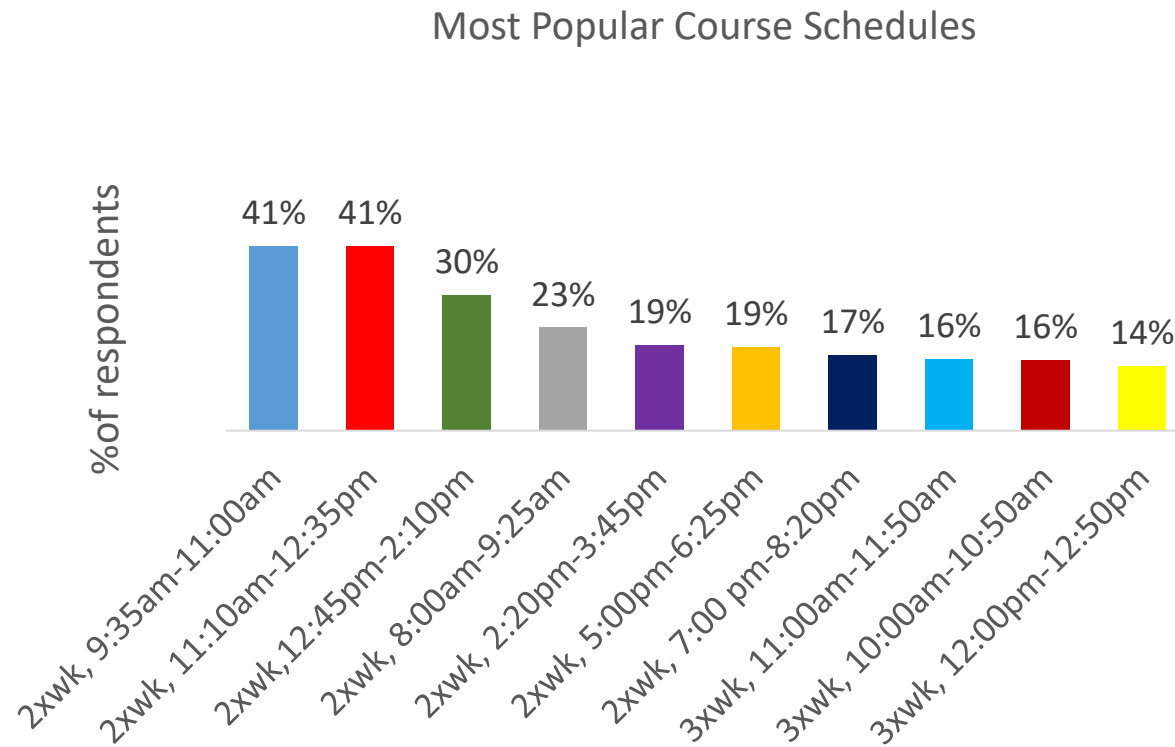
# Student Preferences: Number of Weekly Course meetings

- The majority of respondents prefer that courses meet twice per week.



\*\*Respondents could chose more than one answer.

# Student Preferences: Most Popular Course Schedules



\*\*Respondents could chose more than one answer.

# Summary of Findings: Course-level

- The most popular courses among students were in Biology, Chemistry, Communications, English, History, and Math.
- Overwhelmingly, students preferred these courses to be offered during the traditional work week (with a preference for M-Th).
- There was a strong preference for these courses to meet twice per week.
- Popular time slots were:
  - 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
  - 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
  - 12:45 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.

# Course-level analyses: ENGL 101

Number of students interested in taking course	110
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 42%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 41%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: ENGL 205

Number of students interested in taking course	88
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 57%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 53%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 12:45 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. (serves 41%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: BIOL 107

Number of students interested in taking course	42
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 48%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 45%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 12:45 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. (serves 36%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday



# Course-level analyses: BIOL 230

Number of students interested in taking course	42
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 43%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 40%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 5:00 p.m. to 6:25 p.m. (serves 33%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: CHEM 200

Number of students interested in taking course	38
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 71%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11 a.m. (serves 68%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 12:45 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. (serves 61%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: CHEM 201

Number of students interested in taking course	38
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 76%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11 a.m. (serves 63%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 12:45 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. (serves 55%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: MATH 96\*\*

Number of students interested in taking course	36
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 36%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 36%)</li><li>• 1x per week, Monday through Thursday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (serves 27%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: MATH 151

Number of students interested in taking course	36
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 72%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 67 %)</li><li>• 2x per week, 12:45 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. (serves 47%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: HIST 110

Number of students interested in taking course	32
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 50%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 41%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: COMS 103

Number of students interested in taking course	31
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 45%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 35%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

# Course-level analyses: MATH 119

Number of students interested in taking course	31
Best times to offer course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2x per week, 11:10 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. (serves 51%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 9:35 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (serves 45%)</li><li>• 2x per week, 12:45 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. (serves 42%)</li></ul>
Best days to offer course	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday