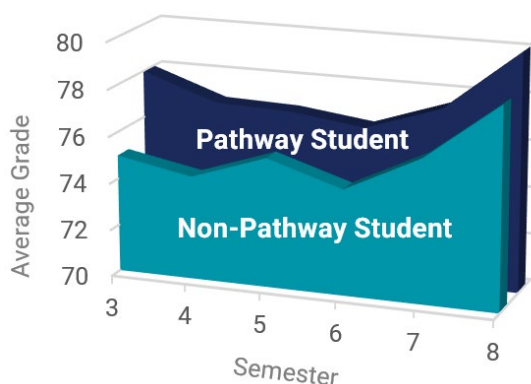


Student Performance



While faculty reported that pathway students were less prepared than their colleagues, analysis of grades showed that pathway students outperformed non-pathway students in every semester.

A diploma-to-degree pathway recognizes the prior learning acquired by a student in a diploma program by providing advanced standing into a related degree program. This study investigated faculty perspectives on pathways and pathway students' academic preparedness.

The research focused on three intra-institutional, diploma-to-degree pathways and combined interviews, an online survey and an analysis of student grades to address the research questions. The participants included associate deans, program coordinators and both full-time and part-time faculty.

Key Findings:

- Pathways were seen as valuable in meeting strategic enrolment targets, improving student access to advanced credentials and enhancing students' employment prospects.
- In general, while faculty and deans believed that students were appropriately prepared for degree studies, they also reported that pathway students were less skilled in areas such as writing, research and foundational content than their non-pathway colleagues.
- Analysis of student grades and academic standing showed pathway students outperformed their colleagues in every semester. Table 1 below shows average grades of both pathway and non-pathway students in each semester.

Faculty perspectives on pathway students' academic preparedness is important because of the role that they play in promoting these opportunities and influencing student experience. It is therefore important that the college disseminate reliable information regarding the successes and challenges associated with pathway programs and in particular, student performance.

Table 1: Comparison of Grades between Pathway and Non-Pathway Students

Semester	Non-Pathway		Pathway	
	n	Average Grade	n	Average Grade
3	1744	75.0	295	78.0*
4	2602	74.4	762	76.9*
5	2061	75.5	542	76.8*
6	2833	74.5	814	76.4*
7	2162	76.1	552	77.5*
8	2149	78.6	584	80.1*

* Differences are significant at the $p < .05$ level.

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