



Course Success: Face-to-Face vs. Online

March 30, 2022



Question:

Does course success differ in online vs. face-to-face sections?

How would online students have done if they had taken the face-to-face version of the class with this instructor?

Analyzed online vs. F2F sections that were:

- Same course (subject, course number)
- Taught by the same instructor
- Matched student demographics (ethnicity, gender, high school GPA)

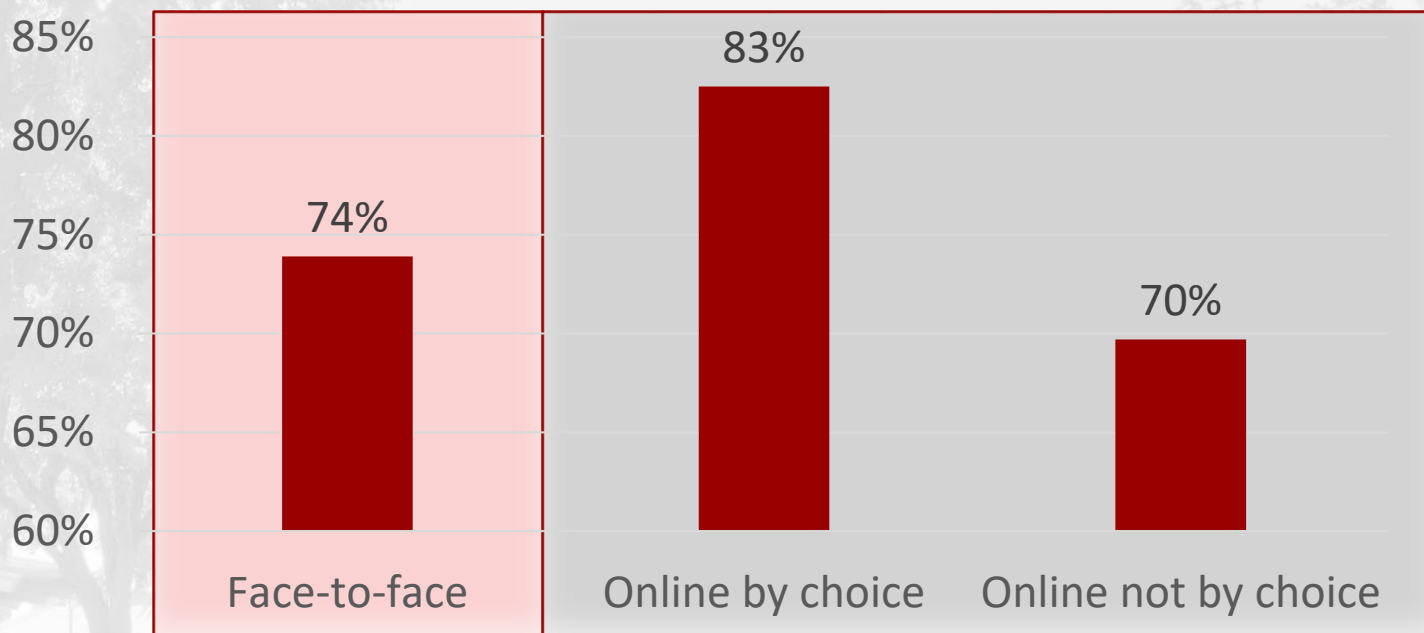


Key Finding:

“Online by choice” means there was at least one F2F section of that class offered in the same term.

Students who were online by choice had higher success rates than F2F students.

Matched Data Fall 2016-Spring 2019

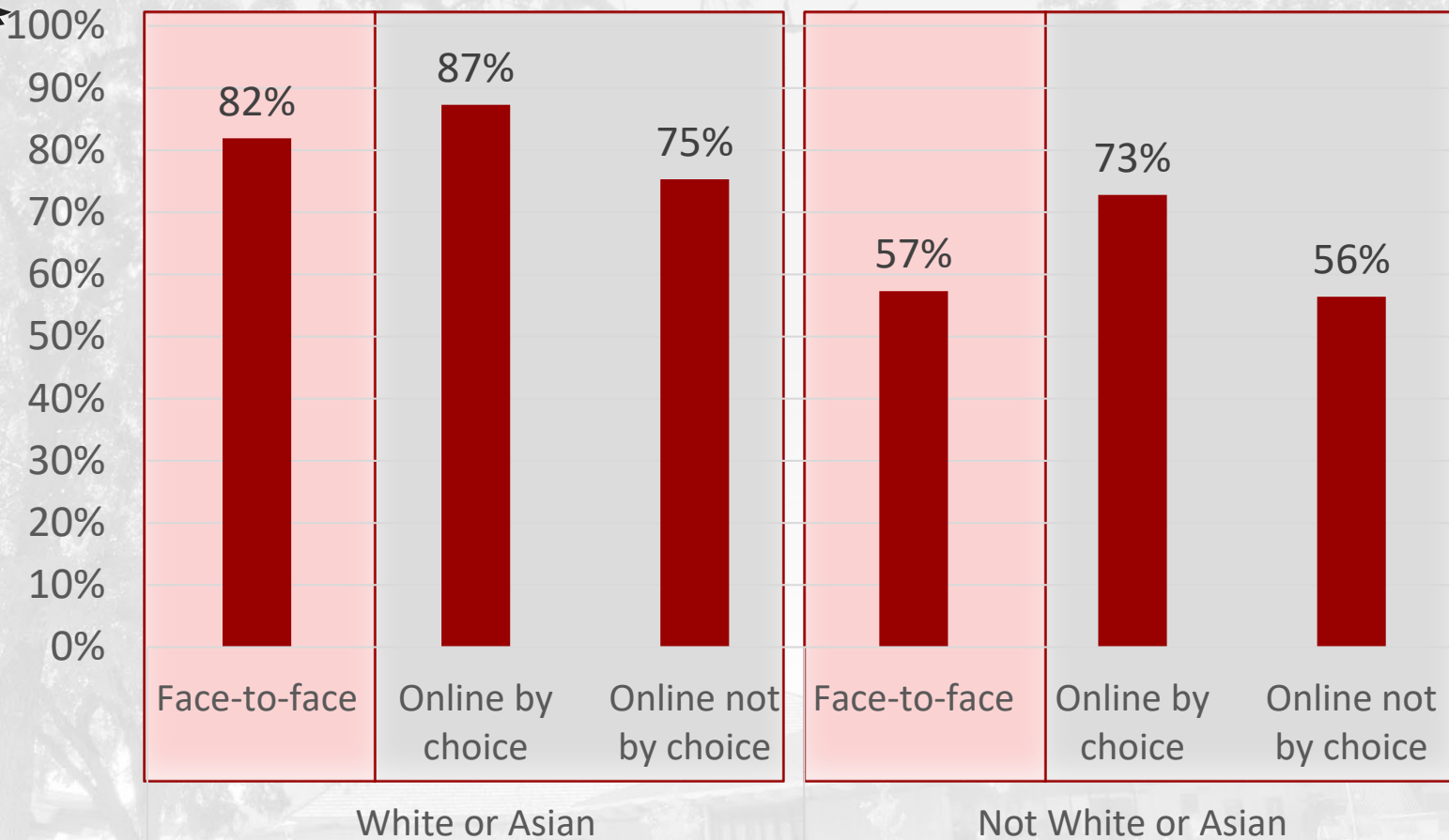


Notes: Matching was between F2F vs. online using subject, course, instructor, student ethnicity, and student HS GPA. Summer sessions, second spring, non-credit, Apprenticeship, LINC, dual enrollment, corequisite, and learning community sections not included. Data set included 296 F2F students and 606 online students across 7 subject areas and 15 courses.



Same pattern when disaggregated by ethnicity:

Matched Data Fall 2016-Spring 2019

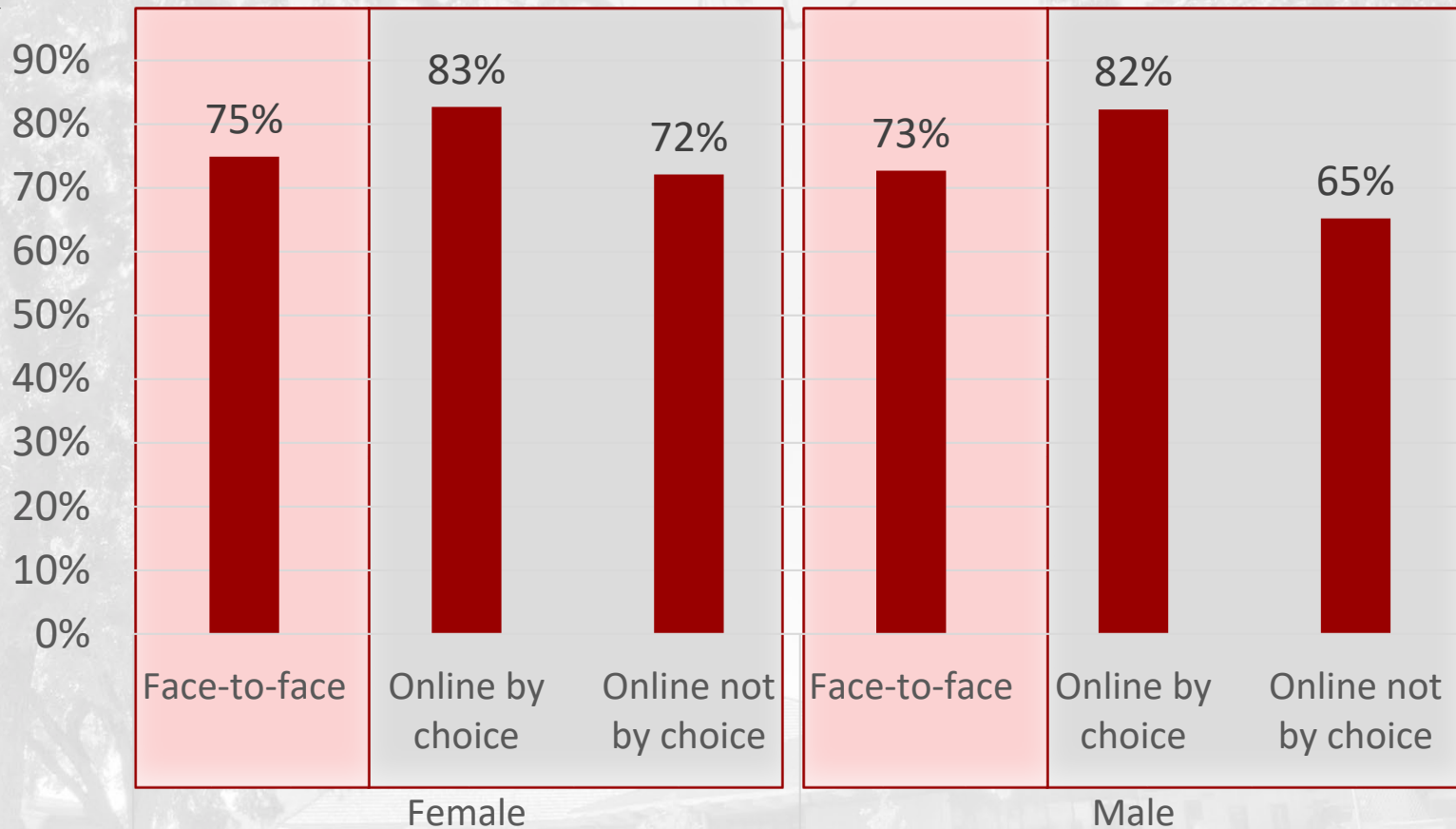


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Same pattern when disaggregated by gender:

Matched Data Fall 2016-Spring 2019



Notes: Matching was between F2F vs. online using subject, course, instructor, student ethnicity, and student HS GPA. Summer sessions, second spring, non-credit, Apprenticeship, LINC, dual enrollment, corequisite, and learning community sections not included. Data set included 296 F2F students and 606 online students across 7 subject areas and 15 courses.



Summary

Students who were **online by choice** had higher success rates than similar students taking the same classes from the same instructors in face-to-face sections.

Results suggest that to improve success, have both modalities available when possible.

Other thoughts / questions?

Note: The data set was constructed to compare F2F vs. online sections. While we can say that online by choice had higher success than F2F, online by choice vs. online not by choice may have been different courses taught by different instructors.