

Here are some numbers RE passing 227 and 228.

Recall I have been looking at the cohort of 360 Physics BS awardees (1997 to 2005) who took and passed (≥ 2.0) phys 228 here.

Of these 360, 26 flunked 227 at least once.

Of the 26 who flunked 227 the first time, 19 eventually passed 227, and of these 6 passed 228 before passing 227, i.e., took advantage of the fact that they could go on to 228 with passing 227 first.

Of the 7 who never passed 227 (but did pass 228 and got a degree), 3 failed 227 twice (once before passing 228 and once after - Oscar would always give such folks a waiver on 227), 1 failed 227 twice before passing 228 (Oscar again would give a waiver), 2 failed 227 once before passing 228 (and never retook 227) and 1 is listed as taking and failing 227 once after passing 228 (I presume this is a mistake in the database).

Of the 26 students who flunked 227 at least once, but eventually passed 228 (and received a physics degree out of the cohort of 360), 7 took at least 2 tries to pass 228.

During the same time period another 27 students flunked 227 and then flunked 228 and did not get a degree. Of these 8 eventually passed 228, but did not complete the degree program, while 19 never passed 228 (although a few made multiple tries).

These are all pretty small numbers, but are we doing the students, or ourselves, a favor by having relaxed standards? We effectively encourage them to continue after the flunk 227, even when the historical success rate is well below 50%