



**TRACKING THE SUCCESS OF
LLN LEARNERS
THROUGH THEIR STUDIES**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008

March 2009

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Tracking the Success of LLN Learners Through their Studies (Academic Year 2007/2008)

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Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research is to track the success year on year of students studying an LLN funded or designated course in Academic Year 2007/2008. These courses include:

- BSc Sports Therapy (University of Worcester)
- FD Early Years (Worcester College of Technology)
- FD Food Quality & Safety Management (Warwickshire College, Pershore)
- FD Health & Complementary Therapies (Gloucestershire College)
- FD Kitchen Management and Culinary Skills (Worcester College of Technology)
- FD Service Sector Management (Worcester College of Technology)
- Graduate Certificate in Leadership & Management (University of Worcester)
- Graduate Certificate in Managing Health and Social Care (University of Worcester)
- MBA Health & Social Care (University of Worcester)
- MSc Sports & PE (University of Worcester)
- MSc Sports Coaching (University of Worcester)

The research looks at the number and proportion of students successfully completing the first year of the course and continuing on to the second year.

Data Collection

The research is based on data collected from 2 Higher Education (HE) providers. Data sets were obtained from Worcester College of Technology & University of Worcester. The data collected from the University of Worcester also included information on courses run at Gloucestershire College, Warwickshire College (Persore) and Worcester College of Technology.

Summary of Findings

The main findings of the research were that:

- there were 11 LLN funded/designated courses in 2007/2008
- there were 200 students that registered on to the first year of an LLN funded/designated course in 2007/8
- 64% of **Level 4 Undergraduate students** entered with a Level 3 qualification as their HEQ - 37% of these had a Level 3 Vocational Qualification compared with 27% who entered with A/AS Levels as their HEQ.
- 73% of students completed the first year of the course, 15% completed the entire course in one year and the remaining 12% did not successfully complete the 1st year of their course
- 80% of courses had a success rate of 80% or more, with one third of courses having a 100% success rate
- the success rate of Level 3 vocational students was 96% compared with 84% of A/AS Level students

Section 1 – Profile of LLN Funded/Designated Courses, their Students & Overall Success Rates in the 1st Year

What is an LLN Funded/Designated Course?

For the purposes of this research, an LLN funded/designated course is defined as a course/module whereby:

- The HWLLN has contributed funding towards the development of the course or module
- The HWLLN has contributed staff time towards the development of a course or module
- A course or module that has been developed for students in the HWLLN learner constituency (i.e. students based in the work place or students with vocational qualifications)
- A course or module that has been developed with innovative delivery to provide greater flexibility, thus meeting one of the aims of the HWLLN

Overview of LLN Funded/Designated Courses in 2007/2008

Chart 1a shows that there were a total of 11 courses that were LLN funded/designated in 2007/8 and there were a total of 200 students registered on to the 1st year of these courses.

The courses with the highest number and percentage of students were the Foundation Degree in Early Years and the Graduate Certificate in Leadership & Management which each had 41 students registered on the 1st year. Overall, these 2 courses accounted for 40% of the student numbers.

Chart 1a – Number of LLN Funded/Designated Courses and Total Number of Students Registered on the First Year of each Course in 2007/8

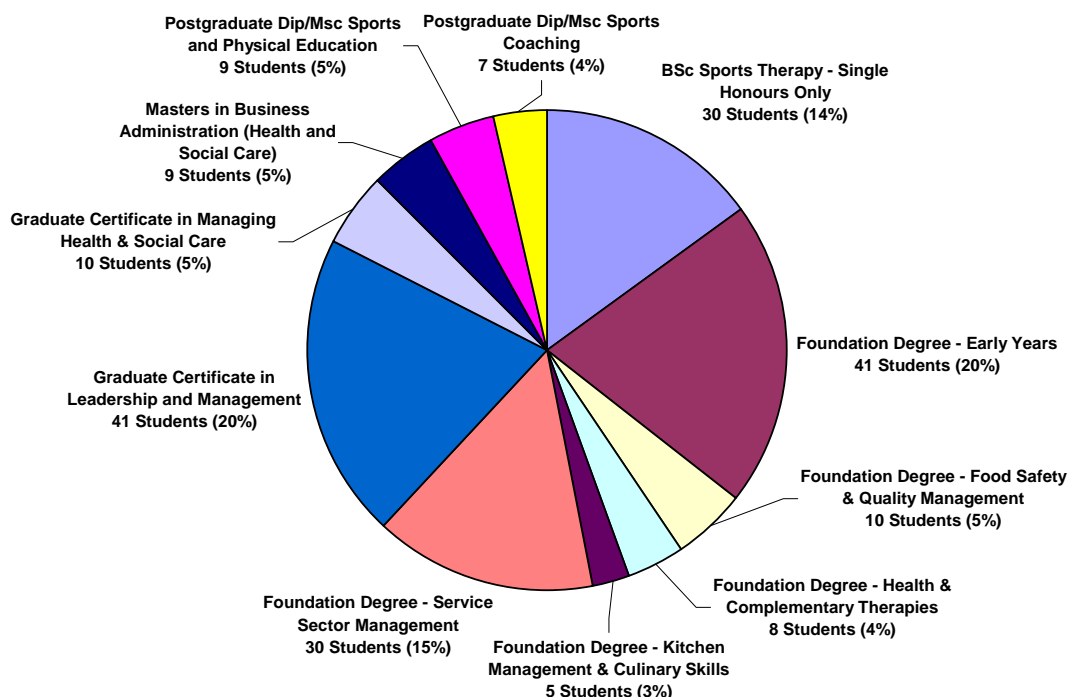


Chart 1b gives an overview of the students' highest entry qualifications (HEQ) on to **Level 4 Undergraduate courses**. 64% of students entered with a Level 3 qualification - 37% of these had a Level 3 Vocational Qualification compared with 27% who entered with A/AS Levels as their HEQ.

Chart 1b – Number & Percentage of **Undergraduate Students entering at Level 4** with each Highest Entry Qualification registering on to an LLN Funded/Designated Course in 2007/8

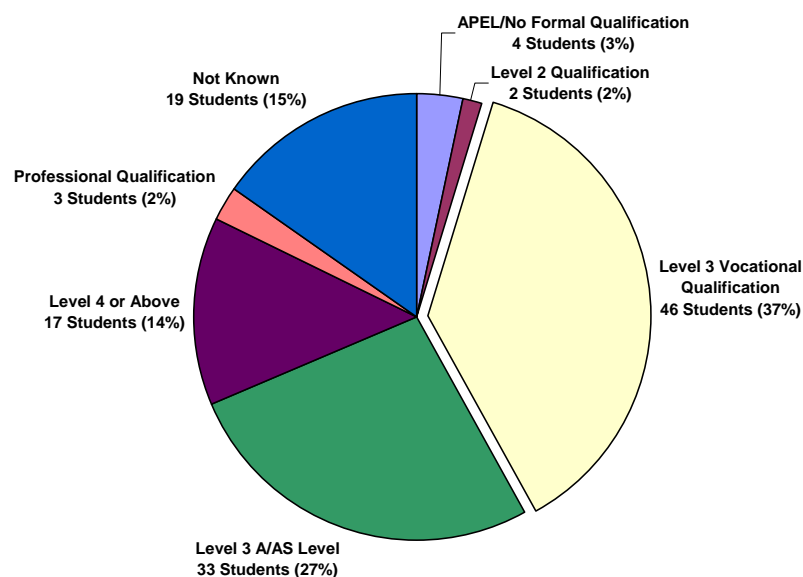


Chart 1c gives an overview of the students' highest entry qualifications (HEQ) on to **Level 6 Undergraduate courses**. As anticipated, only a small proportion of students (16%) entered with a Level 3 qualification - 8% of these had a Level 3 Vocational Qualification compared with 8% who entered with A/AS Levels as their HEQ.

Chart 1c – Number & Percentage of **Undergraduate Students entering at Level 6** with each Highest Entry Qualification registering on to an LLN Funded/Designated Course in 2007/8

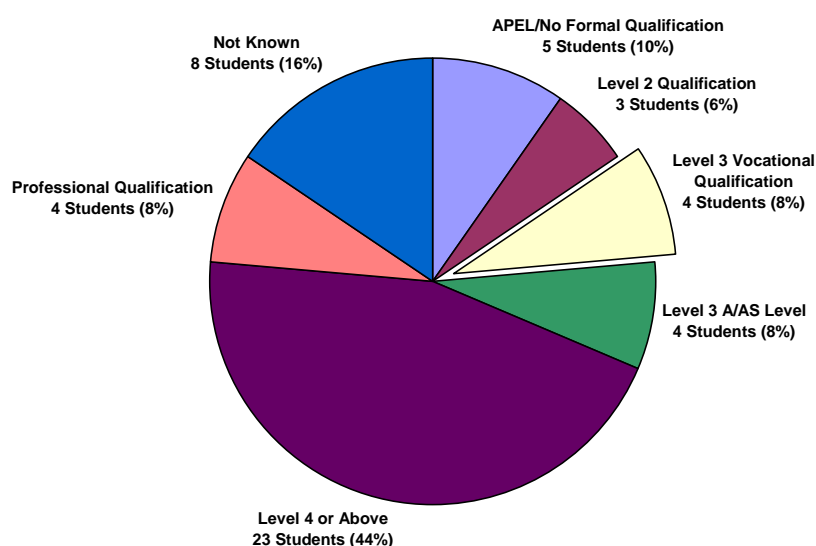


Chart 1d gives an overview of the students' highest entry qualifications (HEQ) on to **postgraduate courses**. As expected, the majority of postgraduate students entered with a Level 4 or above qualification.

Chart 1d – Number & Percentage of **Postgraduate Students** with each Highest Entry Qualification registering on to an LLN Funded/Designated Course in 2007/8

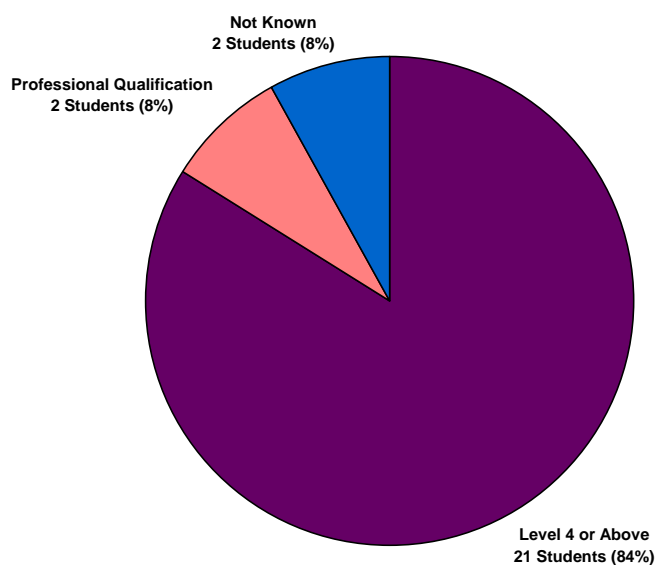


Chart 1e shows the overall success rates of the students studying LLN funded/designated courses. With 73% of students completing the 1st year of their course and 15% completing the whole course within the 1st year, this leaves only 12% of students who did not successfully complete the 1st year of their course.

Chart 1e – Number & Percentage of Students that Successfully Completed either the 1st Year or the entire LLN Funded/Designated Course in 2007/8

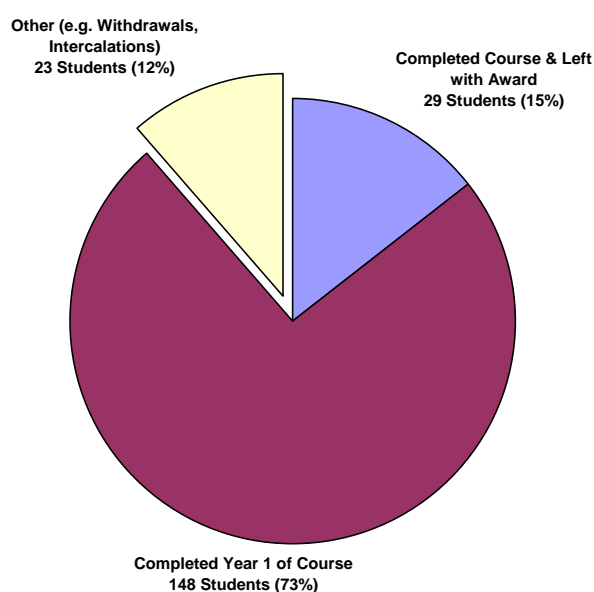


Table 1 (on page 5) shows a summary of the highest entry qualifications of these students together with their status at the end their first year of study in 2007/8.

Table 1 – Comparison of Success Rates on Each Course shown against Highest Entry Qualifications

| Course Title or Subject Area | Summary of Status | Highest Entry Qualification | | | | | | | Grand Total |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| | | APEL/No Formal Qualification | Level 2 Qualification | Level 3 A/AS Level | Level 3 Vocational Qualification | Level 4 or Above | Professional Qualification | Not Known | |
| BSc Sports Therapy - Single Honours Only | Completed Year 1 of Course | | | 18 | 8 | 3 | | 1 | 30 |
| BSc Sports Therapy - Single Honours Only Total | | | | 18 | 8 | 3 | | 1 | 30 |
| Foundation Degree - Early Years | Completed Year 1 of Course | | | 2 | 18 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 34 |
| | Other | | | 3 | | 1 | | 3 | 7 |
| Foundation Degree - Early Years Total | | | | 5 | 18 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 41 |
| Foundation Degree - Food Safety & Quality Management | Completed Year 1 of Course | | 1 | 3 | | 4 | | | 8 |
| | Other | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 |
| Foundation Degree - Food Safety & Quality Management Total | | | 1 | 4 | | 4 | 1 | | 10 |
| Foundation Degree - Health & Complementary Therapies | Completed Year 1 of Course | | | 1 | 6 | | | | 7 |
| | Other | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Foundation Degree - Health & Complementary Therapies Total | | | | 1 | 7 | | | | 8 |
| Foundation Degree - Kitchen Management & Culinary Skills | Completed Year 1 of Course | 3 | | | | | | | 3 |
| | Other | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Foundation Degree - Kitchen Management & Culinary Skills Total | | 4 | | | 1 | | | | 5 |
| Foundation Degree - Service Sector Management | Completed Year 1 of Course | | 1 | 3 | 12 | 3 | | 5 | 24 |
| | Other | | | 2 | | | | 4 | 6 |
| Foundation Degree - Service Sector Management Total | | | 1 | 5 | 12 | 3 | | 9 | 30 |
| Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management | Completed Course & Left with Award | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 16 | | 4 | 29 |
| | Completed Year 1 of Course | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 10 |
| | Other | | | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management Total | | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 18 | | 8 | 41 |
| Graduate Certificate in Managing Health & Social Care | Completed Year 1 of Course | | | | 1 | 5 | 4 | | 10 |
| Graduate Certificate in Managing Health & Social Care Total | | | | | 1 | 5 | 4 | | 10 |
| Masters in Business Administration (Health and Social Care) | Completed Year 1 of Course | | | | | 5 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Masters in Business Administration (Health and Social Care) Total | | | | | | 5 | 2 | 2 | 9 |
| Postgraduate Dip/MSc Sports and Physical Education | Completed Year 1 of Course | | | | | 6 | | | 6 |
| | Other | | | | | 3 | | | 3 |
| Postgraduate Dip/Msc Sports and Physical Education Total | | | | | | 9 | | | 9 |
| Postgraduate Dip/MSc Sports Coaching | Completed Year 1 of Course | | | | | 7 | | | 7 |
| Postgraduate Dip/Msc Sports Coaching Total | | | | | | 7 | | | 7 |
| Total | | 9 | 5 | 37 | 50 | 61 | 9 | 29 | 200 |

Section 2 – Does the Type of Course or Highest Entry Qualification Affect the Success Rates of Students Studying LLN Funded/Designated Courses?

Although we have already established that there was an overall success rate of 88%, it is important to break this down further 1) by course to identify whether certain courses have a higher success rate and 2) by Highest Entry Qualification to identify whether there is a link between HEQs and success rates.

The charts below show the success rates of students on each course and also with each HEQ.

What were the Success Rates of Students Studying each Course in 2007/2008?

Chart 2a shows that, with the exception of a couple of courses, the majority of students successfully completed either the entire or 1st year of their course.

The course with the highest number of students successfully completing either the first year or the entire course was the Graduate Certificate in Leadership & Management with 39 out of 41 students completing. This was closely followed by the Foundation Degree in Early Years which had 34 out of 41 students completing.

The number of students that did not complete the first year was not highly significant in any one course. The only exceptions to this were: firstly, the Foundation Degree (FD) in Kitchen Management & Culinary Skills where 2 out of the 5 (40%) students did not continue on to the second year of the course and secondly, the PG Diploma/MSc Sports & Physical Education where 3 out of 9 (33%) students did not continue on to the second year of the course. However, it is important to note that these courses had relatively low student numbers.

Chart 2a – Number of Students that Successfully Completed each LLN Funded/Designated Course in 2007/8

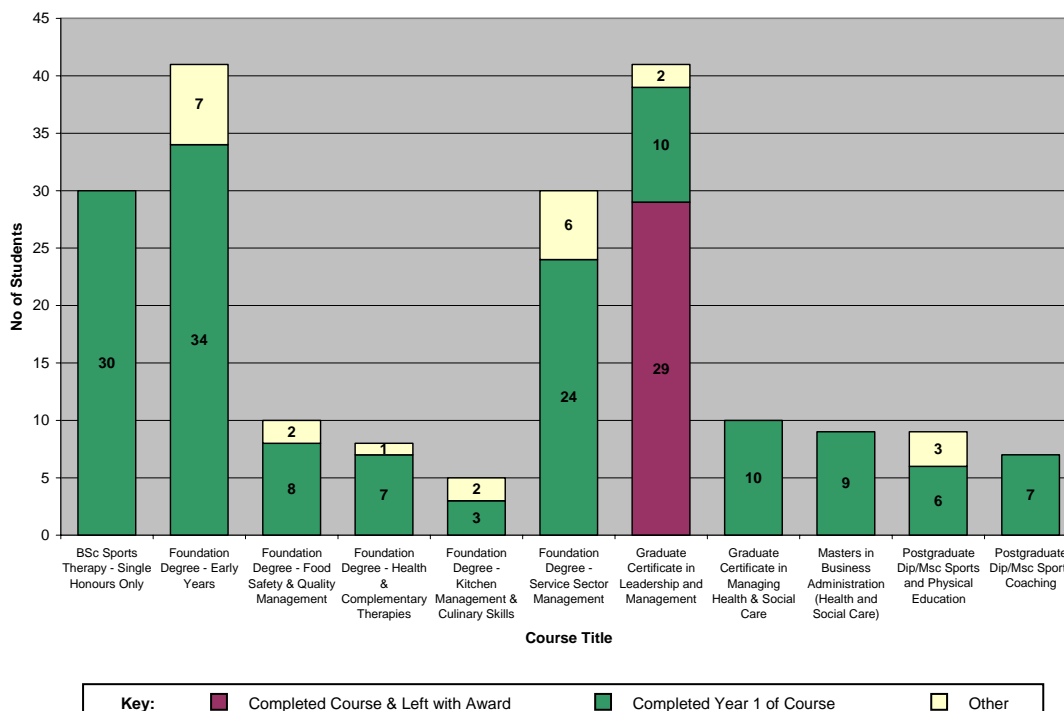
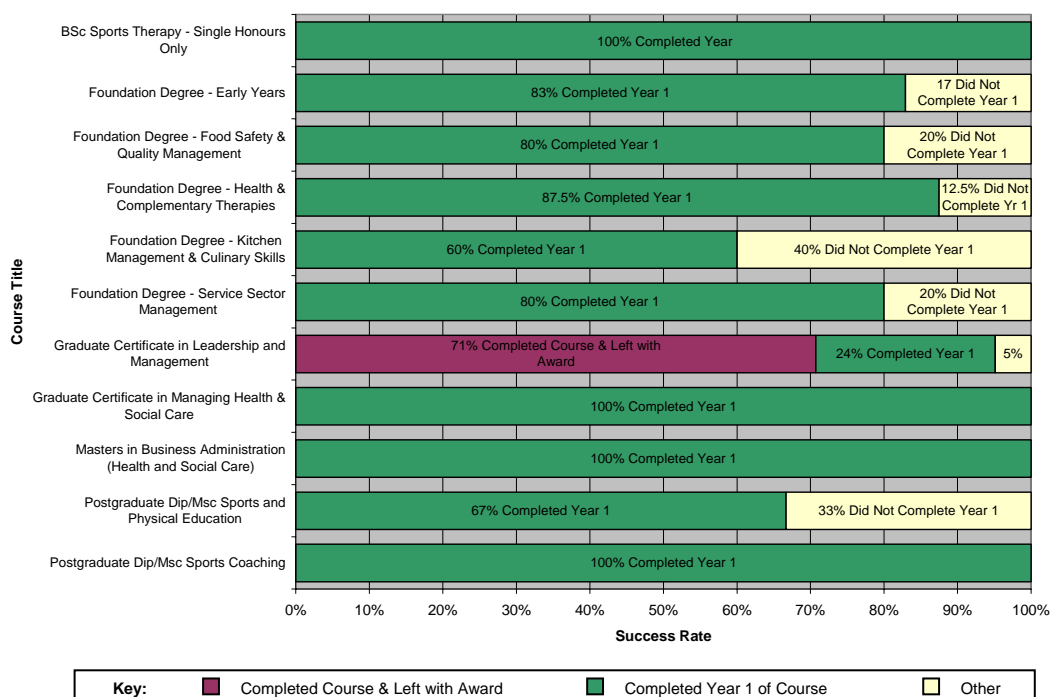


Chart 2b shows that more than 80% of the courses had a success rate of 80% or more, with one third of the courses having a 100% success rate. The courses with a 100% success rate were: BSc Sports Therapy, Graduate Certificate in Managing Health & Social Care, Masters in Business Administration (Health & Social Care) and Postgraduate Diploma/MSc Sports Coaching.

The course with the lowest success rate was the FD in Kitchen Management & Culinary Skills with only a 60% success rate, it is important however to note that this was only 2 out of 5 students.

Chart 2b – Percentage of Students that Successfully Completed each LLN Funded/Designated Course in 2007/8



Is there a Correlation between the Highest Entry Qualification & the Success Rates of the Students?

Chart 2c shows the number of students, with each type of HEQ, that successfully completed the first year or entire course in 2007/8 together with those that did not.

Although not significant, the student group with the highest number of students not completing the first Year of their course were those that entered with Level 3 A/AS Levels (6 students). The groups with the highest number of students successfully completing either the 1st Year of their course or their entire course were Level 4 or above (57 students) and Level 3 vocational students (48 students).

Chart 2c – Number of Students Successfully Completing the First Year of an LLN Funded/Designated Courses in 2007/8, shown by Highest Entry Qualification

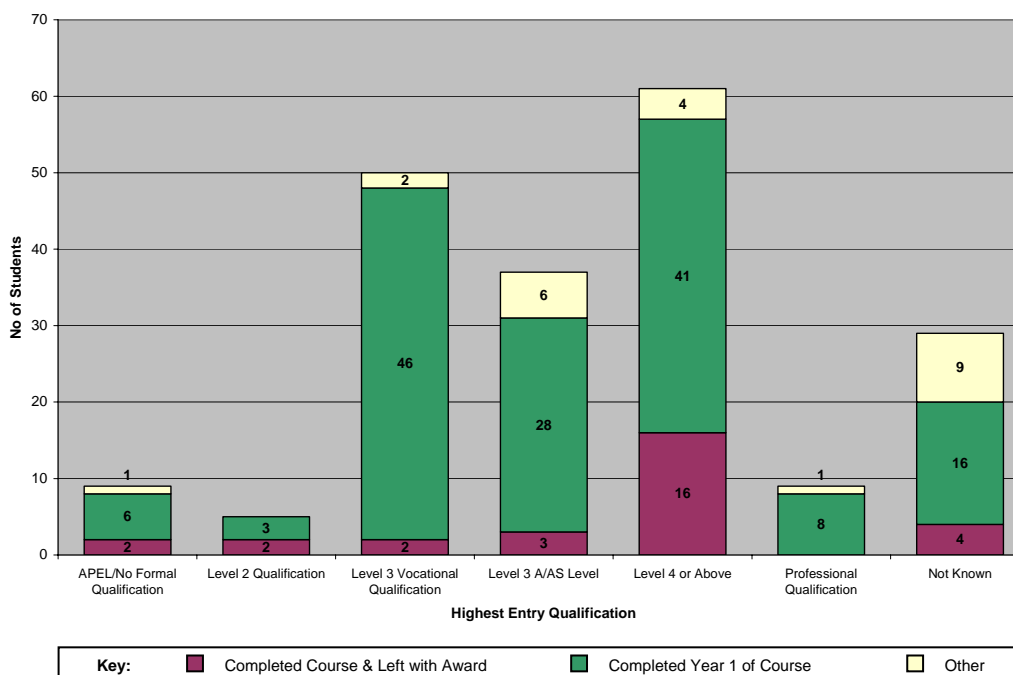
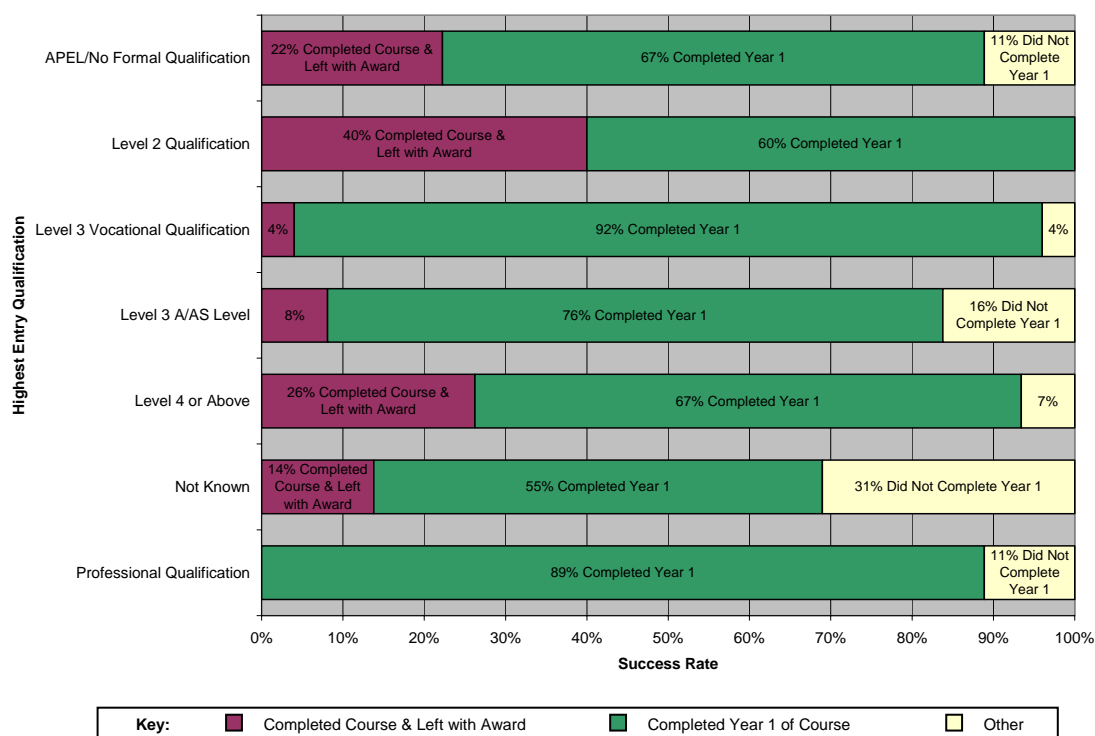


Chart 2d shows that the only group with a 100% success rate was the Level 2 students however this information is only based on 5 students. The group with the 2nd highest, and more significant, success rate was the Level 3 Vocational Students who had a 96% success rate (48 out of 50 students).

Excluding the 'Not Known' category, the group with the lowest success rate was the Level 3 A/AS Level students with an 84% success rate (31 out of 37 students).

Chart 2d – Percentage of Students Successfully Completing the First Year of an LLN Funded/Designated Courses in 2007/8, shown by Highest Entry Qualification



Notes

1. The qualifications classed in each category are as follows:
 - APEL/No Formal Qualification: mature student with previous experience, no formal qualifications
 - Level 2 Qualification: GCSE O Level, GNVQ Level 2, NVQ Level 2
 - Level 3 A/AS Level: A Level or equivalent
 - Level 3 Vocational Qualification: BTEC/SQA equivalent, Foundation Course, GNVQ Level 3, NVQ Level 3, ONC or OND
 - Level 4 or Above: CertEd/DipEd, Dip HE, First Degree of UK Institution, Foundation Degree, Graduate Equivalent, Higher Degree of UK Institution, HNC or HND, NVQ Level 4, NVQ Level 7, Other Credits from UK Institution, Overseas Graduate, PGCE, PGCert/PGDip, UG Qualification with QTS
2. The student status classified in the 'other' category include intercalations, withdrawals and provisionals