



INSIGHTS

On the college

Research and Institutional Effectiveness

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Persistence: Credit Students

The purpose of the following report is to identify persistence rates. Persistence is defined as those students who enroll in a fall course and also enroll in a Spring Course (according to the Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges definition found at http://www.rpgroup.org/Projects/Oper_Definitions/definition_s1.htm). Students who enroll in these courses must also have received a grade of A, B, C, D, F, CR, NC, I, or W.

Mt. SAC's full and part-time students persist from fall to spring semesters about 69% of the time (Table 1).

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Table 1. Fall to Spring Persistence Rates (Full & Part-Time Students)

Semester	Persistence
Fall 1999 to Spring 2000	69.0%
Fall 2000 to Spring 2001	68.9%
Fall 2001 to Spring 2002	68.6%

Source: Data warehouse

Tables 2 and 3 (see page 3) compare the persistence rates within each ethnic group. Asians and Filipinos have the highest persistence rates at just over 70% while Pacific Islanders and African American's have the lowest persistence rates (less than 66%).

Table 2. Average Persistence Rates for Three Years (Full & Part-Time Students)

Ethnicity	Persistence
Asian	71.2
Filipino	70.3
Unknown Ethnicity	69.5
Hispanic	68.7
Other Non-White	68.6
White	67.8
American Indian, Alaskan Native	66.0
African American Non-Hispanic	65.4
Pacific Islander.	63.8
Declined to state	44.4

Table 4 (see last page) examines the same data from Table 3, but in a different percentage perspective. In Table 4, the percentages are calculated based on the column totals. Each column stands alone and the percentages add to 100%. In essence, the percentages indicate the ethnic profile of all students who, for example in column one, attended in fall 1999. In column one, 18.8% of those who attended Mt. San Antonio College in fall 1999 were Asian. Data for those who persisted (i.e., were enrolled in fall and also enrolled in spring) are in column two. In column two, 19.4% who persisted were Asian.

For fall 2001 to spring 2002 data, of those who persisted, Hispanic, White and Asian students were the highest represented groups.

Limitations

What are the limitations of these analyses? Normally, the data are separated for full versus part-time students. Typically, one would expect full-time students' persistence rate to be around 95% and part-time students' persistence rate to be around 45% (Chancellor's Office Student Success report). This type of separation of data segmentation was not possible using the data warehouse.

Conclusion

Results from this study show that the persistence rate of full and part-time students in Mt. San Antonio College's credit program is steady over three years at approximately 69%. This percentage is relatively in the midpoint of a statewide study that noted a 95% persistence rate for full-time students versus a 45% persistence rate for part-time students.

Table 3. Persistence Rates From Fall to Spring Semesters by Ethnicity (Full & Part-Time)

		Fall 1999 to spring 2000			Fall 2000 to Spring 2001			Fall 2001 to Spring 2002		
		Total in Fall Semester	Persisted from Fall to Spring	Did not Persist to Spring	Total in Fall Semester	Persisted from Fall to Spring	Did not Persist to Spring	Total in Fall Semester	Persisted from Fall to Spring	Did not Persist to Spring
Asian	Count	4850	3441	1409	5106	3635	1471	5769	4127	1642
	%	100.0	70.9	29.1	100.0	71.2	28.8	100.0	71.5	28.5
African American Non-Hispanic	Count	1662	1061	601	1629	1074	555	1816	1205	611
	%	100.0	63.8	36.2	100.0	65.9	34.1	100.0	66.4	33.6
Filipino	Count	1419	1016	403	1429	982	447	1617	1142	475
	%	100.0	71.6	28.4	100.0	68.7	31.3	100.0	70.6	29.4
Hispanic	Count	10331	7193	3138	10485	7166	3319	12390	8435	3955
	%	100.0	69.6	30.4	100.0	68.3	31.7	100.0	68.1	31.9
American Indian, Alaskan Native	Count	167	104	63	163	116	47	183	118	65
	%	100.0	62.3	37.7	100.0	71.2	28.8	100.0	64.5	35.5
Pacific Islander.	Count	110	68	42	99	63	36	123	81	42
	%	100.0	61.8	38.2	100.0	63.6	36.4	100.0	65.9	34.1
White	Count	6405	4325	2080	6138	4204	1934	6881	4642	2239
	%	100.0	67.5	32.5	100.0	68.5	31.5	100.0	67.5	32.5
Other Non-White	Count	602	409	193	625	435	190	753	513	240
	%	100.0	67.9	32.1	100.0	69.6	30.4	100.0	68.1	31.9
Unknown	Count	222	151	71	182	127	55	160	113	47
	%	100.0	68.0	32.0	100.0	69.8	30.2	100.0	70.6	29.4
Declined	Count				2	2		3	1	2
	%				100.0	100.0		100.0	33.3	66.7
Total	Count	25768	17768	8000	25858	17804	8054	29695	20377	9318
	%	100.0	69.0	31.0	100.0	68.9	31.1	100.0	68.6	31.4

Source: Data Warehouse

Persistence is the percentage of students who enrolled in Fall semester and obtain a grade of A, B, C, D, F, CR, NC, I, W in any course and who then enrolled and obtained a grade in any course, as aforementioned, in Spring semester.

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Table 4. Ethnic Profile of Persisters from Fall to Spring Semesters (Full & Part-Time)

		Fall 1999 to spring 2000			Fall 2000 to Spring 2001			Fall 2001 to Spring 2002		
		Total in Fall Semester	Persisted from Fall to Spring	Did not Persist to Spring	Total in Fall Semester	Persisted from Fall to Spring	Did not Persist to Spring	Total in Fall Semester	Persisted from Fall to Spring	Did not Persist to Spring
Asian	Count	4850	3441	1409	5106	3635	1471	5769	4127	1642
	%	18.8	19.4	17.6	19.7	20.4	18.3	19.4	20.3	17.6
African American Non-Hispanic	Count	1662	1061	601	1629	1074	555	1816	1205	611
	%	6.4	6.0	7.5	6.3	6.0	6.9	6.1	5.9	6.6
Filipino	Count	1419	1016	403	1429	982	447	1617	1142	475
	%	5.5	5.7	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.1
Hispanic	Count	10331	7193	3138	10485	7166	3319	12390	8435	3955
	%	40.1	40.5	39.2	40.5	40.2	41.2	41.7	41.4	42.4
American Indian, Alaskan Native	Count	167	104	63	163	116	47	183	118	65
	%	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7
Pacific Islander.	Count	110	68	42	99	63	36	123	81	42
	%	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
White	Count	6405	4325	2080	6138	4204	1934	6881	4642	2239
	%	24.9	24.3	26.0	23.7	23.6	24.0	23.2	22.8	24.0
Other Non-White	Count	602	409	193	625	435	190	753	513	240
	%	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6
Unknown	Count	222	151	71	182	127	55	160	113	47
	%	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.5
Declined to State	Count				2	2		3	1	2
	%				0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	Count	25768	17768	8000	25858	17804	8054	29695	20377	9318
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Data Warehouse

Persistence is the percentage of students who enrolled in Fall semester and obtain a grade of A, B, C, D, F, CR, NC, I, W in any course and who then enrolled and obtained a grade in any course, as aforementioned, in Spring semester.

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