

Fall-to-Fall Persistence: Baseline Information

The initiatives associated with Achieving the Dream were designed with the intent of improving student persistence from the first fall semester to the second fall semester. The College identified two Achieving the Dream (AtD) priority initiatives in the Implementation Proposal written in spring 2007. Priority Area #1: Improve student outcomes through strengthened student support systems: Comprehensive Orientation Program and Early Alert System and Priority Area #2: Improve student outcomes by increasing the use of effective educational practices through faculty professional development.

Achieving the Dream Fact Sheet # 13, *Setting Institutional Benchmarks for Student Persistence*, established baseline information related to fall to fall student persistence patterns that were based on several fall cohorts of first-time CCP students. On average, 43% of first-time students in recent fall semesters returned to their CCP studies in the following fall semester.

Fall-to-fall persistence rates were also provided for each student group defined by race within gender since these are student groups which are the focus of Achieving the Dream initiatives. For females students, persistence rates ranged from 57% for Asian students to 39% for Latina students. Rates of persistence for Black and White female students were similar, 44% for the former and 46% for the latter.

Within race/ethnic groupings, males were less persistent than female students. Among male students, persistence rates ranged from 52% for Asian students to 34% for Black students. Rates of persistence for Latino male students were similar to Black students (36%). Forty-three percent (43%) of White males students returned to CCP for a second consecutive fall term.

Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 Persistence Compared to Baseline Rates

The established baseline persistence rates for earlier first-time student cohorts serve as a point of comparison for the fall 2007 first-time cohort. There were 4,555 new CCP students in the fall 2007 semester; 2,872 female students and 1,683 male students. While the overall fall-to-fall persistence rate for the fall 2007 cohort is identical to the historical baseline rate (43%), there are shifting rates of persistence when the rates are disaggregated into AtD student groups (Figures 1 and 2).

Fall 2007 to Fall 2008 Persistence Compared to Baseline Rates

The biggest improvement in fall-to-fall persistence over-time was among Hispanic students, both male and female (Figures 1 and 2). Black male and White female students who entered in fall 2007 were also more likely than their predecessors to return for a second consecutive year of studies at the College. The reverse was true for Asian students, regardless of gender, and Black female students who lost ground in terms of persistence at the College over-time.

Figure 1: Fall to Fall First-Time Male Student Persistence

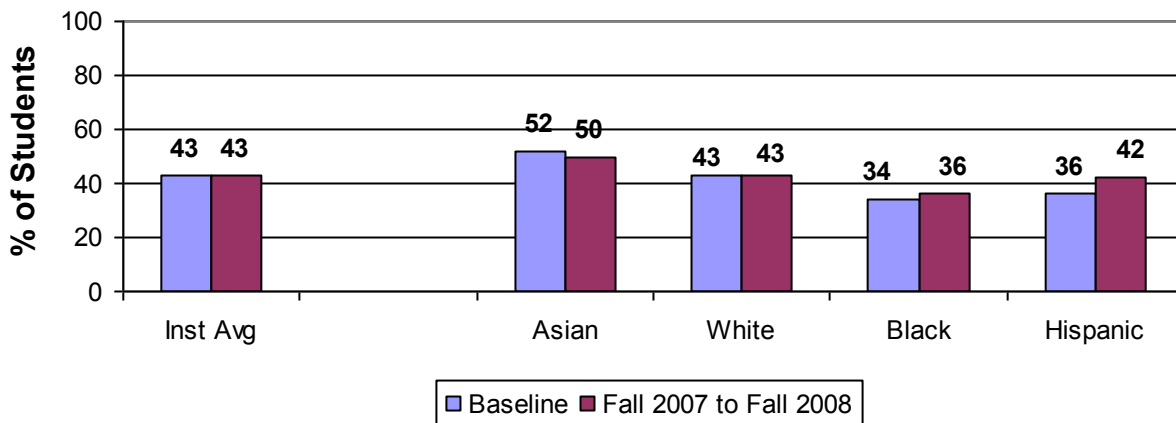


Figure 2: Fall to Fall First-Time Female Student Persistence

