

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 have been tracked for each student group defined by race within gender since these are student groups which are the focus of Achieving the Dream initiatives. Historically, males have been less persistent than female students. Among male students in fall 2007, persistence rates to the next fall ranged from 50% for Asian male students to 36% for Black male students. Among female students in fall 2007, persistence rates to the next fall ranged from 51% for Asian female students to 40% for Black female students.

Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 Persistence Compared to Baseline Rates

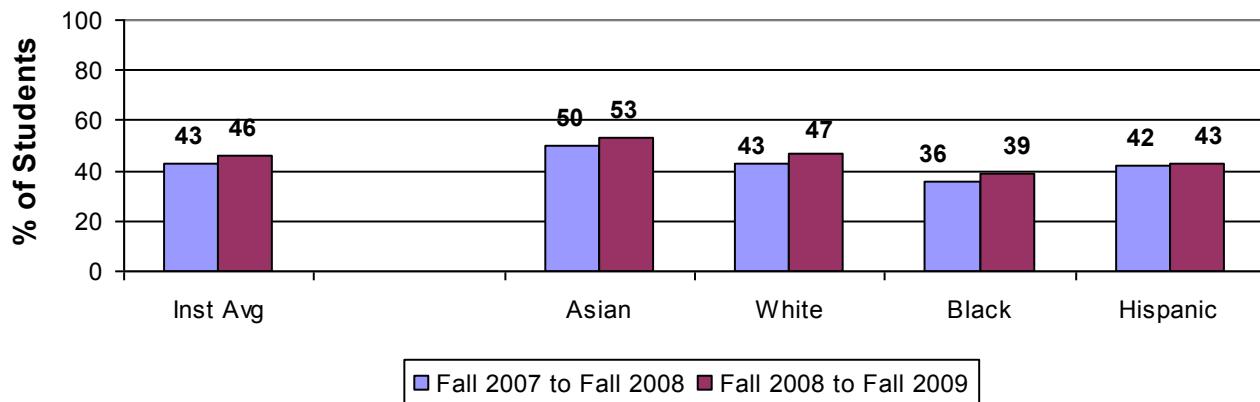
The fall 2007 to fall 2008 persistence rates for first-time students serve as a point of comparison for the fall 2008 first-time cohort. There were 4,540 new CCP students in the fall 2008 semester; 2,807 female students and 1,675 male students. The overall fall-to-fall persistence rate for the fall 2008 cohort (46%) improved by 3% compared to the fall-to-fall persistence rate for the fall 2007 cohort (43%) (Figures 1 and 2).

It should be noted that there was a large amount of missing race information (approximately 16%) for students who entered in fall 2008. This contributes to the unreliability of the persistence rates associated with the AtD students groups which are defined by student characteristics of gender within race. These disaggregated student persistence rates should therefore be used cautiously.

Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 Persistence Compared to Baseline Rates

All Achieving the Dream student groups in Fall 2008 were more likely to persist to a second year than were their predecessors in Fall 2007 (Figures 1 and 2). The biggest improvement in fall-to-fall persistence over-time was among female students, especially Asian and Hispanic females. White male persistence rates were the most improved rate among male students. As in the past, female students who entered in fall 2008 were more likely than male students to return for a second consecutive year of studies at the College.

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



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

