A Discussion of Retention, Graduation, and Gaps

Institutional Research Coffee Talk
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Why Freshman Graduation Rates are Measured after Six Years

- In 1990, Congress passed the Student Right-to-Know Act, which requires colleges to disclose information on graduation rates and serious crimes.
  - In particular, the law requires colleges to report the proportion of students “completing their program within 150 percent of the normal time to completion.” For four-year colleges, that means the proportion of students who earn bachelor’s degrees within six years. In 1997 the federal government began to systematically collect those numbers through its Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, commonly known as IPEDS.

from: http://chronicle.com/blogs/measuring/6-year-graduation-rates-a-6-minute-primer/27573

4 years times 150% = 6 years
Frequently Used Phrases/Computations

• Retention Rates
  – 1-yr rate = Number of Initial Cohort Members Enrolled for the Fall of Year 2 \(\text{divided by}\) Number of Initial Cohort Members
  – 2-yr rate = Number of Initial Cohort Members Enrolled for the Fall of Year 3 \(\text{divided by}\) Number of Initial Cohort Members

• Graduation Rates
  – 4-yr rate = Number of Initial Cohort Members Graduating by the Summer of the 4\(^{\text{th}}\) year of study \(\text{divided by}\) Number of Initial Cohort Members
  – 6-yr rate = Number of Initial Cohort Members Graduating by the Summer of the 6\(^{\text{th}}\) year of study \(\text{divided by}\) Number of Initial Cohort Members

• Gap – Percentage point difference in rates between two or more groups
Frequently Used Abbreviations

• Cohort – Group with shared entry traits based on a common entry point
• EI – CSU Eligibility Index for first-time freshman admission
• New FTF – New first-time freshman
• New UG Transfer – New undergraduate transfer
• New UDT – New Upper division transfer
• New CCC transfer – New California Community College transfer
• Underrepresented Students
  – Native American/Alaskan Eskimo, Black, or Hispanic Students
• Non-Underrepresented Students
  – Asian/Pacific Islanders, White (Non-Hispanic), International (including undocumented), Multi-Race (non-Hispanic), or Unknown Race (non-Hispanic) students.
Gaps in 1 Year Return Rates
(Preliminary fall 2012 cohort data [overall rate = 88.7%] using Success Dashboard 10/15/2013)

- Underrepresented: 86.7%  
  Gap: 5.5 percentage points  
  Non-Underrepresented: 90.2%

- Men: 87.4%  
  Gap: 2.2 percentage points  
  Women: 89.6%

- First Generation to Attend College: 86.3%  
  Gap: 3.7 percentage points  
  Parent(s) Graduated From College: 90.0%

- Entered as Undeclared Major: 86.3%  
  Gap: 5.7 percentage points  
  Entered as COMM Major: 92.0%

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Gaps in 2 Year Return Rates

(Preliminary fall 2011 cohort data [overall rate = 81.8%] using Success Dashboard 10/15/2013)

- Underrepresented: 80.5%
  - Men: 79.8%
  - First Generation to Attend College: 79.6%
  - Entered as ARTS Major: 74.5%
  - Gap: 2.2 percentage points
  - Gap: 3.4 percentage points
  - Gap: 3.1 percentage points
  - Gap: 12.1 percentage points

- Non-Underrepresented: 82.7%
  - Women: 83.2%
  - Parent(s) Graduated From College: 82.7%
  - Entered as HHD Major: 87.6%
Gaps in 4 Year Graduation Rates

(Preliminary fall 2009 cohort data [overall rate = 17.4%] using Success Dashboard 10/15/2013)

- Underrepresented: 13.1%
  - Gap: 7.2 percentage points
  - Non-Underrepresented: 20.3%

- Men: 11.2%
  - Gap: 10.7 percentage points
  - Women: 21.9%

- First Generation to Attend College: 11.9%
  - Gap: 10.2 percentage points
  - Parent(s) Graduated From College: 22.1%

- Entered as ECS Major: 3.8%
  - Gap: 27.7 percentage points
  - Entered as COMM Major: 31.5%

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### Gaps in 6 Year Graduation Rates

(Preliminary fall 2007 cohort data [overall rate = 53.8%] using Success Dashboard 10/15/2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Underrepresented</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Non-Underrepresented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
<td>13.2 percentage points</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Generation to Attend College</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>11.4 percentage points</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entered as ECS Major</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>31.3 percentage points</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Underrepresented: 49.7%
- Men: 45.9%
- First Generation to Attend College: 47.9%
- Entered as ECS Major: 32.3%
- Gap: 7.1 percentage points
- Gap: 13.2 percentage points
- Gap: 11.4 percentage points
- Gap: 31.3 percentage points
- Non-Underrepresented: 56.8%
- Women: 59.1%
- Parent(s) Graduated From College: 59.3%
- Entered as COMM Major: 63.6%
What Might You Do to Address The Gaps?

• When are interventions needed?
  – Think about when the gaps occur

• What might work?
  – Consider major choice
  – Consider family experience in education
  – Consider prior academic preparation

• What else should be considered?
QUESTIONS?