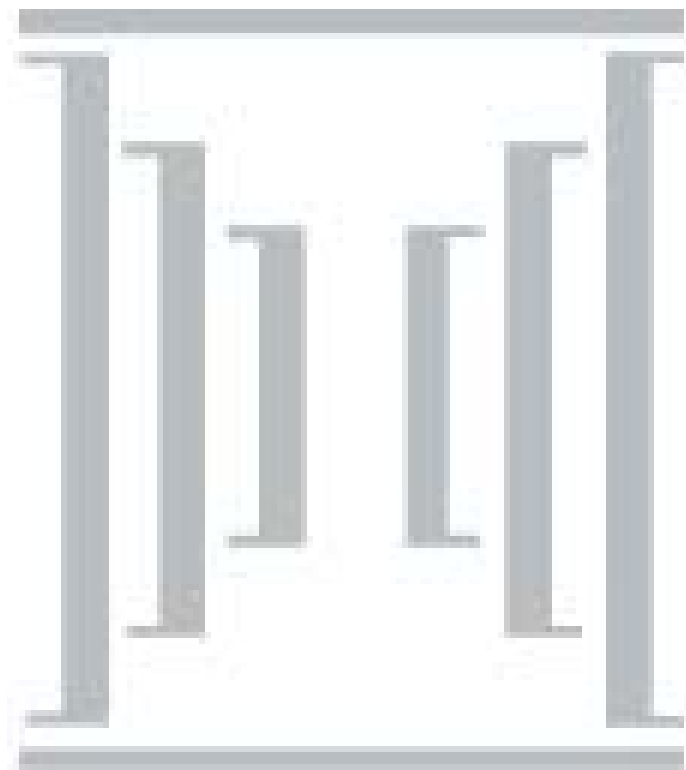


Data Trends and Briefings

January 15, 2008



North Carolina Community College System
Planning, Accountability, Research & Evaluation

Five Year Student Success Outcomes: from Fall 2001 to Spring 2006

Introduction

The study was conducted to determine positive student outcomes over the five year period, from Fall 2001 to Spring 2006. Positive student outcomes were defined in terms of 6 categories.

1. Award of less than associate degree (diploma and certificate) without transfer
2. Award of associate degree or higher without transfer
3. Award of less than associate degree and transferred
4. Award of associate degree or higher and transferred
5. Transferred without award
6. Still enrolled without award and earned at least 30 hours of credit

The outcomes were analyzed by two main factors, which were enrollment status and age groups. Enrollment status was either full-time or part-time. The age group was divided by three categories: less than 22 years old (younger age group), 23 to 45 years old (middle age group), and 46 and older (older age group). For demographic purpose, gender and ethnicity were also taken into account.

Identifying the Achieving the Dream (AtD) Cohort

In 1997-98 the North Carolina Community College System adopted a common course library and academic program of study numbering system for all 58 community colleges. When a student enrolls in a North Carolina community college, they select a program of study and that program's code is entered into the college's database. The program code is a six character object, with the first character designating the degree/award level the student is pursuing. The degree/award levels are: "A" for Associates degree, "C" for Certificate, "D" for Diploma and "T" for Transition. The Transition code is for non-degree seeking students, students on a waiting list for a program, dual enrolled high school students and students who are undecided as to which program they are going to enter. All programs have been standardized as to length and content of study.

At the end of each semester, colleges submit a student unit record data file to the North Carolina Community College System Office. This data file is uploaded to the System Data Warehouse. In selecting the Achieving the Dream cohort for this study, which was

defined as first-time, degree seeking students, individuals were selected for inclusion on the basis of two variables: First Registration Term and Program Code. To be included, a student's First Registration Term had to equal the term for which the cohort was defined (Fall 2001) and the first character of the Program Code had to equal "A", "C", or "D" to indicate the student was degree-seeking.

Results of the Study

All Tracks

The initial cohort (first time students in the Fall 2001 in curriculum programs) consisted of 61,731 students. After the exclusion of Transitional students there were 38,024 Associate, Diploma, and Certificate degree-seeking students. Fifty-one percent (51 %, 19,261) of the final cohort were 22 years old or younger, 43% (16,187) were 23 to 45 years old and 7% (2,576) were 46 years and older.

Of the final cohort, 56% (21,385) were female, and 44% (16,638) were male. White, non-Hispanic students comprised 68% (25,849) of the final cohort, 24% (8,996) were Black, non-Hispanics and 3% (980) were Hispanics. The remaining percentage of the initial cohort were Asian/ Pacific Islander (719), American Indian/ Alaskan Native (704), and Other or Unknown (775): 2% in each category. In terms of enrollment status, two thirds of the cohort were full-time (62%, 23,490) at the beginning of the study. (Refer to Table 1.)

The results indicate:

1. Younger students (≤ 22 years old) achieved more positive outcomes compared to the other age groups, regardless of the enrollment status.
2. Percentage of full-time students who received awards or transferred (45%) exceeded part-time students (31%) regardless of their age group. Adding the numbers who were still enrolled and earned at least 30 hours of credit hours resulted in student outcomes much higher: 53% for full-time students and 39% part-time. The success rate for full-time and part-time students combined was 48%
3. For full-time students, the percent of students who received awards and/or transferred plus still enrolled with at least 30 hours of credit was 54% for younger (≤ 22) age group, 52% for middle (23-45) age group, and 51% for the older (46 and older) age group.
4. For the full-time middle age group students, 18% (1,449) received an award of certificate or diploma without transfer; 13% (1,066) received an associate degree without transfer.

5. Nineteen percent (19%) of the younger full-time students (2,713) transferred without an award. For the same group of students, 11% (1,574) received associate degrees without transfer. Eight percent (8%) of the group received associate degrees and transferred.
6. For part-time students, the percentage of students who transferred without an award was greatest for both the younger and middle age group: 16% (776) and 12% (979), respectively. For part-time students who were 46 and older, 11% (149) received either diploma or certificate without transfer; 8% (112) received an associate degree without transfer.
7. Combining full-time and part-time students together, the tendency of younger ones to transfer more and older ones receiving degrees without transfer was more evident. 18% (3,489) of the younger group for both part-time and full-time transferred without award, whereas 13% (diplomas and/or certificates) and 14% (associate degrees) of the middle age group received awards without transfer. For the age 46 and older group, 16% (410) received less than associate degrees without transfer and 14% (355) received associate degrees without transfer. (Refer to Table 2.)

Table 1. All Tracks

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS	
<u>First-Time Students</u>	<u>Entry</u>
Cohort Year	2001-02
Starting Cohort	61,731
Final Cohort (after exclusion)*	38,024
Descriptives (Final Cohort After Exclusions) Entry	
Age:	
22 or Younger	19,261
23 to 45	16,187
46 and Older	2,576
Total	38,024
Gender:	
Male	16,638
Female	21,385
Total	38,023
Ethnicity:	
Caucasion, Non-Hispanic	25,849
Black, Non-Hispanic	8,996
Hispanic	980
Asian / Pacific Islander	719
American Indian / Alaskan Native	704
Other or Unknown	775
Total	38,023
Enrollment Status:	
Full-Time	23,490
Part-Time	14,534
Total	38,024

*Final cohort consists of all degree (Associate, Diploma, and Certificate degrees) seeking students excluding special credit students.

Table 2. Results for All Tracks

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Full-Time Students)</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR NEW FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, ALL TRACKS													
Full-Time Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer		Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer		Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred		Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred		Transferred w/o Award		Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours		TOTAL %
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
	<=22	14,310	60.9%	768	5%	1,574	11%	58	0%	1,175	8%	2,713	19%	1,473	
23 - 45	7,999	34.1%	1,449	18%	1,066	13%	72	1%	414	5%	781	10%	397	5%	52%
46 and older	1,181	5.0%	261	22%	243	21%	3	0%	32	3%	29	2%	40	3%	51%
Total Cohort	23,490		2,478	11%	2,883	12%	133	1%	1,621	7%	3,523	15%	1,910	8%	53%

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Part-Time Students)</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR NEW PART-TIME STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, ALL TRACKS													
Part-Time Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer		Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer		Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred		Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred		Transferred w/o Award		Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours		TOTAL %
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
	<=22	4,951	34.1%	216	4%	303	6%	13	0%	164	3%	776	16%	470	
23 - 45	8,188	56.3%	641	8%	746	9%	47	1%	277	3%	979	12%	629	8%	41%
46 and older	1,395	9.6%	149	11%	112	8%	3	0%	35	3%	55	4%	89	6%	32%
Total Cohort	14,534		1,006	7%	1,161	8%	63	0%	476	3%	1,810	12%	1,188	8%	39%

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Students)</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL NEW [BOTH PART- AND FULL-TIME] STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, ALL TRACKS													
All New Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer		Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer		Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred		Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred		Transferred w/o Award		Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours		TOTAL %
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
	<=22	19,261	50.7%	984	5%	1,877	10%	71	0%	1,339	7%	3,489	18%	1,943	
23 - 45	16,187	42.6%	2,090	13%	1,812	11%	119	1%	691	4%	1,760	11%	1,026	6%	46%
46 and older	2,576	6.8%	410	16%	355	14%	6	0%	67	3%	84	3%	129	5%	41%
Total Cohort	38,024		3,484	9%	4,044	11%	196	1%	2,097	6%	5,333	14%	3,098	8%	48%

College Transfer Track Only

Results for College Transfer Track students indicate:

1. Younger students (≤ 22) and middle age group (23 – 25) tend to transfer more without award compared to the older age group (46 and older): 28%, 26%, and 13% respectively. For the older age group, 27% of the students who achieved positive student outcomes received associate degrees without transfer (14%) or received associate degrees and transferred (13%).
2. Combining all categories, younger students achieved 57% of positive student outcomes, followed by older students (55%) and then the middle age group (53%).
3. For full-time students, 65% of older students achieved positive outcomes; 60% of the younger group and 57% of the middle age group achieved same results. The total percentage was 60% regardless of the age group for the full-time students.
4. Compared to 53% for all students, college transfer track students achieved 7% more to get an overall positive outcome of 60%.
5. About one-third (29%) of the full-time college transfer track students in both younger and middle age group transferred without award. Refer to Table 3.
6. Seventy-four percent (74%) of the college transfer track students were 22 years old or younger, whereas 24% were 23 to 45 years old. Remaining 2% were 46 years and older.
7. Seventy percent (70%) of the college transfer students were full-time.
8. In terms of ethnicity, 74% of college transfer students were white, non-Hispanic, while 16% were black, non-Hispanic (12,542). Refer to Table 4.

Table 3. Results for College Transfer Track Only

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Full-Time Students), College Transfer Only</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR NEW FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, College Transfer Only													
Full-Time Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer	Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer	Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred	Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred	Transferred w/o Award	Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours	TOTAL %						
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%					
	<=22	7,266	83.1%	134	2%	487	7%	20	0%	825	11%	2,121	29%	790	11%
23 - 45	1,406	16.1%	37	3%	107	8%	5	0%	157	11%	408	29%	91	6%	57%
46 and older	74	0.8%	5	7%	13	18%	1	1%	12	16%	11	15%	6	8%	65%
Total Cohort	8,746		176	2%	607	7%	26	0%	994	11%	2,540	29%	887	10%	60%

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Part-Time Students), College Transfer Only</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR NEW PART-TIME STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, College Transfer Only													
Part-Time Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer	Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer	Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred	Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred	Transferred w/o Award	Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours	TOTAL %						
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%					
	<=22	2,014	53.1%	41	2%	77	4%	6	0%	99	5%	522	26%	191	9%
23 - 45	1,648	43.4%	32	2%	110	7%	5	0%	118	7%	398	24%	157	10%	50%
46 and older	134	3.5%	3	2%	16	12%	0	0%	14	10%	16	12%	18	13%	50%
Total Cohort	3,796		76	2%	203	5%	11	0%	231	6%	936	25%	366	10%	48%

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Students), College Transfer Only</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL NEW [BOTH PART- AND FULL-TIME] STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, College Transfer Only													
All New Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer	Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer	Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred	Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred	Transferred w/o Award	Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours	TOTAL %						
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%					
	<=22	9,280	74.0%	175	2%	564	6%	26	0%	924	10%	2,643	28%	981	11%
23 - 45	3,054	24.4%	69	2%	217	7%	10	0%	275	9%	806	26%	248	8%	53%
46 and older	208	1.7%	8	4%	29	14%	1	0%	26	13%	27	13%	24	12%	55%
Total Cohort	12,542		252	2%	810	6%	37	0%	1,225	10%	3,476	28%	1,253	10%	56%

Table 4. College Transfer Track Only

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS	
<u>First-Time Students</u>	<u>Entry</u>
Cohort Year	2001-02
Starting Cohort	61,731
Final Cohort (after exclusion)*	12,542
<u>Descriptives (Final Cohort After Exclusions) Entry</u>	
Age:	
22 or Younger	9,280
23 to 45	3,054
46 and Older	208
Total	12,542
Gender:	
Male	5,792
Female	6,750
Total	12,542
Ethnicity:	
Caucasion, Non-Hispanic	9,310
Black, Non-Hispanic	2,067
Hispanic	403
Asian / Pacific Islander	326
American Indian / Alaskan Native	147
Other or Unknown	289
Total	12,542
Enrollment Status:	
Full-Time	8,746
Part-Time	3,796
Total	12,542

*Final cohort consists of all degree (Associate, Diploma, and Certificate degrees) seeking students excluding special credit students.

Technical/ Vocational Track Only

Results for the Technical/Vocational Track students indicate:

1. Overall positive student outcomes for the technical/vocational track students (44%) were lower than the all tracks (48%) and college transfer track (56%) regardless of age group and enrollment status.
2. In terms of age group, 45% of the middle age group students achieved positive outcomes, while 44% of younger group and 40% of the older group did.
3. For full-time students, 44% of the older group students received awards without transfer, whereas 36% of the middle age group achieved the same level. Only 24% of younger students received awards without transfer. A very small proportion of technical/vocational track students transferred with or without awards regardless of age group and enrollment status.
4. For part-time students, middle age group students achieved the most positive outcomes (38%), while the younger group achieved 34% and the older group 30%. Refer to Table 5.
5. More than half of the technical/vocational track students were 23 – 45 years old (52%, 13,133). Thirty-nine percent (39%, 9,981) of the students were 22 years or younger. The remaining 9% were 46 years and older.
6. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of all technical/vocational track students were full-time at the start of the study. Refer to Table 6.

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Table 5. Results for Technical/Vocational Track Only

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Full-Time Students), Technical/Vocational Track Only</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR NEW FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, Technical/Vocational Track Only													
Full-Time Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer		Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer		Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred		Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred		Transferred w/o Award		Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours		TOTAL %
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
	<=22	7,044	47.8%	634	9%	1,087	15%	38	1%	350	5%	592	8%	683	
23 - 45	6,593	44.7%	1,412	21%	959	15%	67	1%	257	4%	373	6%	306	5%	51%
46 and older	1,107	7.5%	256	23%	230	21%	2	0%	20	2%	18	2%	34	3%	51%
Total Cohort	14,744		2,302	16%	2,276	15%	107	1%	627	4%	983	7%	1,023	7%	50%

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Part-Time Students), Technical/Vocational Track Only</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR NEW PART-TIME STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, Technical/Vocational Track Only													
Part-Time Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer		Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer		Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred		Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred		Transferred w/o Award		Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours		TOTAL %
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
	<=22	2,937	27.4%	175	6%	226	8%	7	0%	65	2%	254	9%	279	
23 - 45	6,540	60.9%	609	9%	636	10%	42	1%	159	2%	581	9%	472	7%	38%
46 and older	1,261	11.7%	146	12%	96	8%	3	0%	21	2%	39	3%	71	6%	30%
Total Cohort	10,738		930	9%	958	9%	52	0%	245	2%	874	8%	822	8%	36%

<u>Fall 2001 Cohort (All New Students), Technical/Vocational Track Only</u>		POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL NEW [BOTH PART- AND FULL-TIME] STUDENTS IN FALL 2001 BY THE END OF SPRING TERM 2006, Technical/Vocational Track Only													
All New Students	Initial Cohort		Award of Less than Associate's Degree w/o Transfer		Award of Associates Degree or Higher w/o Transfer		Award of Less than Associate's Degree and Transferred		Award of Associates Degree or Higher and Transferred		Transferred w/o Award		Still Enrolled w/o Award and Earned at Least 30 Hours		TOTAL %
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
	<=22	9,981	39.2%	809	8%	1,313	13%	45	0%	415	4%	846	8%	962	
23 - 45	13,133	51.5%	2,021	15%	1,595	12%	109	1%	416	3%	954	7%	778	6%	45%
46 and older	2,368	9.3%	402	17%	326	14%	5	0%	41	2%	57	2%	105	4%	40%
Total Cohort	25,482		3,232	13%	3,234	13%	159	1%	872	3%	1,857	7%	1,845	7%	44%

Table 6. Technical/Vocational Track Only

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS		
<u>First-Time Students</u>	<u>Entry</u>	
Cohort Year	2001-02	
Starting Cohort		61,731
Final Cohort (after exclusion)*		25,482
Descriptives (Final Cohort After Exclusions) Entry		
Age:		
22 or Younger		9,981
23 to 45		13,133
46 and Older		2,368
Total		25,482
Gender:		
Male		10,846
Female		14,635
Total		25,481
Ethnicity:		
Caucasion, Non-Hispanic		16,539
Black, Non-Hispanic		6,929
Hispanic		577
Asian / Pacific Islander		393
American Indian / Alaskan Native		557
Other or Unknown		486
Total		25,481
Enrollment Status:		
Full-Time		14,744
Part-Time		10,738
Total		25,482

*Final cohort consists of all degree (Associate, Diploma, and Certificate degrees) seeking students excluding special credit students.