

Strategy, Analytics and Research



PimaCommunityCollege

Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) Outcome Report

Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) one year, two-year and six-year outcomes for the Main Cohort, this report will particularly focus on:

- Early Momentum Key Performance Indicators (First year progress) (Fall 2020)
- Two-year progress (Fall 2019)
- Six-year outcome (Fall 2015)

Early Momentum Key Performance Indicators (First year progress)

As a part of American Association of Community Colleges Pathway (AACCC Pathways) reform, VFA recently added a new data collection piece to focus on students' early momentum key performance indicators. These indicators will help PCC to identify if the Pathway efforts are having a positive effect and if they are likely to improve our students' overall success. It will also help identify if these first-year measures are indicators of two- and six-year success over time. Per recent research by Jenkins and Bailey (2017), early momentum metrics are the leading indicators for increased student success.

Pima Community College (PCC)'s data warehouse enables StAR to provide the data even before data collection started in 2019 (Table 1), but benchmarking data may not be available for these measures.

Table 1. Main cohort one year progress measures

	Earned 6+ Credits 1st Term	Earned 12+ Credits 1st Term	Earned 15+ Credits in 1st Year	Earned 24+ Credits in 1st Year	Earned 30+ Credits in 1st Year	Completed College Math 1st Year	Completed College English 1st Year	Completed College Math and English 1st Year
Fall 2012	39.4%	10.5%	25.4%	8.8%	3.2%	11.2%	31.1%	6.0%
Fall 2013	38.4%	10.3%	25.0%	8.9%	3.3%	12.1%	32.1%	7.4%
Fall 2014	39.6%	10.7%	26.4%	9.7%	3.9%	13.0%	31.0%	8.0%
Fall 2015	42.5%	11.2%	27.1%	8.9%	3.2%	13.8%	36.4%	8.7%
Fall 2016	44.7%	12.5%	29.7%	10.4%	3.7%	13.0%	36.7%	8.6%
Fall 2017	47.2%	15.6%	32.0%	12.6%	5.2%	15.2%	37.1%	9.6%
Fall 2018	48.7%	14.8%	30.8%	11.9%	4.8%	16.8%	37.9%	12.1%
Fall 2019	51.8%	17.7%	34.7%	15.3%	6.3%	24.8%	41.5%	18.7%
Fall 2020	46.5%	15.9%	32.5%	14.9%	6.0%	19.3%	32.6%	13.6%

There is a clear sign that students' credit taking behavior has been changing since Fall 2012 which also reflects on their two-year progress measures (Table 2). Students have been taking more credits and completing more college level courses in their first year. Research shows that more credit leads to higher completion rates in a shorter period of times ([Klempin, S, 2014](#)).

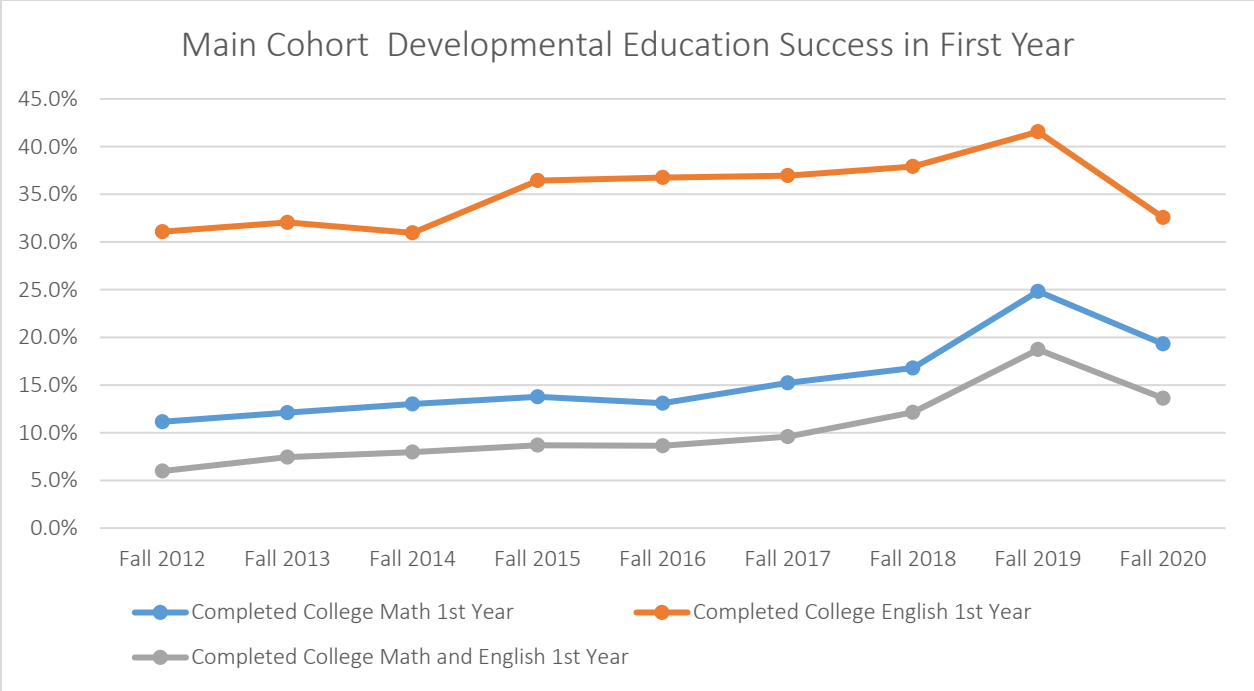


Chart 1. Main cohort developmental education success in first year

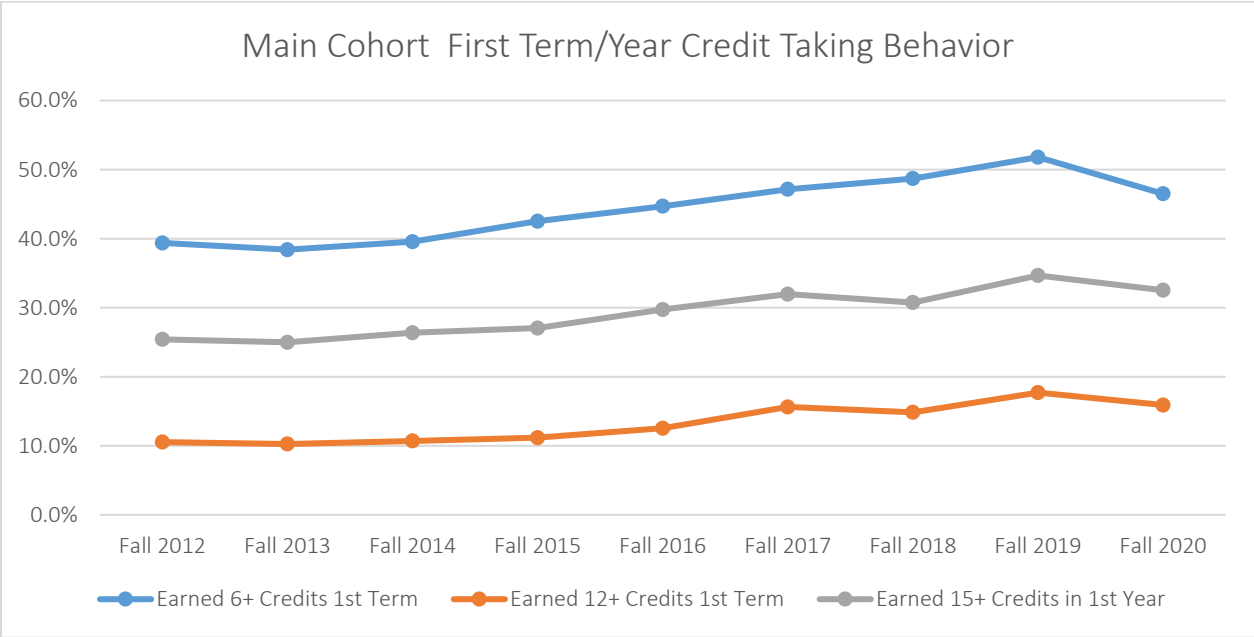


Chart 2. Main cohort first term/year credit taking behavior

Two-year progress

The second year completed credit rate has been on the rise for the last 4 years, for example, it has increased from 62.2% in Fall 2012 to 71.5% in Fall 2017 and decreased to 68.1% for fall 2019 cohort. The same positive trend is experienced in first term no success, completed certificate or degree, and first term completed credits rate until fall 2019 but is expected to decline due to the pandemic (Table 2).

Table 2. Main Cohort two-year progress measures

	Fall to Next Term Retention Rate	First Term No Success Rate	Reached Credit Threshold Rate	First Term Completed Credits Rate	Second Year Completed Credits Rate	Completed Certificate or Degree Rate	Transferred Rate	Still Enrolled in Second Year Rate
Fall 2012	63.3%	22.9%	28.5%	62.2%	63.7%	5.6%	22.4%	37.8%
Fall 2013	61.5%	23.6%	29.4%	60.8%	64.5%	5.9%	20.4%	38.3%
Fall 2014	61.5%	22.1%	33.1%	64.4%	67.2%	7.1%	19.2%	39.6%
Fall 2015	64.3%	19.3%	33.7%	67.3%	68.3%	7.7%	16.0%	42.1%
Fall 2016	63.9%	19.4%	37.0%	69.7%	69.9%	9.3%	17.8%	40.2%
Fall 2017	64.3%	17.1%	38.2%	71.9%	71.2%	10.4%	15.6%	41.0%
Fall 2018	62.8%	17.9%	39.7%	68.9%	70.3%	12.6%	11.5%	43.5%
Fall 2019	67.2%	18.5%	34.3%	68.1%	68.7%	8.8%	9.0%	44.2%

PCC's next term (fall to spring) retention rate has been steady for the last ten years. It has increased from 63.3% in fall 2022 to 67.2% for fall 2019 cohort. PCC is experiencing a similar trend in completion numbers; it has been steadily increasing until fall 2019 and is expected to decline for the following cohorts due to the pandemic. Benchmarking VFA colleges' fall to next term retention rate was 65.0% for fall 2019 cohort, decreased from 71.5% in fall 2018.

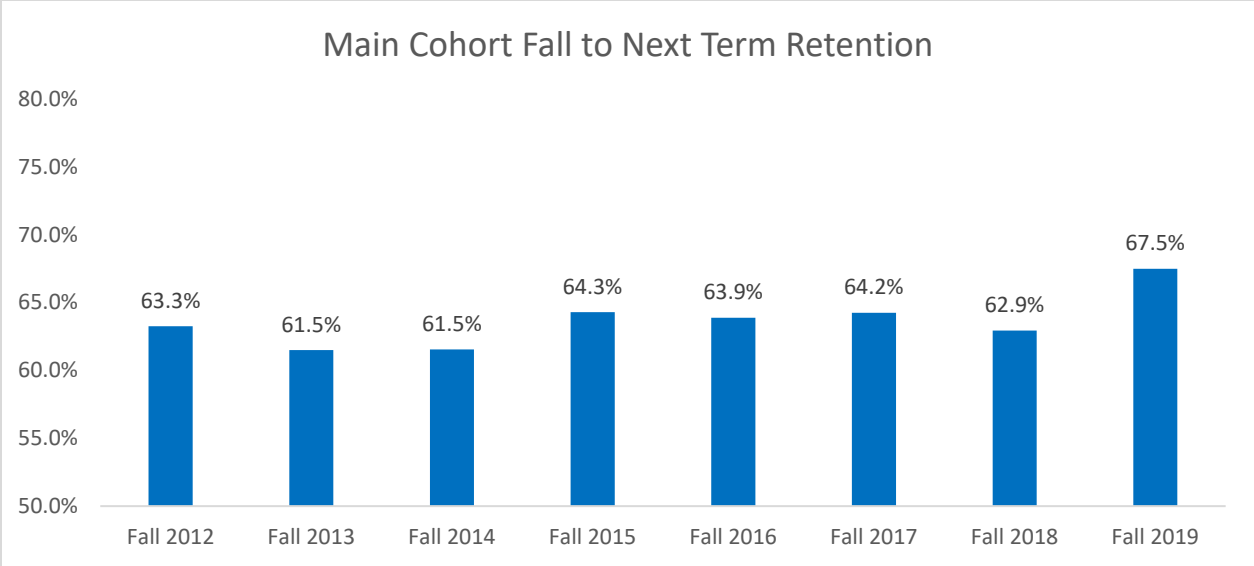


Chart 3. Main cohort fall to next term retention

PCC’s certificate or degree completion rate has been steadily increasing until fall 2019 and started to decline for the following cohorts (Chart 4), following the same trend with other measures and colleges. Other VFA benchmarking colleges rate for the same measure is noted as 18.3% for the fall 2019 cohort, which is much higher than PCC’s rate, and it incased from 17.8% compared to the fall 2018 cohort.

Furthermore, the transfer rate has been declining for the last four years (Chart 4). Benchmarking VFA colleges reported that their main cohort transfer rate was 12.3% for the fall 2019 cohort, decreased from 14.2% in previous year, fall 2018.

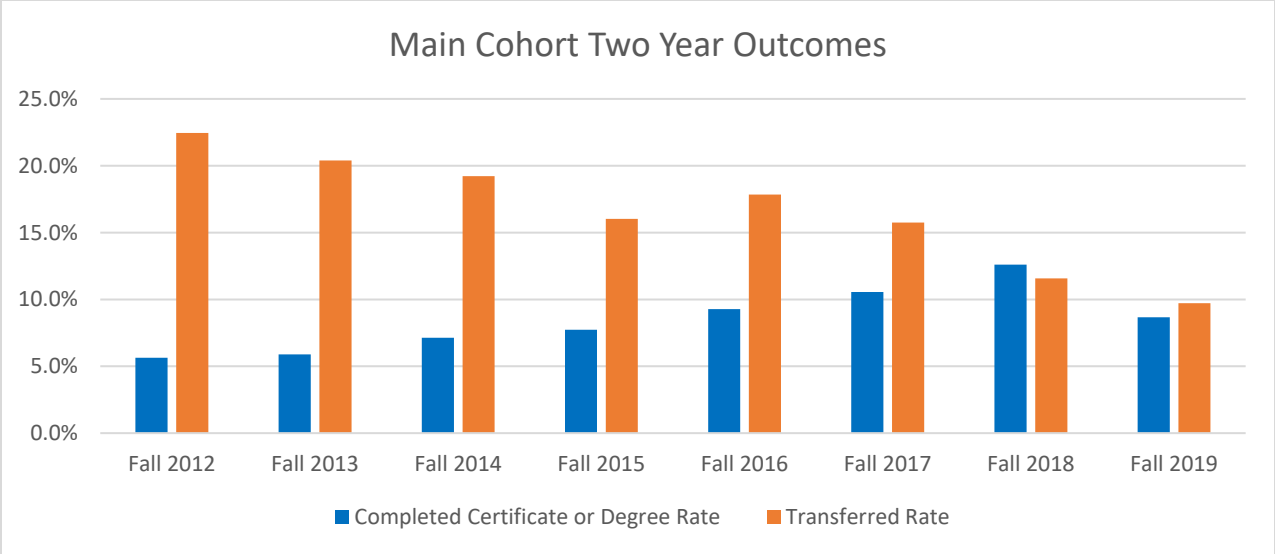


Chart 4. Main cohort two-year completion and transfer rate

Six-year outcomes

The proportion of students who started in fall 2009 and received a degree and certificate over the six-year period was 15.5%. This percentage increased to 21.8% for the fall 2015 cohort, still slightly behind other VFA benchmarking colleges (30.5%), increased from 28.7% in fall 2018.

PCC’s two-year and six-year completion rates have been increasing and noted that two-year outcomes are showing early signs of improvement, but due to COVID, both two- and six-year outcomes are showing notable decline and expected to continue for the next few years (Chart 6). Although transfer rate has been declining still close to one third of students transfer and do not complete a Pima credential. Benchmarking VFA colleges no award transfer rate has been steady around 23% for both fall 2018 and fall 2019.

Having a high no award transfer rate can be concerning because not all students who transfer may be successful at the next institution. It is well known in the literature that the higher an individual’s education level, the higher their lifetime cumulative earnings are likely to be. PCC is also working on reverse transfer, which will be helpful to those students who did not earn credentials at the transferred institutions either.

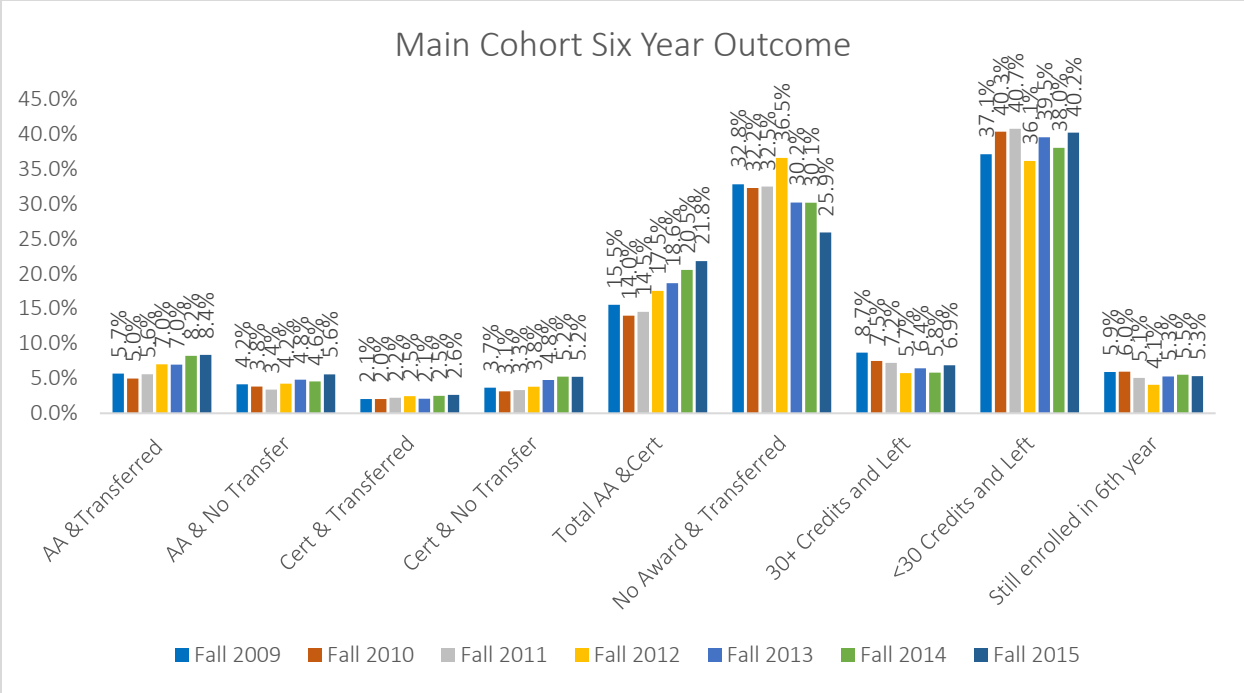


Chart 6. Main cohort six-year outcome