



2015

Santa Ana College

Pathways of Student Persistence and Performance

Introduction

The RSCCD Research Department publishes this report annually which shows students' semester-to-semester persistence and course success rates.

There were 3,601 first-time freshmen enrolled in classes at Santa Ana College in Fall 2014 (end of term). This group, or “cohort,” was tracked to subsequent semesters (active third week of class), resulting in a calculated persistence rate. Persistence rates are also displayed by ethnicity and by educational goal.

The course success section of this study includes performance in the classroom. The proportion of enrollments in non-traditional programs (Fire and Criminal Justice Academies, Fire Officer Training, Fire Service Training and Business Seminars for the purposes of this study) has, historically, contributed significantly to the number of grades received at SAC. Separating this group will provide a more accurate snapshot of course success for students in both traditional and non-traditional programs.

The purpose of this report is to identify trends over time. Typically, there are relatively few significant changes. Observed changes are usually gradual and result from shifting composition of the student population, shifting economic conditions, and/or changing program offerings. The addition or expansion of programs can cause fluctuations in student demographics and educational goal distributions of the student population and, therefore, can also cause changes in persistence rates (proportion of students persisting to the next semester) and course success rates.

Summary

Persistence

- Second semester persistence rates for the first-time freshmen Fall 2014 cohort fell ten percentage points from the prior year cohort (62% from 72%).
 - Second semester persistence rate remained constant at 66% for African-American students.
 - Persistence to second semester rates for Asian, Latino and White groups increased slightly from prior year (1 to 3 percentage point).
- Third and fourth semester persistence rates for the first-time freshmen increased (59% and 52% respectively from 54% and 48%).
- Persistence to fifth and sixth semester dropped (four and five percentage points respectively); however, they are still higher than the Fall 2010 cohort.
- Degree-directed students (declaring goals of earning an AA/AS degree and/or transferring to a four-year university) comprise more than half of the first-time freshman cohort (55%).
 - Degree-directed student persistence to the second semester held steady (81% for the last three years) and significantly exceeds SAC first-time freshmen persistence at large of 62%.
 - Third and fourth semester persistence rates rose slightly over the prior year, as did 7th and 8th semester rates, but 5th and 6th semester rates fell slightly.

Course Success

- Across all subject area courses at SAC, the success rate has increased one percentage point over that of the prior year's cohort to 74%. This may be influenced by the increase in non-traditional coursework which has higher success rates (22% of total enrollments are non-traditional).
- Traditionally, students success in non-traditional subject areas (Criminal Justice and Fire Academies and Business Seminars) is high, usually 98% to 99%.
- Course success rates in traditional subject areas remains constant at 67%.
 - The five subjects with highest success rates include: Occupational Therapy Assistance (96%), TV/Video Communication (95%), Social Science (89%), Nursing RN (88%), and Kinesiology Intercollegiate Athletics (87%).

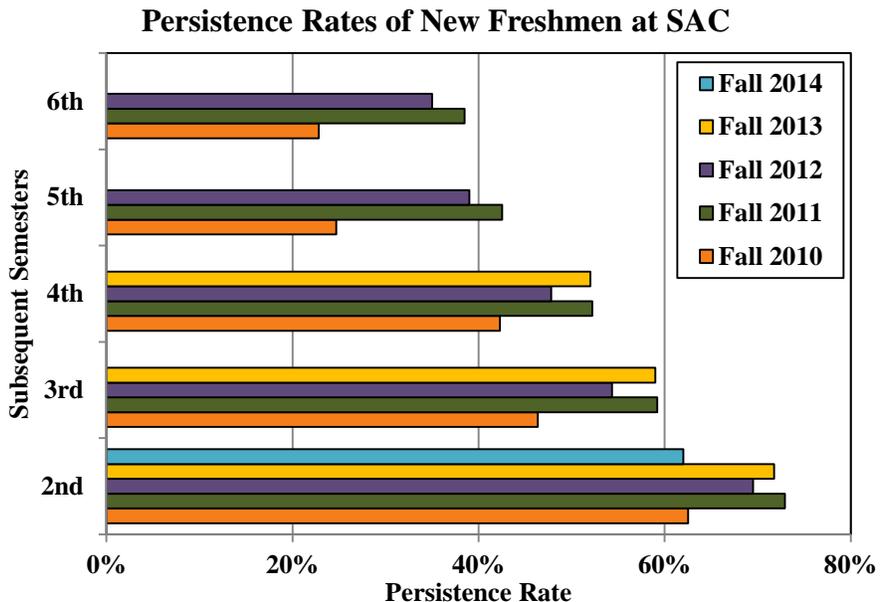
Persistence

Overall Persistence

- Second semester persistence rates for the first-time freshmen Fall 2014 cohort fell ten percentage points from the prior year (72% to 62%).
- Third and fourth semester persistence rates for the first-time freshmen increased (59% and 52% respectively from 54% and 48%).
- Persistence to fifth and sixth semester dropped (four and five percentage points respectively); however, they are still higher than the Fall 2010 cohort.

**Santa Ana College
Subsequent Semester Persistence Rates
of First-Time New Freshmen**

Semester	Cohort Count	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Fall 2010	2670	63%	46%	42%	25%	23%	17%	14%
Fall 2011	2688	73%	59%	52%	43%	39%	30%	26%
Fall 2012	3208	70%	54%	48%	39%	35%		
Fall 2013	3074	72%	59%	52%				
Fall 2014	3601	62%						



Persistence by Ethnicity

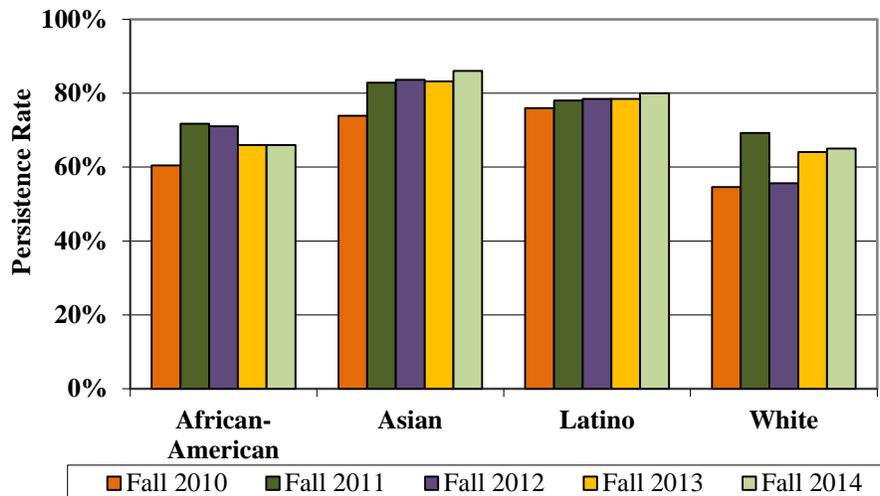
Though it is important to disaggregate persistence data by ethnicity, it should be used cautiously and not all groups have the same number of students. The historically high variance in rates for African-American students is largely due to the very small cohort size.

- Second semester persistence rate remained constant at 66% for African-American students.
- Asian students usually persist at the high rates (74% to 86%) among the different ethnic groups. There was also an increase of three percentage points from Fall 2013.
- There were modest increases in persistence rates for Whites and Latinos (one and two percentage point gains respectively); however, the increase for the last five years is impressive (55% to 65% for Whites and 76% to 80% for Latinos).

**Santa Ana College
Second Semester Persistence Rates of New Freshmen by Ethnicity**

Semester	Cohort Count	African American	Asian	Latino	White	Total
Fall 2010	2670	60%	74%	76%	55%	63%
Fall 2011	2688	72%	83%	78%	69%	73%
Fall 2012	3208	71%	84%	78%	56%	70%
Fall 2013	3074	66%	83%	78%	64%	72%
Fall 2014	3601	66%	86%	80%	65%	62%

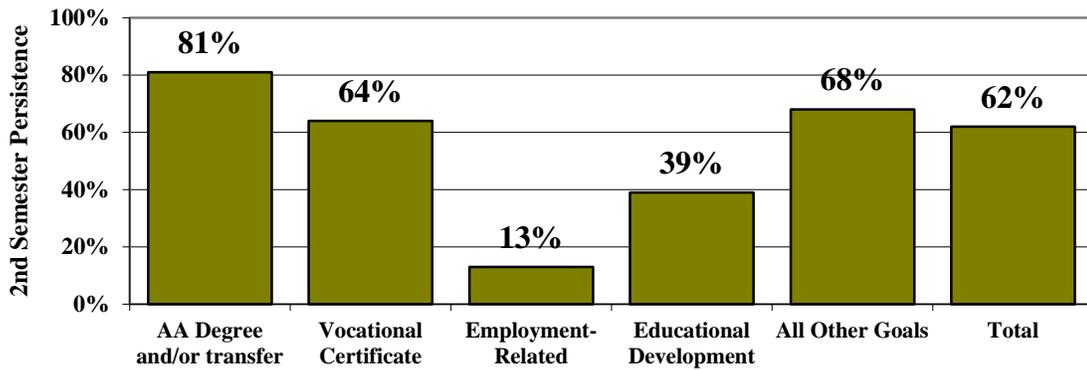
Second Semester Persistence Rates by Ethnicity



Persistence by Educational Goal

- Degree-directed students (declaring goals of earning an AA/AS degree and/or transferring to a four-year university) comprise more than half of the Fall 2014 first-time freshman cohort (55%).
- Degree-directed student persistence has held steady (81%) and significantly exceeds SAC first-time freshmen persistence at large (62%).
- Third and fourth semester persistence rates rose slightly over prior year, as did 7th and 8th semester rates, but 5th and 6th semester rates fell.

**Santa Ana College
Second Semester Persistence Rates by Educational Goal
Fall 2014 First-Time Freshman Cohort**



**Santa Ana College
Persistence Rates of Degree-Directed* First-Time Freshmen**

Semester	Cohort Count	Semesters After Initial Enrollment						
		2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Fall 2010	1509	78%	60%	54%	44%	40%	32%	25%
Fall 2011	1878	82%	67%	60%	48%	44%	34%	30%
Fall 2012	2194	81%	65%	57%	47%	43%		
Fall 2013	2206	81%	68%	60%				
Fall 2014	1979	81%						

*degree-directed are those who intend to pursue an AA/AS degree and/or transfer to a four-year university

Course Success

Success in Non-Traditional Subject Areas

The proportion of enrollments in non-traditional programs (Fire and Criminal Justice Academies, Fire Officer Training, Fire Service Training and Business Seminars) has, historically, contributed significantly to the number of grades received at SAC (15% of total enrollments in Fall 2010 to 22% in Fall 2014). Separating this group provides a more accurate snapshot of course success for students in both traditional and non-traditional programs.

- Fall 2014 non-traditional enrollments comprise 22% of SAC’s total – a trend that has steadily risen across all years included in this study.
- Students traditionally succeed in non-traditional subject areas (Criminal Justice and Fire Academies and Business Seminars) at high rates, constant at 98% to 99% in the last five years.

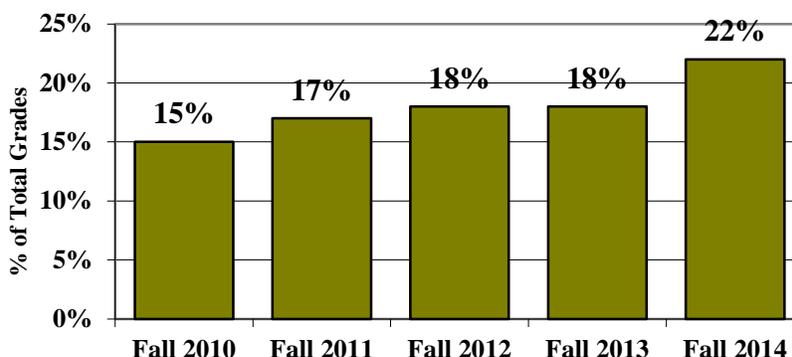
Success in Traditional Subject Areas

- The Fall 2014 course success rate in traditional subject areas remains the same as in Fall 2013 at 67%.

Santa Ana College Traditional and Non-Traditional Course Success

Semester	non-traditional subject areas				traditional	Total ALL Courses
	criminal justice academy	fire academy	business seminars	Total	Non-Academy/ Bus. Sem.	
Fall 2010	99%	92%	97%	98%	65%	70%
Fall 2011	99%	90%	97%	98%	69%	73%
Fall 2012	99%	88%	96%	98%	65%	71%
Fall 2013	100%	90%	96%	99%	67%	73%
Fall 2014	100%	82%	99%	99%	67%	74%

Proportion of Grades Received in Business Seminars and Academies (Fire & Criminal Justice) Classes



SAC Course Success Rates by Subject, Fall 2014		
	Enrollment	% A,B,C,P
Total SAC	63400	74%
Academies/Bus. Sem. Total	13665	99%
Business Seminar	654	99%
Criminal Justice Academy	12327	100%
Fire Academy	345	82%
Fire Officer Training	336	98%
Fire In-Service Training	3322	grades n/a
Non-Academy/Bus. Sem. Total	46413	67%
Accounting	900	71%
Anthropology	620	65%
Art	1562	64%
Astronomy	414	77%
Automotive	367	81%
Banking	54	63%
Biology	2375	53%
Business	1449	75%
Business Applications	530	67%
Chemistry	613	60%
Chicano Studies	180	63%
Chinese	51	78%
Communication & Media Studies	85	75%
Communication Studies	1688	79%
Computer Science	610	61%
Counseling	2157	78%
Criminal Justice	1258	57%
Dance	391	68%
Diesel	55	75%
Earth Science	489	48%
Economics	465	77%
Education	80	66%
Emergency Med Tech	257	58%
Engineering	434	61%
English	3433	61%
English For Multilingual Student	574	73%
Entrepreneurship	239	59%
Environmental Studies	54	61%
Ethnic Studies	70	79%
Fashion Design Merchandise	225	62%
Fire Technology	1456	76%
French	128	59%
Geography	371	59%
Geology	290	42%
History	1418	60%
Human Development	1130	76%
Interdisciplinary Studies	314	51%

SAC Course Success Rates by Subject, Fall 2014		
	Enrollment	% A,B,C,P
Italian	29	59%
Japanese	73	70%
Kinesiology Activities	121	81%
Kinesiology Adapted	33	61%
Kinesiology Aerobic Fitness	179	69%
Kinesiology Aquatics	58	76%
Kinesiology Fitness	378	63%
Kinesiology Health	425	64%
Kinesiology Inter. Athletics	533	87%
Kinesiology Professional	476	72%
Kinesiology Sports Medicine	78	59%
Library Studies	66	71%
Library Technology	54	70%
Management	124	73%
Manufacturing Technology	519	80%
Marketing	167	47%
Math	4863	54%
Medical Assistant	578	80%
Music	1095	69%
Nursing Rn	737	88%
Nutrition	152	70%
Occupational Therapy Assist	377	96%
Paralegal	279	71%
Pharmacy	382	54%
Philosophy	709	68%
Photography	231	64%
Physical Science	11	45%
Physics	197	73%
Political Science	1191	62%
Psychology	1318	65%
Reading	706	59%
Science	14	50%
Sign Language	285	64%
Social Science	18	89%
Sociology	611	68%
Spanish	726	80%
Special Services	11	64%
Speech And Language Pathology	182	79%
Study Skills	267	63%
Theatre Arts	308	81%
TV/Video Communication	550	81%
Vietnamese	57	95%
Welding	380	76%
Women's Studies	79	61%

Santa Ana College
Grade Distribution by Subject Area, Fall 2014

Subject Area	Enrollment	Successful					Non-Successful				Non-Completer	
		A	B	C	P	TOTAL	D	F	NP	TOTAL	I	W
Total SAC	63400	19%	16%	12%	26%	74%	4%	7%	1%	13%		13%
Academies/Bus. Sem. Total	13665	1%	1%		97%	99%			1%	1%		0%
Business Seminar	654				99%	99%			1%	1%		0%
Criminal Justice Academy	12327				100%	100%			0%	0%		0%
Fire Academy	345	7%	7%		68%	82%			12%	12%		6%
Fire Officer Training	336	56%	15%	6%	21%	98%		1%	1%	1%		1%
Fire Service Training	3322	<i>grades not available</i>										
Non-Academy/Bus. Sem. Total	46413	24%	21%	16%	5%	67%	6%	9%	1%	16%	0%	17%
Accounting	900	29%	23%	19%	0%	71%	3%	5%	0%	8%	0%	20%
Anthropology	620	18%	26%	20%	1%	65%	8%	11%		19%	0%	15%
Art	1562	28%	23%	11%	2%	64%	5%	12%	2%	19%	0%	17%
Astronomy	414	31%	29%	16%		77%	3%	6%		8%	0%	15%
Automotive	367	26%	31%	19%	4%	81%	5%	6%	0%	11%		9%
Banking	54	26%	26%	11%		63%	4%	4%		7%		30%
Biology	2375	17%	18%	19%	0%	53%	7%	11%	0%	17%	0%	29%
Business	1449	39%	20%	13%	2%	75%	3%	7%	0%	10%		15%
Business Applications	530	33%	18%	11%	4%	67%	2%	11%	0%	14%	0%	19%
Chemistry	613	19%	23%	18%		60%	12%	5%		16%	1%	23%
Chicano Studies	180	33%	18%	13%		63%	3%	14%		17%		20%
Chinese	51	59%	10%	8%	2%	78%	6%	2%		8%		14%
Comm. & Media Studies	85	41%	21%	13%		75%	1%	7%		8%		16%
Communication Studies	1688	25%	30%	19%	5%	79%	5%	7%	0%	12%	0%	9%
Computer Science	610	26%	20%	14%	1%	61%	3%	5%		8%	0%	30%
Counseling	2157	26%	15%	9%	29%	78%	3%	7%	1%	11%	0%	11%
Criminal Justice	1258	14%	21%	23%	0%	57%	8%	15%		23%		20%
Dance	391	25%	21%	12%	10%	68%	3%	12%	1%	16%	1%	16%
Diesel	55	36%	15%	24%		75%	7%	5%		13%		13%
Earth Science	489	11%	15%	22%		48%	12%	18%		31%	1%	20%
Economics	465	23%	36%	18%		77%	2%	2%		3%		20%
Education	80	49%	14%	4%		66%		9%		9%		25%
Emergency Med Tech	257	16%	21%	5%	16%	58%	2%	7%	10%	19%		23%

**Santa Ana College
Grade Distribution by Subject Area, Fall 2014**

Subject Area	Enrollment	Successful					Non-Successful				Non-Completer	
		A	B	C	P	TOTAL	D	F	NP	TOTAL	I	W
Engineering	434	29%	20%	11%	1%	61%	3%	12%		15%	0%	24%
English	3433	15%	24%	22%	0%	61%	8%	11%	0%	19%	0%	20%
English For Multilingual Students	574	11%	26%	20%	16%	73%	10%	2%	5%	17%		10%
Entrepreneurship	239	46%	8%	5%	0%	59%	3%	16%		19%		22%
Environmental Studies	54	2%	20%	39%		61%	7%	19%		26%		13%
Ethnic Studies	70	44%	26%	7%	1%	79%		6%		6%		16%
Fashion Design Merchandise	225	24%	20%	10%	7%	62%	5%	19%	2%	26%		12%
Fire Officer Training	336	56%	15%	6%	21%	98%		1%	1%	1%		1%
Fire Public Safety	3					0%				0%		100%
Fire Technology	1456	35%	23%	11%	7%	76%	3%	11%	1%	15%	0%	9%
French	128	22%	23%	13%		59%	13%	13%		26%		16%
Geography	371	17%	16%	26%		59%	8%	10%		18%		23%
Geology	290	6%	14%	22%		42%	15%	18%	0%	33%	0%	25%
History	1418	15%	23%	21%	0%	60%	10%	13%	0%	23%		18%
Human Development	1130	38%	25%	13%	0%	76%	3%	9%		12%	0%	12%
Interdisciplinary Studies	314	18%	18%	14%		51%	10%	21%		31%		18%
Italian	29	45%	3%	7%	3%	59%	7%	14%		21%		21%
Japanese	73	37%	21%	12%		70%	5%	4%		10%		21%
Kinesiology Activities	121	73%	7%	1%		81%	2%	2%		4%		15%
Kinesiology Adapted	33	27%	15%	9%	9%	61%	12%	3%	12%	27%		12%
Kinesiology Aerobic Fitness	179	44%	16%	7%	3%	69%	3%	8%	1%	12%	1%	18%
Kinesiology Aquatics	58	50%	17%	9%		76%	3%	3%		7%		17%
Kinesiology Fitness	378	10%	1%	1%	51%	63%		2%	21%	24%		13%
Kinesiology Health	425	33%	21%	10%		64%	5%	14%		19%		16%
Kinesiology Intermural Athletics	533	82%	3%	2%		87%	0%	0%		1%	0%	12%
Kinesiology Professional	476	44%	20%	9%		72%	3%	11%		14%		13%
Kinesiology Sports Medicine	78	22%	21%	17%		59%	9%	24%		33%		8%
Library Studies	66	39%	18%	14%		71%	6%	9%		15%		14%
Library Technology	54	46%	11%	7%	6%	70%	6%	2%		7%		22%
Management	124	51%	16%	6%		73%	2%	10%		12%		15%
Manufacturing Technology	519	33%	32%	16%	0%	80%	2%	8%		10%	0%	9%

**Santa Ana College
Grade Distribution by Subject Area, Fall 2014**

Subject Area	Enrollment	Successful					Non-Successful				Non-Completer	
		A	B	C	P	TOTAL	D	F	NP	TOTAL	I	W
Marketing	167	18%	14%	15%		47%	8%	16%		23%		29%
Math	4863	14%	19%	21%	0%	54%	9%	13%	0%	23%	0%	23%
Medical Assistant	578	49%	18%	10%	2%	80%	4%	7%		11%	0%	9%
Music	1095	36%	18%	10%	5%	69%	6%	6%	1%	13%	0%	18%
Nursing RN	737	2%	12%	17%	58%	88%	3%	1%	5%	8%		4%
Nutrition	152	36%	25%	9%		70%	3%	7%		11%		20%
Occupational Therapy Assistant	377	32%	43%	7%	14%	96%		0%	1%	1%	0%	3%
Paralegal	279	34%	18%	10%	9%	71%	2%	8%	2%	12%		17%
Pharmacy	382	12%	19%	14%	10%	54%	6%	9%	2%	17%	2%	27%
Philosophy	709	25%	22%	21%	0%	68%	5%	11%		16%	0%	16%
Photography	231	21%	18%	12%	13%	64%	9%	12%		21%		16%
Physical Science	11	9%	18%	18%		45%	27%	9%		36%		18%
Physics	197	26%	29%	18%		73%	2%	4%		6%	1%	20%
Political Science	1191	13%	27%	22%		62%	10%	11%		21%		17%
Psychology	1318	24%	22%	20%	0%	65%	5%	11%		17%		18%
Reading	706	5%	8%	6%	41%	59%	2%	7%	11%	20%	0%	20%
Science	14	7%	14%	29%		50%		36%		36%		14%
Sign Language	285	20%	22%	22%		64%	9%	12%		21%		15%
Social Science	18	28%	33%	28%		89%	6%			6%		6%
Sociology	611	18%	28%	22%		68%	7%	13%		20%	0%	12%
Spanish	726	36%	30%	15%	0%	80%	3%	7%		9%		10%
Special Services	11				64%	64%			27%	27%		9%
Speech And Language Pathology	182	47%	24%	9%		79%	5%	5%		11%		10%
Study Skills	267	22%	16%	14%	10%	63%	4%	12%	5%	21%	1%	15%
Theatre Arts	308	62%	9%	9%		81%	4%	6%		9%		10%
TV/Video Communication	550	32%	33%	11%	4%	81%	3%	3%	1%	7%		12%
Vietnamese	57	81%	9%	4%	2%	95%	2%			2%		4%
Welding	380	28%	24%	13%	11%	76%	0%	3%	16%	19%		4%
Women's Studies	79	16%	29%	15%		61%	13%	13%		25%		14%