

**Achievement Gap Analysis Report 6** 

# Success in Developmental English by Enrollment Status (Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts)

**Research Report No. 13-16** 

Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Initiatives MARCH 2016

#### NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

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## Developmental English Success Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Enrollment Status and Demographics: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

#### Introduction

NOVA's commitment to student success is supported by the College's participation in the Achieving the Dream (ATD) National Reform Network. ATD is a comprehensive nationwide, non-governmental reform movement for student success in which NOVA has been a member since 2007 and a Leader College since 2010.<sup>1</sup> NOVA's participation in ATD encourages continuous monitoring of student outcomes in order to identify areas for improvement and pursue research-based methods of increasing student success and closing achievement gaps. To support this endeavor, this Report is part of a series examining recent trends among first-time to NOVA students across the following indicators of student success:

- Four-Year Graduation Rates
- Fall-to-Fall and Fall-to-Spring Retention
- Success in Developmental Education Courses
- Developmental Student Success in College-Level Courses
- Success in Gatekeeper Courses
- Successful Course Completion (All Courses)

This report analyzes data on success in developmental English. The success rates are presented for first-time to NOVA students, in the Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 cohorts, who enrolled in a developmental English course during their first term.

Success in developmental English is defined as the rate at which students who enrolled in a developmental English course in their first term succeeded in that course within one academic year, i.e., received a grade of "S' (Satisfactory).<sup>2</sup> Students who met this definition of success may not have necessarily completed their entire developmental English sequence, as students may be required to take more than one developmental English course. Students who enrolled in more than one developmental English course in their first semester were counted as successful if they succeeded in at least one of those courses.

Various structural and curricula changes were made to developmental English and were implemented between Fall 2012 and Fall 2014. A new statewide placement test was also introduced during this time period. Please see Appendix A for more information.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Leader Colleges have demonstrated commitment to and progress on the five principles of Achieving the Dream and have shown at least three years of improvement on at least one of the Achieving the Dream measures of student success. For more information see http://achievingthedream.org

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> S (Satisfactory) is an assignation used to indicate satisfactory completion of developmental courses. These grades are not included in grade point average calculations.

In consideration of the College's commitment to closing achievement gaps, the data in this Report are disaggregated and analyzed by student demographics as of the student's first term: enrollment status (full-time or part-time), gender, age, race/ethnicity, and program placement. However, the analysis in this report excludes sub-groups of small size (e.g., among racial/ethnic groups, only the outcomes of White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic students are discussed). For data on all sub-groups, please see Appendix B.

### **Executive Summary**

This report analyzes data on success in developmental English. The success rates are presented for first-time to NOVA students, in the Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 cohorts, who enrolled in a developmental English course during their first term. The following points represent the main findings in this report.

• The overall success rate was 82 percent in Fall 2011 but decreased by 7 percentage points to 75 percent for the Fall 2012 through Fall 2014 cohorts.

#### **Enrollment Status**

• For full-time students, success rates decreased by 8 percentage points to 77 percent; while success rates decreased by 2 percentage points to 71 percent for part-time students.

#### Gender

• Female full-time students had higher success rates (82 percent in Fall 2014) than male full-time students (72 percent in Fall 2014). This was also true for part-time students.

#### Age

• Students ages 18-21 accounted for over 85 percent of the total cohort population and had success rates that were similar to the overall success rates.

#### Ethnicity

- Across all cohorts, among full-time students, Asian students had the highest success rates (85 to 92 percent) while Black students had the lowest success rates (67 to 79 percent).
- Although success rates decreased for full-time students of all ethnicities, the decrease from Fall 2011 to Fall 2014 was largest for Hispanic students and Black students (both -10 percentage points), followed by Asian students (-6 percentage points), and White students (-5 percentage points).
- Among part-time students, success rates increased for Asian students (8 percentage points) and White students (5 percentage points) but decreased for Black students (-15 percentage points) and Hispanic students (-2 percentage points).

#### **Program Placement**

• Full-time students in the A.S. and A.A. programs tended to have the highest success rates (79 and 77 percent in Fall 2014, respectively). Among the part-time population, students in the A.A. program tended to have the highest success rates (79 percent in Fall 2014).

## Developmental English Success Rates of First-Time to NOVA Students by Enrollment Status and Demographics: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

In Fall 2012, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) introduced a redesigned developmental English curriculum. Two of the redesigned courses were piloted in Fall 2012 and the remaining redesigned courses were fully implemented during Spring 2013.<sup>3</sup> In November 2012, VCCS colleges also began using a new statewide test for developmental English placement: the Virginia Placement Test English (VPT-English). Furthermore, in Fall 2014, NOVA implemented a policy change mandating placement testing and enrollment in developmental courses for all placed students. The policy required students to enroll in developmental courses in their first semester, if placed; however, the policy only applied to first-time in college (FTIC) students. These reforms are important considerations when analyzing the data and may explain the following trends:

- Between Fall 2011 and Fall 2012, there was a 5 percent increase in the number of firsttime to NOVA students enrolled in developmental English in their first semester; however, between Fall 2012 and Fall 2014 there was a 49 percent decrease in enrollment.
- Between Fall 2012 and Fall 2014, the decrease in the number of students enrolled in a developmental English course was larger for full-time students (-55 percent) than for part-time students (-34 percent).
- The overall success rate was 82 percent in Fall 2011 but decreased by 7 percentage points to 75 percent for the Fall 2012 cohort, where it remained for the Fall 2013 and Fall 2014 cohorts (see Figure 1, next page).

						-			-		-	-	
	Fall 2	011 Coł	nort	Fall 2	2012 Co	hort	Fall 2	2013 Co	hort	Fall 2014 Cohort			
Status	N	Succe	ssful	N	Succe	ssful	N	Succe	ssful	N	Succes #	ssful	
	IN	#	%		#	%	IN	#	%	IN		%	
Full-Time	2,020	1,713	84.8	2,075	1,609	77.5	1,158	909	78.5	943	728	77.2	
Part-Time	707	515	72.8	790	535	67.7	488	317	65.0	523	370	70.7	
Total	2,727	2,228	81.7	2,865	2,144	74.8	1,646	1,226	74.5	1,466	1,098	74.9	

## Table 1. Success in Developmental English by Enrollment Status: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Appendix B for more details.

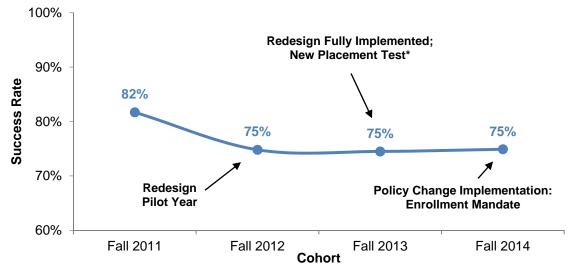


Figure 1. Success Rates in Developmental English: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

\*Although the VPT-English was introduced in November 2012, the timing of the introduction meant that the Fall 2013 cohort was the first fall cohort in which the majority of students were placed using the VPT-English

#### Success in Developmental English by Enrollment Status (Figure 2)

- Between the Fall 2011 and Fall 2014 cohorts, success rates decreased by 8 percentage points to 77 percent for full-time students.
- Although the success rate for part-time students decreased from 73 to 65 percent between Fall 2011 and Fall 2013, the success rate increased to 71 percent for the Fall 2014 cohort.

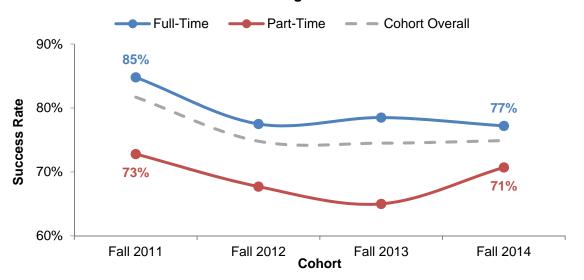
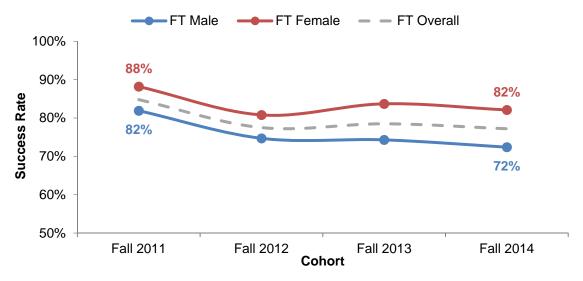


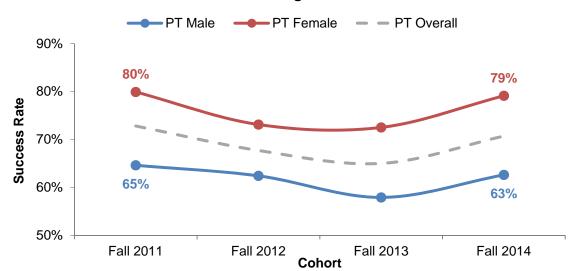
Figure 2. Success in Developmental English by Enrollment Status: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

#### Success in Developmental English by Gender (Figures 3 and 4)

- Between the Fall 2011 and Fall 2014 cohorts, success rates decreased from 88 to 82 percent for female full-time students and from 82 to 72 percent for male full-time students.
- For female and male part-time students, the success rate decreased between Fall 2011 and Fall 2012 but increased in Fall 2014 to within 2 percentage points of the Fall 2011 cohort's success rates.
- The percentage point difference in success rates between female and male full-time students increased from 6 points in the Fall 2011 cohort to 10 points in Fall 2014 cohort.
- The percentage point difference in success rates for part-time students was larger than that for full-time students and was 17 percentage points in the Fall 2014 cohort (79 percent for women and 63 percent for males).

Figure 3. Success Rates in Developmental English for <u>Full-Time</u> Students by Gender: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts



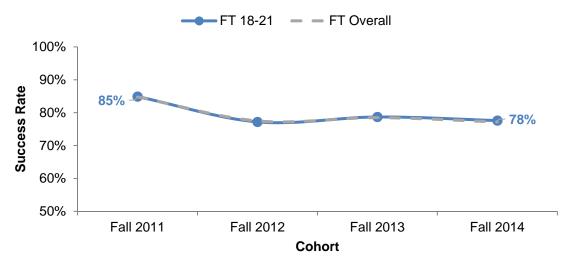




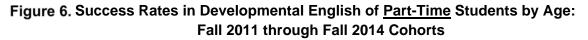
#### Success in Developmental English by Age (Figures 5 and 6)

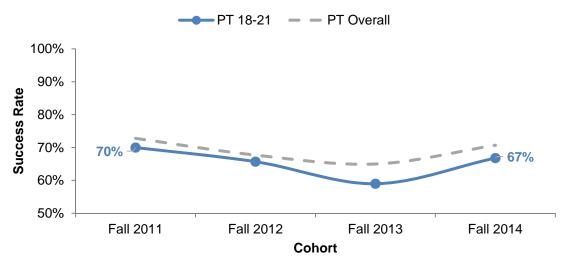
- The success rates of full-time students ages 18-21 mirrored the overall full-time success rates, decreasing from 85 percent in Fall 2011 to 78 percent in Fall 2014.
- The success rates of part-time students ages 18-21 decreased from 70 percent in Fall 2011 to 67 percent in Fall 2014. In comparison, the overall part-time success rate decreased from 73 percent in Fall 2011 to 71 percent in Fall 2014.
- Over 85 percent of each overall cohort fell into the 18 to 21 age group.

#### Figure 5. Success Rates in Developmental English of <u>Full-Time</u> Students by Age: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts



Note: The figure excludes sub-groups of small size. Data for all sub-groups can be found in Appendix B.

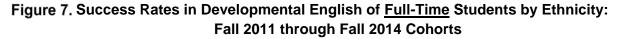




Note: The figure excludes sub-groups of small size. Data for all sub-groups can be found in Appendix B.

#### Success in Developmental English by Race/Ethnicity (Figures 7 and 8)

- Although success rates decreased for full-time students of all ethnicities, the decrease was largest for Hispanic students and Black students (both -10 percentage points), followed by Asian students (-6 percentage points), and White students (-5 percentage points).
- Among part-time students, success rates increased for Asian students (8 percentage points) and White students (5 percentage points) but decreased for Black students (-15 percentage points) and Hispanic students (-2 percentage points).
- Across all cohorts among full-time students, Asian students had the highest success rates (85 to 92 percent) while Black students had the lowest success rates (67 to 79 percent).
- Part-time Black students had the highest success rate in Fall 2011 but the lowest rates in Fall 2014. Part-time Hispanic students had the second highest success rate in Fall 2011 but the lowest in Fall 2013.



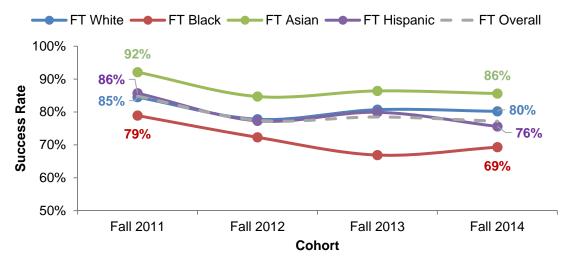
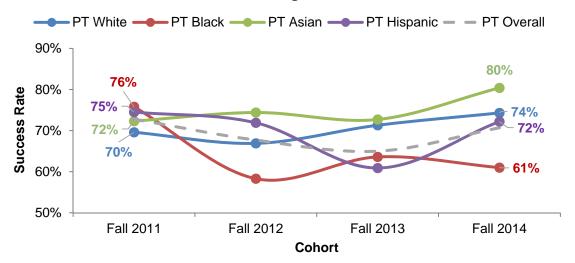


Figure 8. Success Rates in Developmental English for <u>Part-Time</u> Students by Ethnicity: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

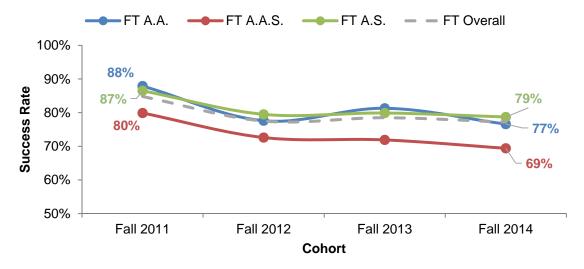


#### Success in Developmental English by Program Placement (Figures 9 and 10)

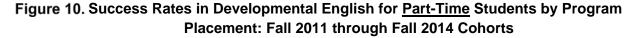
- The proportion of students who were enrolled in A.S. programs in their first term increased from 60 percent in Fall 2011 to 73 percent in Fall 2014 (See Appendix B).
- Success rates for full-time students decreased across all program types. However, among part-time students, success rates increased for students placed in A.A. and A.A.S. programs but decreased for students placed in A.S. programs.
- Full-time students who were enrolled in either an A.A. or an A.S. degree had the highest success rates (77 to 88 percent) and were never more than two percentage points apart.
- Among part-time students, students enrolled in A.A. programs had the highest success rates from 2012 through 2014.

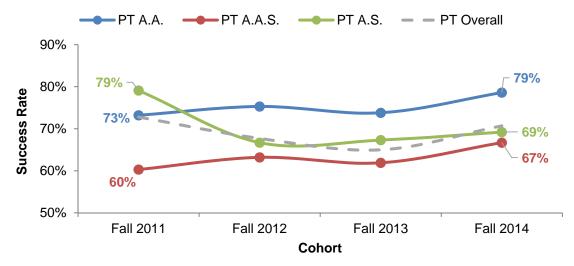
 Students enrolled in A.A.S. programs had the lowest success rates, regardless of enrollment status (in the Fall 2014 cohort, these full-time students were 5 to 8 percentage points below the overall full-time success rate; while part-time students were 4 percentage points below the overall part-time success rate).

Figure 9. Success Rates in Developmental English for <u>Full-Time</u> Students by Program Placement: Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts



Note: The figure excludes sub-groups of small size. Data for all sub-groups can be found in Appendix B.





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#### Appendix A: Information on Developmental English Redesign

#### Implementation of Developmental English Redesign

In order to meet the needs of the students in developmental reading and writing and to move them more effectively into college-level English courses, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) redesigned the structure of developmental English. Two of the redesigned courses were piloted in Fall 2012 and the remaining redesigned courses were fully implemented during Spring 2013.

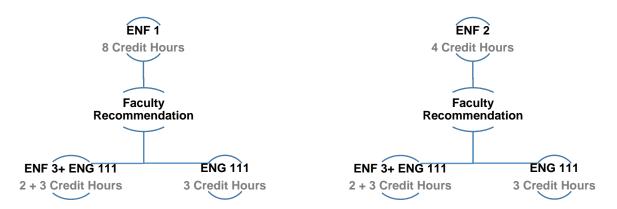
The developmental English redesign involved the integration of reading and writing into three fundamental courses. The redesign also involved the development of a new placement test for determining college readiness in English (VPT-English). The VPT-English is a diagnostic test for determining a student's level of preparedness in English. The scores on the VPT-English determine whether a student is ready to enroll directly into a college-level, credit-level English course. VPT-English was available to all colleges in November 2012. COMPASS placement test results were used before the implementation of VPT.

#### How Do Students Progress to College-level English?

Students can enter the developmental English sequence at three levels, depending on their English Placement Test score:

- ENF 1 Preparing for College English I, an eight-credit course;
- ENF 2 Preparing for College English II, a four-credit course;
- ENF 3 Preparing for College English III, a two-credit course that is co-enrolled with ENG 111, College Composition I, the entry-level college composition class.

After students pass either the ENF 1 or the ENF 2 courses, teachers recommend them either to the ENF 3 class, co-enrolled with credit-level English (ENG 111), or to the ENG 111 class without ENF 3 (see Figure A.1).



#### Figure A.1. Developmental English Redesign: Student Progression

#### Appendix B: Data Tables

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		Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2	012 Co	hort	Fall 2	2013 Co	hort	Fall 2014 Cohort		
Status	Gender	Ν	Succe	ssful	N	Succe	ssful	N	Succe	ssful	Ν	Succe	ssful
		IN	#	%	IN	#	%	IN	#	%		#	%
	Male	1,096	898	81.9	1,098	820	74.7	638	474	74.3	479	347	72.4
Full-Time	Female	924	815	88.2	977	789	80.8	520	435	83.7	464	381	82.1
	Subtotal	2,020	1,713	84.8	2,075	1,609	77.5	1,158	909	78.5	943	728	77.2
	Male	328	212	64.6	396	247	62.4	252	146	57.9	265	166	62.6
Part-Time	Female	379	303	79.9	394	288	73.1	236	171	72.5	258	204	79.1
	Subtotal	707	515	72.8	790	535	67.7	488	317	65.0	523	370	70.7
Tota	al	2,727	2,228	81.7	2,865	2,144	74.8	1,646	1,226	74.5	1,466	1,098	74.9

## Table B.1. Success in Developmental English by Enrollment Status and Gender:Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

Table B.2. Success in Developmental English by Enrollment Status and Age:Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

		Fall 2	2011 Co	hort	Fall	2012 Co	hort	Fall	2013 Co	hort	Fall	2014 Co	ohort
Status	Age	N	Succe	ssful	N	Succe	essful	N	Succe	essful	N	Succe	essful
		IN	#	%	IN	#	%	IN	#	%	IN	#	%
	Under 18	32	28	87.5	37	30	81.1	16	15	93.8	15	15	100.0
	18-21	1,849	1,569	84.9	1,862	1,437	77.2	1,035	815	78.7	811	629	77.6
	22-24	64	55	85.9	63	49	77.8	50	36	72.0	44	27	61.4
Full-	25-29	33	25	75.8	65	55	84.6	25	21	84.0	38	29	76.3
Time	30-44	33	30	90.9	36	26	72.2	21	18	85.7	26	22	84.6
	45-59	9	6	66.7	9	9	100.0	7	4	57.1	9	6	66.7
	60 & Over	0	0	-	3	3	100.0	4	0	0.0	0	0	-
	Subtotal	2,020	1,713	84.8	2,075	1,609	77.5	1,158	909	78.5	943	728	77.2
	Under 18	14	12	85.7	14	12	85.7	6	6	100.0	11	10	90.9
	18-21	530	371	70.0	610	401	65.7	368	217	59.0	380	254	66.8
	22-24	42	33	78.6	59	39	66.1	23	15	65.2	38	29	76.3
Part-	25-29	47	32	68.1	38	30	78.9	38	30	78.9	37	31	83.8
Time	30-44	64	60	93.8	58	45	77.6	40	39	97.5	45	36	80.0
	45-59	10	7	70.0	11	8	72.7	13	10	76.9	10	9	90.0
	60 & Over	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-	2	1	50.0
	Subtotal	707	515	72.8	790	535	67.7	488	317	65.0	523	370	70.7
Тс	otal	2,727	2,228	81.7	2,865	2,144	74.8	1,646	1,226	74.5	1,466	1,098	74.9

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	Race/	Fall	2011 Co		Fall	2012 Co		Fall	2013 Co		Fall	2014 Co	
Status	Ethnicity	Ν	Succe		Ν		essful	N		essful	N		essful
			#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
	White	663	560	84.5	635	494	77.8	322	260	80.7	212	170	80.2
	Black	361	285	78.9	405	293	72.3	260	174	66.9	228	158	69.3
	Asian	304	280	92.1	333	282	84.7	176	152	86.4	181	155	85.6
	Hispanic	545	467	85.7	569	440	77.3	303	242	79.9	271	205	75.6
	American Indian	12	9	75.0	1	0	0.0	5	4	80.0	0	0	-
Full- Time	Native Hawaiian	15	14	93.3	13	10	76.9	7	5	71.4	6	3	50.0
Time	Two or More Races	91	72	79.1	83	60	72.3	61	48	78.7	32	27	84.4
	Not Specified	7	7	100.0	1	1	100.0	1	1	100.0	0	0	-
	Unknown	22	19	86.4	35	29	82.9	23	23	100.0	13	10	76.9
	Subtotal	2,020	1,713	84.8	2,075	1,609	77.5	1,158	909	78.5	943	728	77.2
	White	227	158	69.6	269	180	66.9	129	92	71.3	140	104	74.3
	Black	161	122	75.8	175	102	58.3	121	77	63.6	136	83	61.0
	Asian	83	60	72.3	82	61	74.4	55	40	72.7	56	45	80.4
	Hispanic	192	143	74.5	217	156	71.9	151	92	60.9	158	114	72.2
	American Indian	0	0	0.0	0	0	-	2	2	100.0	1	0	0.0
Part- Time	Native Hawaiian	6	6	100.0	4	4	100.0	1	1	100.0	3	3	100.0
TITLE	Two or More Races	30	21	70.0	32	23	71.9	22	9	40.9	24	18	75.0
	Not Specified	3	2	66.7	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
	Unknown	5	3	60.0	11	9	81.8	7	4	57.1	5	3	60.0
	Subtotal	707	515	72.8	790	535	67.7	488	317	65.0	523	370	70.7
Т	otal	2,727	2,228	81.7	2,865	2,144	74.8	1,646	1,226	74.5	1,466	1,098	74.9

Table B.3. Success in Developmental English by Enrollment Status and Race:Fall 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

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	Drogrom	Fall 2	2011 Co	hort	Fall 2	012 Co	hort	Fall	2013 Co	hort	Fall 2	2014 Co	hort
Status	Program Placement	N	Succe	ssful	N	Succe	ssful	N	Succe	essful	Ν	Succe	ssful
	Flacement	IN	#	%	IN	#	%	IN	#	%	IN	#	%
	A.A.	264	232	87.9	268	208	77.6	123	100	81.3	94	72	76.6
	A.A.A.	17	13	76.5	18	10	55.6	4	4	100.0	4	1	25.0
	A.A.S.	308	246	79.9	307	223	72.6	135	97	71.9	98	68	69.4
Full-Time	A.S.	1,243	1,075	86.5	1,349	1,073	79.5	845	675	79.9	713	561	78.7
	Certificate	77	60	77.9	67	48	71.6	38	24	63.2	18	11	61.1
	Not Placed	111	87	78.4	66	47	71.2	13	9	69.2	16	15	93.8
	Subtotal	2,020	1,713	84.8	2,075	1,609	77.5	1,158	909	78.5	943	728	77.2
	A.A.	82	60	73.2	97	73	75.3	42	31	73.8	42	33	78.6
	A.A.A.	3	1	33.3	2	1	50.0	2	1	50.0	0	0	-
Dort	A.A.S.	126	76	60.3	133	84	63.2	84	52	61.9	78	52	66.7
Part- Time	A.S.	397	314	79.1	465	310	66.7	309	208	67.3	364	252	69.2
Time	Certificate	36	25	69.4	40	28	70.0	27	9	33.3	18	14	77.8
	Not Placed	63	39	61.9	53	39	73.6	24	16	66.7	21	19	90.5
	Subtotal	707	515	72.8	790	535	67.7	488	317	65.0	523	370	70.7
T	otal	2,727	2,228	81.7	2,865	2,144	74.8	1,646	1,226	74.5	1,466	1,098	74.9

 Table B.4. Success in Developmental English by Enrollment Status, Gender and Race: Fall

 2011 through Fall 2014 Cohorts

#### NOVA Mission and Strategic Goals

#### Mission

With commitment to the values of access, opportunity, student success, and excellence, the mission of Northern Virginia Community College is to deliver world-class in-person and online post-secondary teaching, learning, and workforce development to ensure our region and the Commonwealth of Virginia have an educated population and globally competitive workforce.

#### Strategic Goals

- I. STUDENT SUCCESS Northern Virginia Community College will move into the top tier of community colleges with respect to the college readiness, developmental course completion, retention, graduation, transfer, and career placement of its students.
- II. ACCESS Northern Virginia Community College will increase the number and diversity of students being served to mirror the population growth of the region.
- III. TEACHING AND LEARNING Northern Virginia Community College will focus on student success by creating an environment of world-class teaching and learning.
- IV. EXCELLENCE Northern Virginia Community College will develop ten focal points of excellence in its educational programs and services that will be benchmarked to the best in the nation and strategic to building the College's overall reputation for quality.
- V. LEADERSHIP Northern Virginia Community College will serve as a catalyst and a leader in developing educational and economic opportunities for all Northern Virginians and in maintaining the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the region.
- VI. PARTNERSHIPS Northern Virginia Community College will develop strategic partnerships to create gateways of opportunity and an integrated educational system for Northern Virginians who are pursuing the American Dream.
- VII. RESOURCES Northern Virginia Community College will increase its annual funding by \$100 million and expand its physical facilities by more than one million square feet in new and renovated space. This includes the establishment of two additional campuses at epicenters of the region's population growth, as well as additional education and training facilities in or near established population centers.
- VIII. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS Northern Virginia Community College will be recognized as a leader among institutions of higher education in Virginia for its development and testing of emergency response and continuity of operation plans.



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