

Transfer Trends and Patterns Series: Report 3

Six-Year Outcomes from the National Student Clearinghouse Completions Benchmark Report: Fall 2009 Cohort

Research Report No. 01-17

Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Initiatives

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OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

The purpose of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success Initiatives is to conduct analytical studies and provide information in support of institutional planning, policy formulation, and decision making. In addition, the office provides leadership and support in research related activities to members of the NOVA community engaged in planning and evaluating the institution's success in accomplishing its mission.

When citing data from this report, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center must be cited as the source.

4001 Wakefield Chapel Road
Annandale, VA 22003-3796
(703) 323-3129
www.nvcc.edu/oir

<p>Six-Year Outcomes from the National Student Clearinghouse Completions Benchmark Report: Fall 2009 Cohort</p>

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Executive Summary

This Report presents findings from the National Student Clearinghouse's Signature Report on completions. Specifically, this Report examines the six-year outcomes and completion rates of a Fall 2009 cohort of students who began their studies at NOVA compared with a similar cohort of students at all two-year institutions nationally.

Overall, the Report shows that the six-year completion rates of students who started at NOVA were higher than those of a national cohort of students at all two-year institutions, with roughly 45 percent of NOVA students earning a credential within 6 years, compared to 38 percent of the national cohort.

In addition, the Report reveals the following key findings:

- The six-year completion rates of NOVA's full-time only students (67 percent) and mixed enrollment students (43 percent) were higher than those of students at all two-year public institutions (55 percent and 35 percent, respectively).
- Twenty-one percent of students who started at NOVA earned a degree or credential from a four-year institution within six years compared to 15 percent of the national cohort.
- While 50 percent of women who started at NOVA completed within 6 years, only 42 percent of the national cohort of women did so.
- The majority of students at NOVA and at all two-year institutions were ages 20 and younger at first entry. In this age group, NOVA students had a six-year completion rate of 48 percent compared to 41 percent nationally.
- Among mixed enrollment students ages 21 to 24, NOVA's completion rate was 16 percentage points higher than the national cohort's.

Introduction

This Report examines student completion data that have been benchmarked to the analyses published in the National Student Clearinghouse's Signature Report on completions.¹ The cohorts examined in this Report are comprised of first-time in college (FTIC), degree-seeking students who started their postsecondary education in Fall 2009 at NOVA and of a national benchmark group, which is comprised of all two-year public institutions.

Data Notes

- The data for this report were drawn from the Enrollment Reporting and DegreeVerify services of the National Student Clearinghouse, which tracks 96 percent of college enrollments nationwide.
- National and NOVA cohorts are of first-time in college (FTIC), degree-seeking students.
- Completions were identified using degree and certificate records submitted by institutions as part of their participation in DegreeVerify.
- For institutions that do not participate in DegreeVerify, completions were identified using enrollment records indicating the enrollment status of *graduated*.
- For students who started at two-year institutions, degree-seeking students are defined by the National Student Clearinghouse as students who enrolled full-time for at least one term before August 10, 2009, or who enrolled at least half-time for any two terms before December 31, 2009.
- The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center defines "two-year institution" as any Title IV institution listed in IPEDS offering both associate's degrees and less-than-two-year degrees and certificates.

¹ Shapiro, D., Dundar, A., Wakhungu, P.K., Yuan, X., Nathan, A. & Hwang, Y. (2015, November). Completing College: A National View of Student Attainment Rates – Fall 2009 Cohort (Signature Report No. 10). Herndon, VA: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. Available at: <http://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport10/>

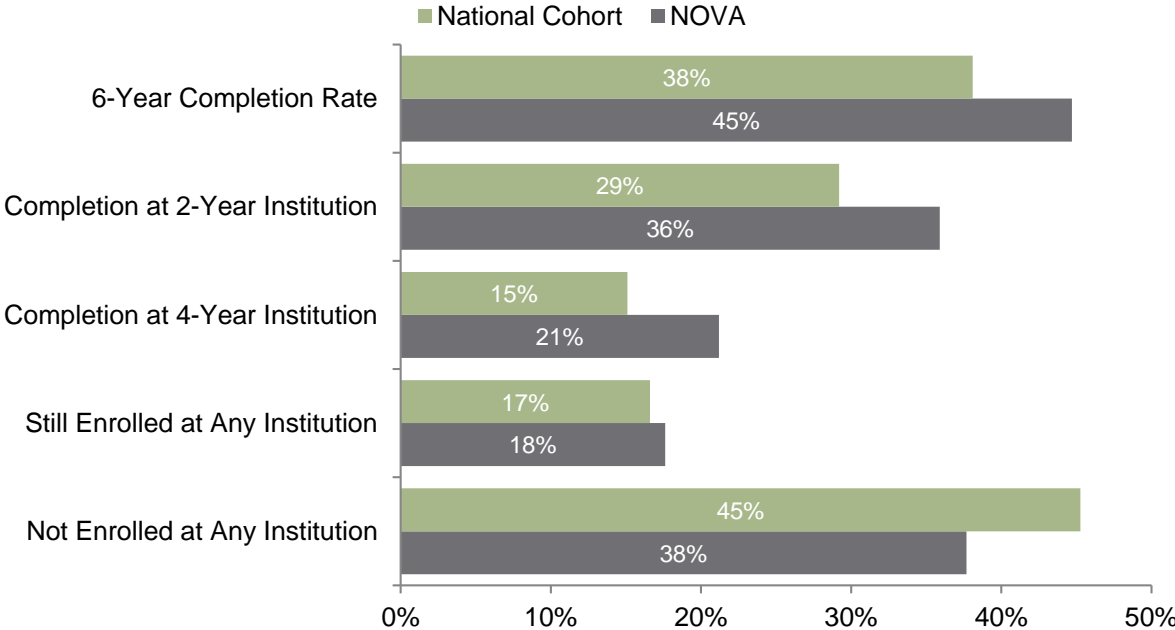
Section 1. Overall Six-Year Outcomes and Completions

Overall, NOVA’s six-year completion rates were higher than the national cohort of all two-year institutions, with roughly 45 percent of NOVA students earning a credential within 6 years, compared to 38 percent of the national cohort (Figure 1).

Other overall findings include:

- NOVA’s completion rates were also higher among students who earned their first credential at a two-year institution (36 percent versus 29 percent).
- Twenty-one percent of NOVA students earned a degree or credential from a four-year institution within six years compared to 15 percent of the national cohort.

Figure 1. Overall Six-Year Outcomes at NOVA and All Two-Year Public Institutions: Fall 2009 Cohort



Section 2. Six-Year Outcomes and Completions by Enrollment Intensity

Six-Year Outcomes by Enrollment Intensity

When the data are disaggregated by enrollment status, the majority of students in both the NOVA and national cohorts were classified as mixed enrollment (having attended as both a full-time and a part-time student).² Students who attended college full-time only were more likely than part-time only or mixed enrollment students to complete within six years.

- The six-year completion rates of NOVA’s full-time only students (67 percent) and mixed enrollment students (43 percent) were higher than those of students at all two-year public institutions (55 percent and 35 percent, respectively).
- However, the 6-year completion rate of part-time only students at NOVA was only one percentage point higher than that of part-time students at all two-year public institutions (19 percent and 18 percent, respectively).

Figure 2. Six-Year Outcomes by Enrollment Intensity – Mixed Enrollment: Fall 2009 Cohort

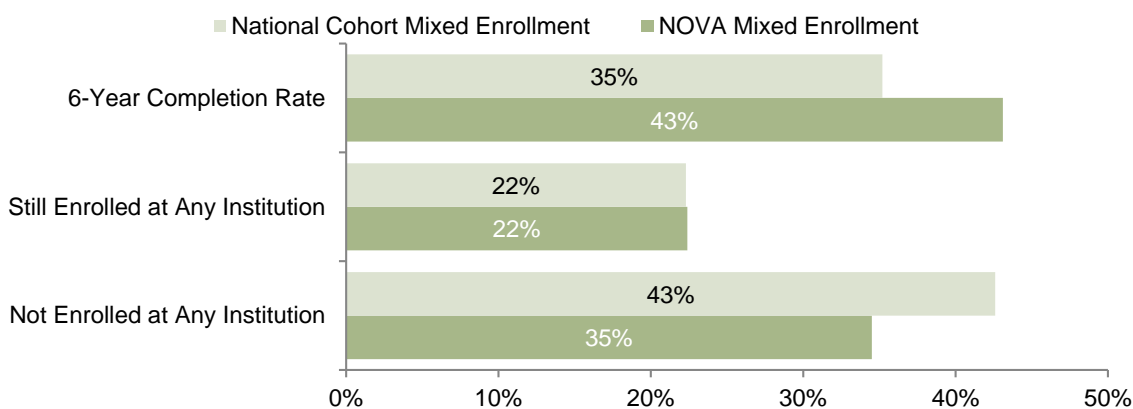


Figure 3. Six-Year Outcomes by Enrollment Intensity – Part-Time Only: Fall 2009 Cohort

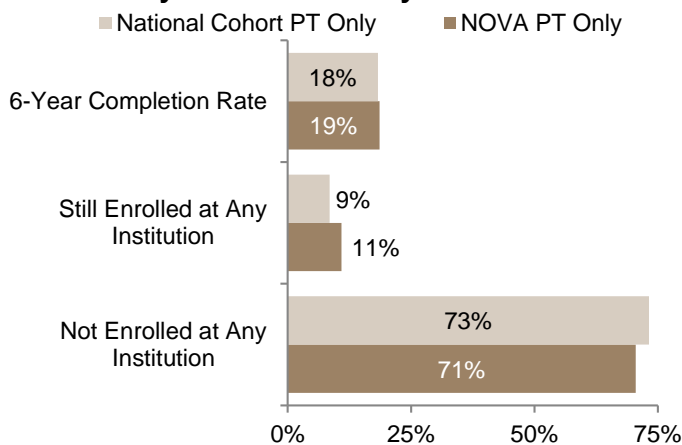
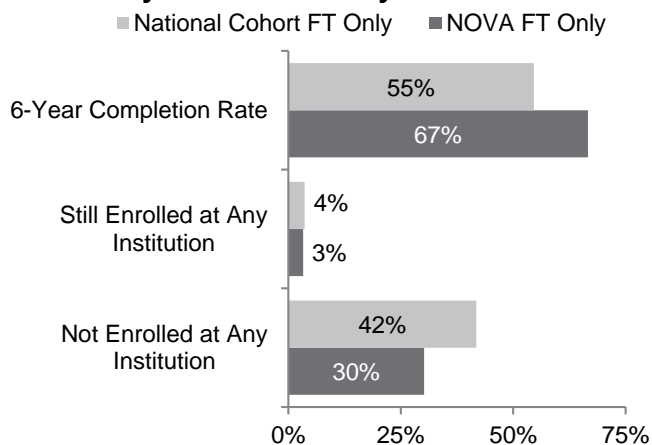


Figure 4. Six-Year Outcomes by Enrollment Intensity – Full-Time Only: Fall 2009 Cohort



² Enrollment status categories are based on the enrollment status in all terms, not just the first term.

Completions by Enrollment Intensity

- Among mixed enrollment students, students who started at NOVA were more likely than students in the national cohort to earn their first completion from the same institution (32 percent versus 22 percent). This was also true among full-time only students (52 percent versus 42 percent).
- Full-time only students who started at NOVA were more than twice as likely as those in the national cohort to earn a subsequent completion at a four-year institution (34 percent versus 15 percent).
- Completion rates were similar for part-time only students who started at NOVA and those in the national cohort.

Figure 5. Completions by Enrollment Intensity – Mixed Enrollment: Fall 2009 Cohort

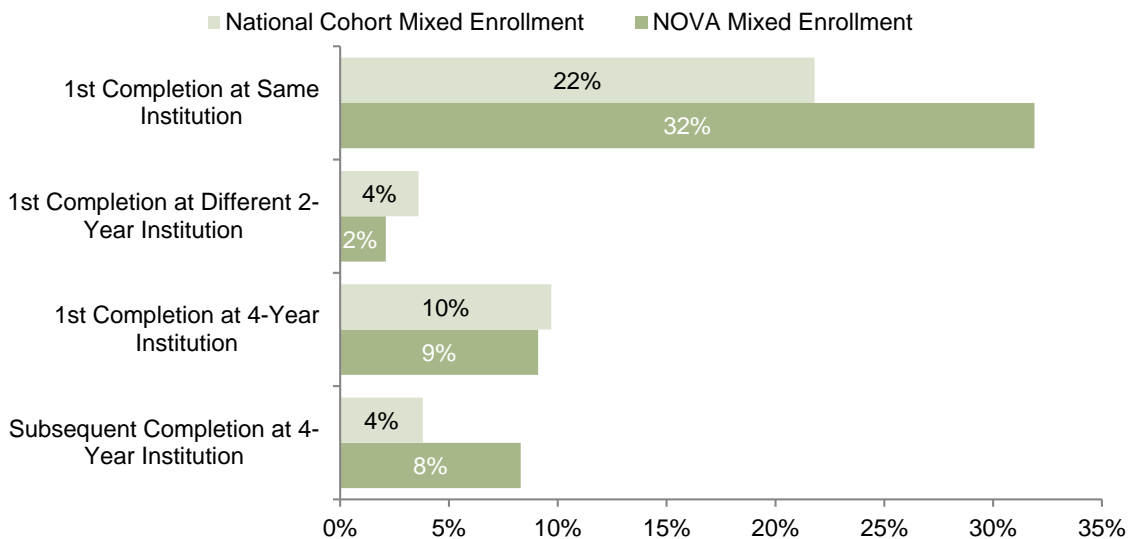


Figure 6. Completions by Enrollment Intensity – Part-Time Only: Fall 2009 Cohort

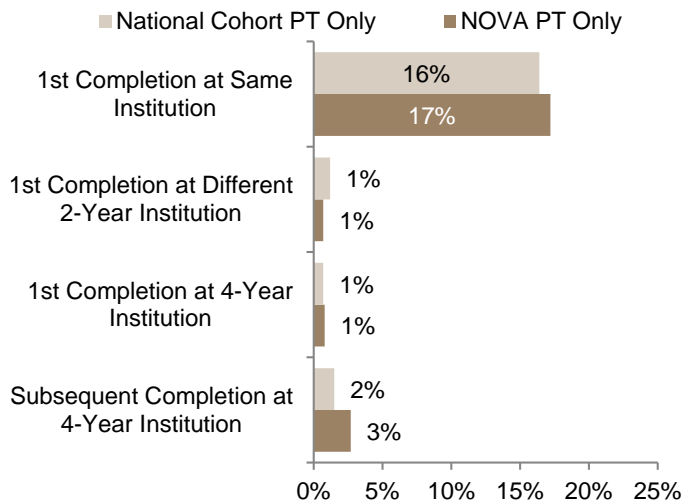
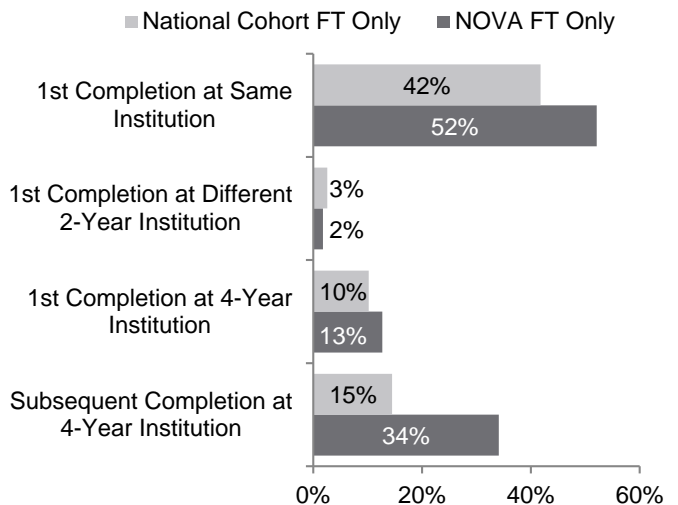


Figure 7. Completions by Enrollment Intensity – Full-Time Only: Fall 2009 Cohort

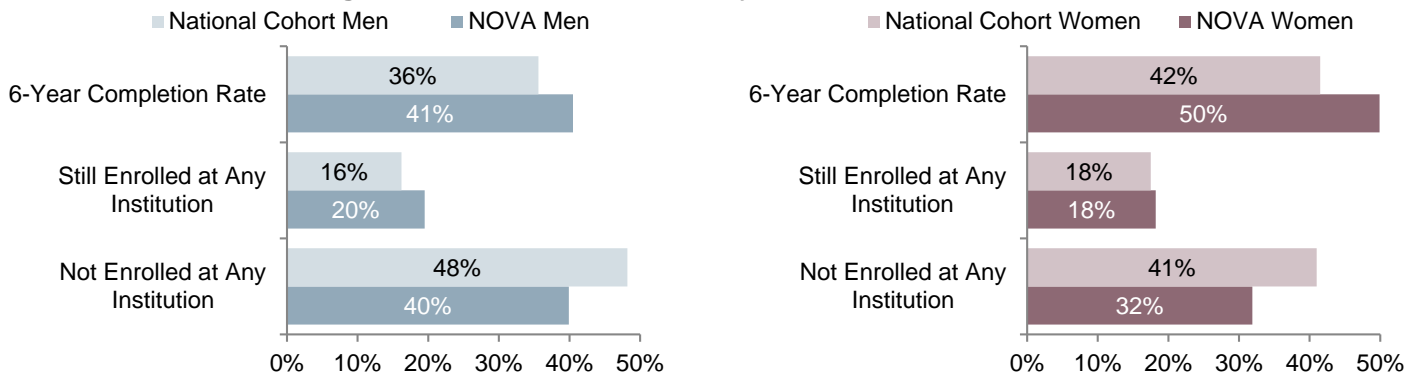


Section 3. Six-Year Outcomes and Completions by Gender

Six-Year Outcomes by Gender

Overall, the data in Figure 8 show that the six-year completion rates for students who started at NOVA were higher among both men and women when compared to all two-year public institutions. However, the difference was more pronounced among women than among men: while 50 percent of women who started at NOVA completed within 6 years, only 42 percent of the national cohort of women did so. Forty-one percent of men who started at NOVA completed within six years compared to 36 percent of the national male cohort.

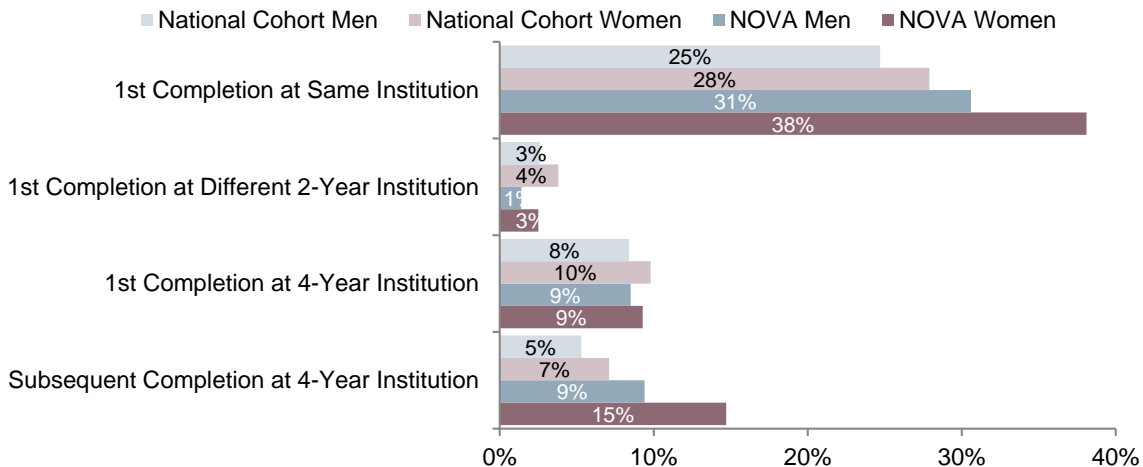
Figure 8. Six-Year Outcomes by Gender: Fall 2009 Cohort



Completions by Gender

- The percentage of NOVA women whose first completion was at NOVA (Same Institution) was greater than that of women at all two-year institutions (38 percent versus 28 percent).
- Rates of first completion at a four-year institution were similar for men and women at NOVA and at all two-year institutions.
- Women at NOVA had considerably higher rates of subsequent completion at four-year institutions than women at all two-year institutions (15 percent versus 7 percent).

Figure 9. Completions by Gender: Fall 2009 Cohort



Section 4. Six-Year Outcomes and Completions by Age at First Entry

Six-Year Outcomes by Age at First Entry

- The majority of students at NOVA and at all two-year institutions were ages 20 and younger at first entry. In this age group, NOVA students had a six-year completion rate of 48 percent compared to 41 percent nationally.
- Six-year completion rates were twelve percentage points higher among NOVA students ages 20 to 24 than in the national cohort (37 percent versus 25 percent).
- Among students over the age of 24, the six-year completion rates were the same for those who started at NOVA and the national cohort (37 percent).

Figure 10. Six-Year Outcomes by Age at First Entry – Age 20 & Under: Fall 2009 Cohort

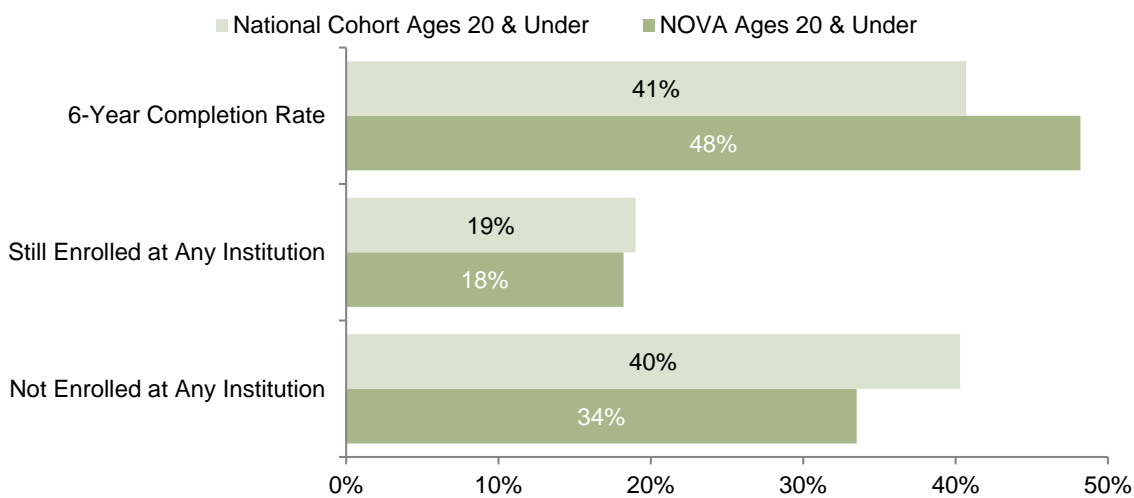


Figure 11. Six-Year Outcomes by Age at First Entry – Age 20-24: Fall 2009 Cohort

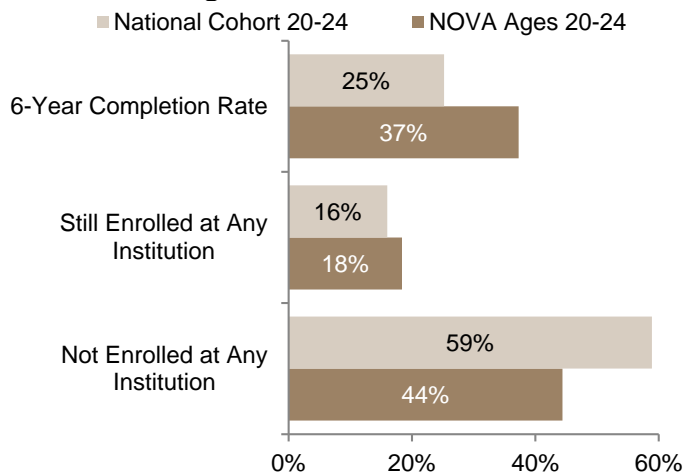
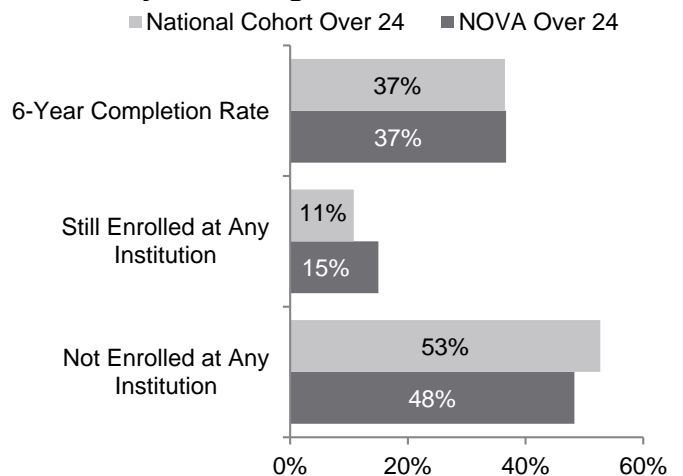


Figure 12. Six-Year Outcomes by Age at First Entry – Over Age 24: Fall 2009 Cohort



Completions by Age at First Entry

- NOVA students ages 20 and younger and ages 21 to 24 were more likely than students in those age groups at all two-year institutions to first complete at the same institution.
- However, students older than 24 at NOVA were slightly less likely than the national group to first complete at the same institution (29 percent versus 30 percent).
- Rates of first completion at a four-year institution were higher for NOVA students ages 21 and older than for those at all two-year public institutions (5 versus 4 percent for ages 21-24, respectively, and 6 versus 4 percent for over 24 years of age, respectively).

Figure 13. Completions by Age at First Entry – Age 20 & Under: Fall 2009 Cohort

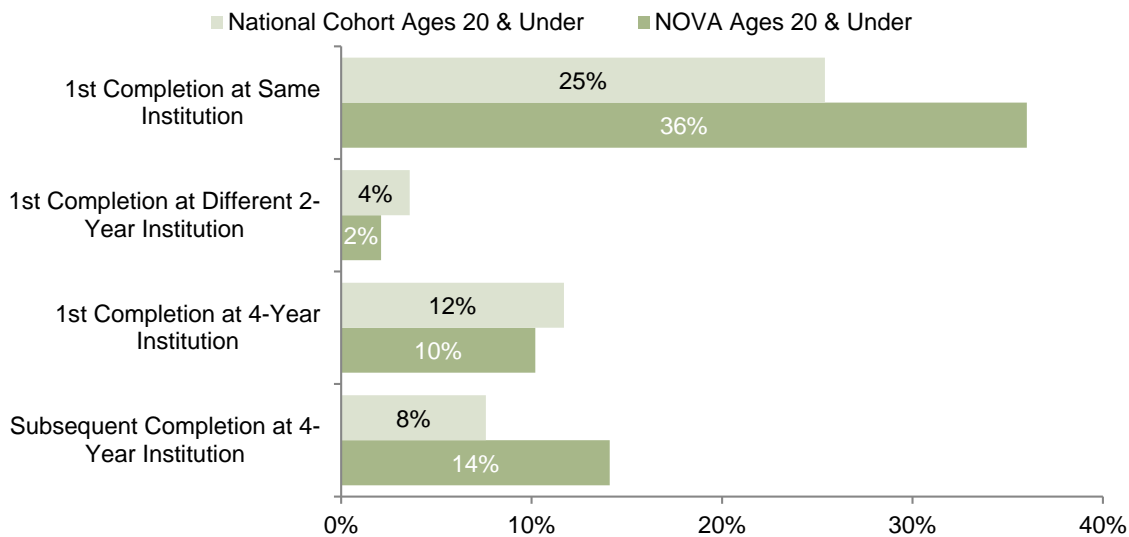


Figure 14. Completions by Age at First Entry – Age 20-24: Fall 2009 Cohort

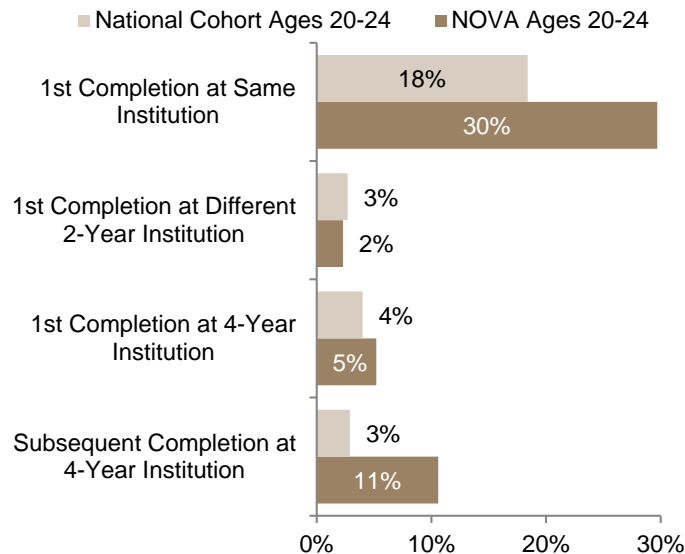
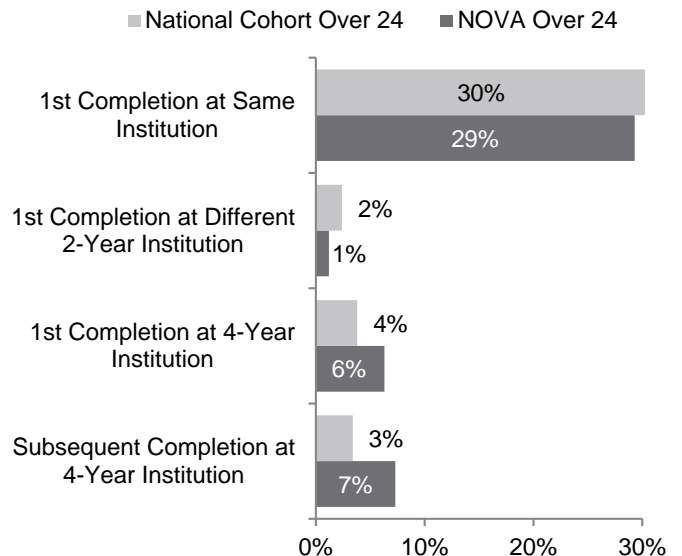


Figure 15. Completions by Age at First Entry – Over Age 24: Fall 2009 Cohort



Section 5. Six-Year Outcomes and Completions by Age at First Entry and Enrollment Intensity

Six-Year Outcomes by Age at First Entry and Enrollment Intensity

Figures 16 through 18 show six-year outcomes disaggregated by age at first entry and enrollment intensity.

- Among mixed enrollment students, six-year completion rates were higher for students of all ages who started at NOVA compared to the national cohort. However, the greatest difference between NOVA and the national cohort was among students ages 21 to 24: in that age group, NOVA's completion rate was 16 percentage points higher than the national cohort's.
- Among students who attended only full-time, 73 percent of NOVA students ages 20 and younger completed within 6 years compared to 60 percent of students in that age group in the national cohort.
- However, among full-time only students over 24, NOVA's completion rate was 9 percentage points lower than that of the national cohort (41 percent versus 50 percent).
- Among students who attended only part-time, NOVA's completion rates were double that of the national cohort for students ages 21 to 24 (10 percent vs. 5 percent).

Figure 16. Six-Year Outcomes of Mixed Enrollment Students by Age at First Entry: Fall 2009 Cohort

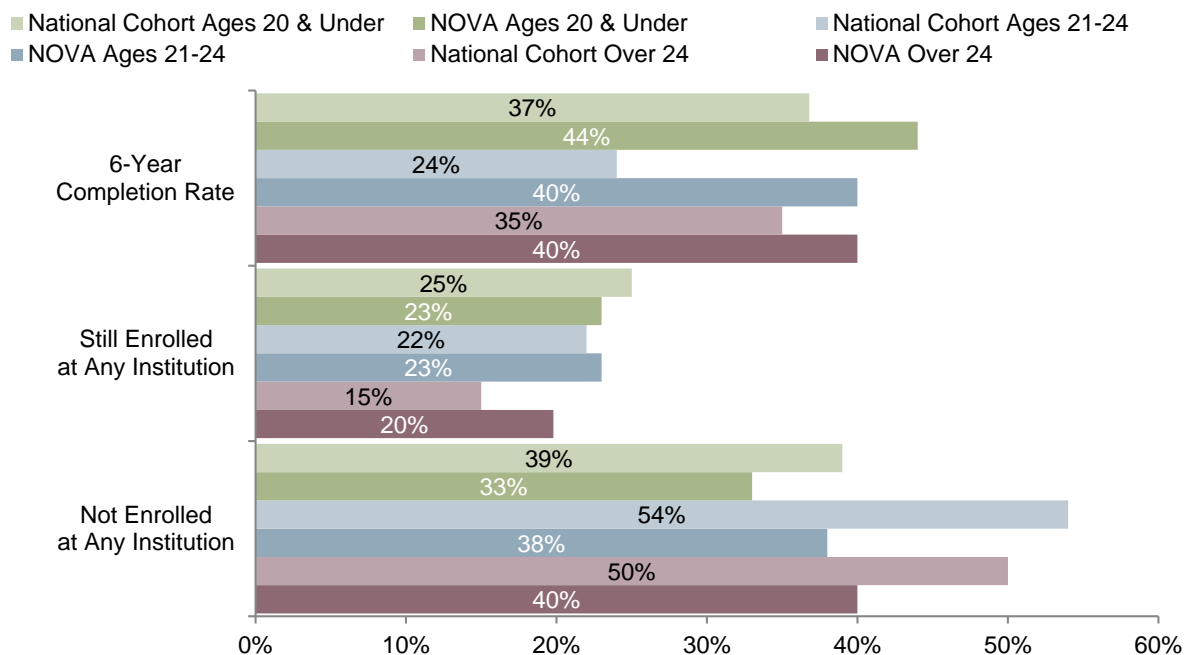


Figure 17. Six-Year Outcomes of Part-Time Only Students by Age at First Entry: Fall 2009

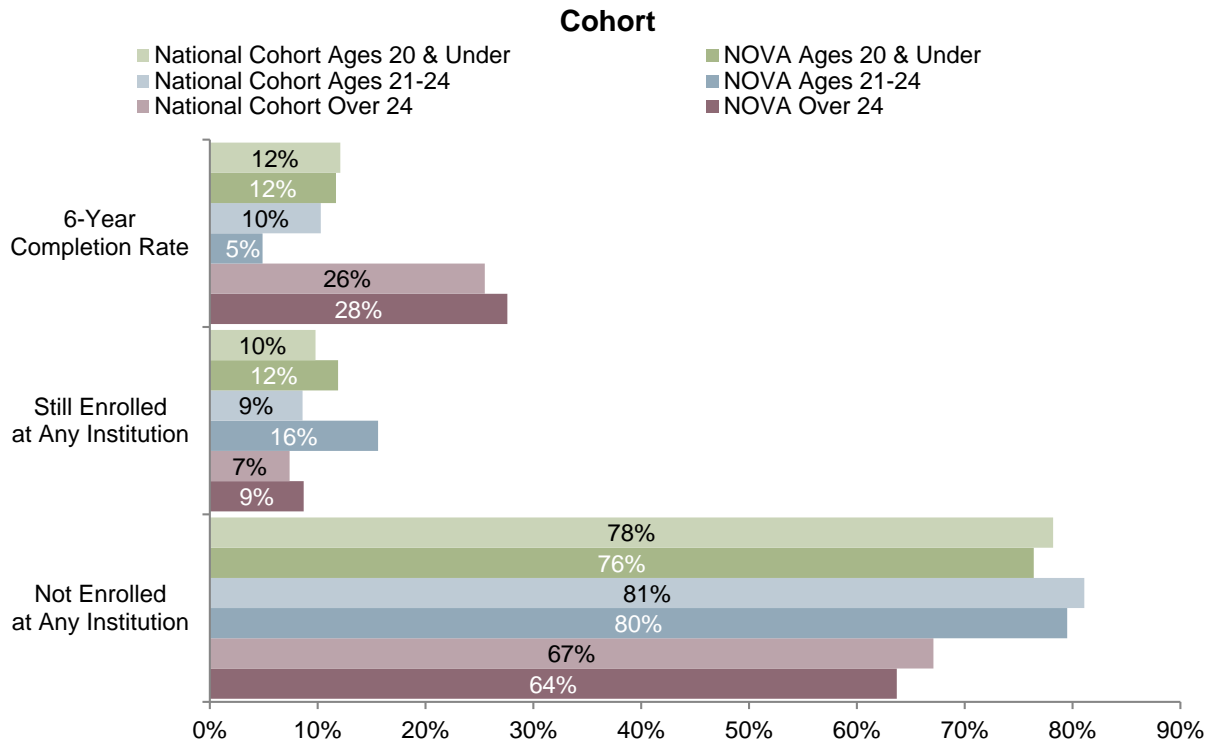
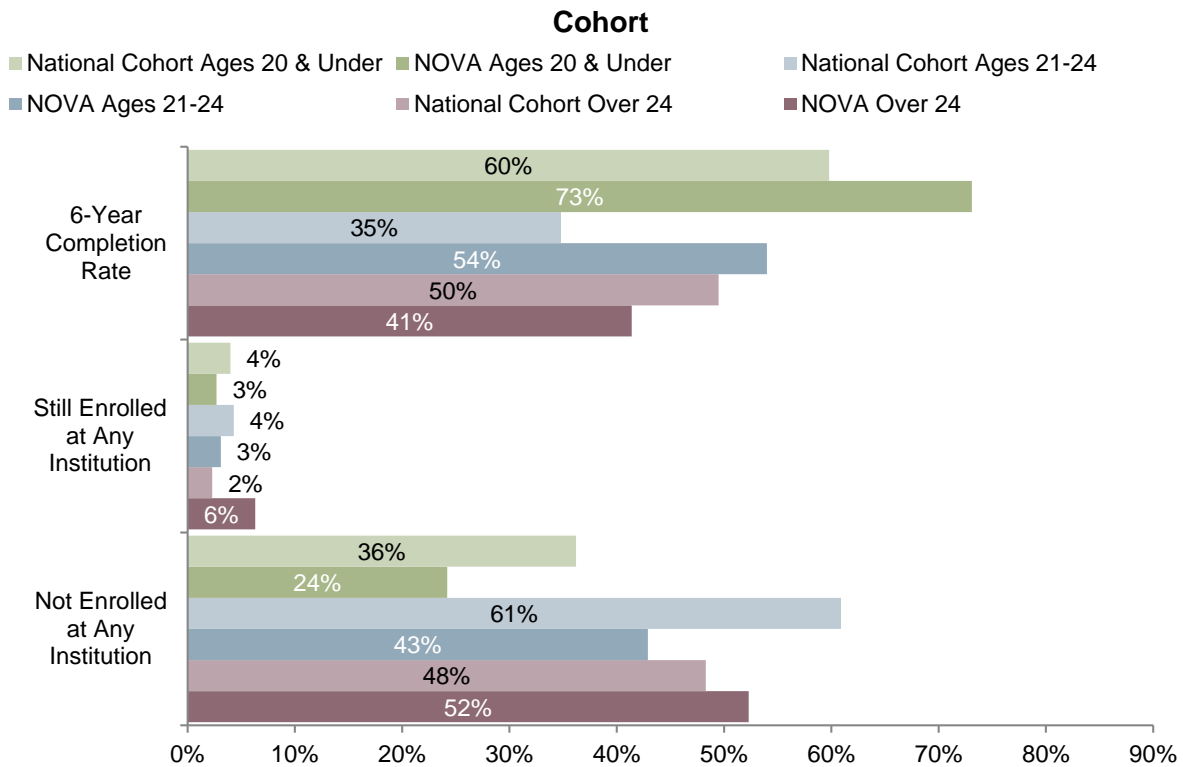


Figure 18. Six-Year Outcomes of Full-Time Only Students by Age at First Entry: Fall 2009



Completions by Age at First Entry and Enrollment Intensity

Figures 19 through 21 show completions by age at first entry and enrollment intensity.

- Among mixed enrollment students ages 21 to 24, the percentage of students who earned their first completion at the same institution was 15 percentage points higher at NOVA than in the national cohort (32 percent versus 17 percent).
- The percentage of mixed enrollment students who completed a subsequent credential at a four-year institution was higher for NOVA than for all two-year institutions, regardless of age group.
- Among full-time only students, subsequent completion at a four-year institution was higher for full-time students starting at NOVA than in the national cohort for all three age groups.
- Among part-time only students, those over 24 had the highest rates of first completion at the same institution (26 percent at NOVA and 23 percent of the national cohort).

Figure 19. Completions of Mixed Enrollment Students by Age at First Entry: Fall 2009

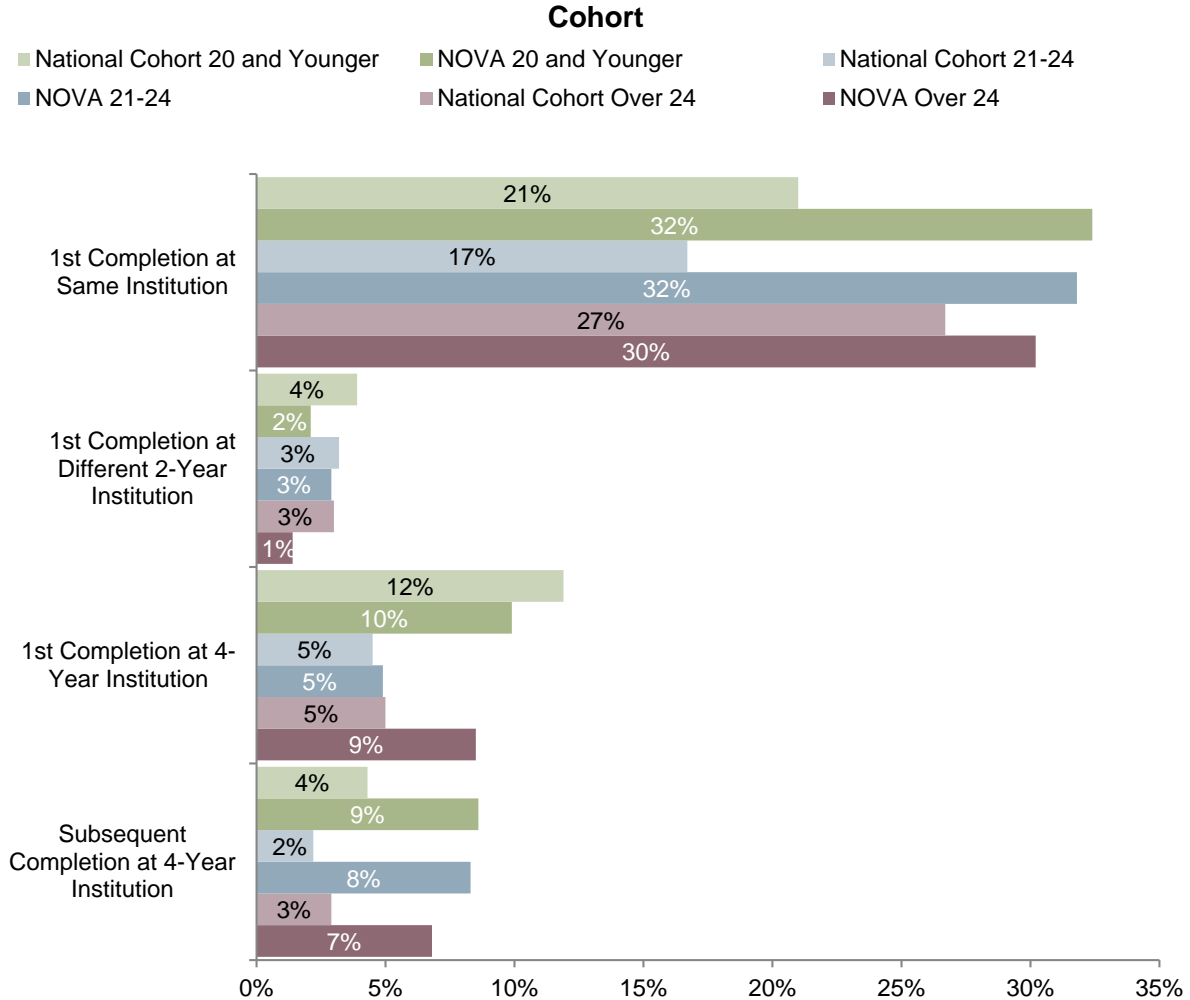


Figure 20. Completions of Full-Time Only Students by Age at First Entry: Fall 2009 Cohort

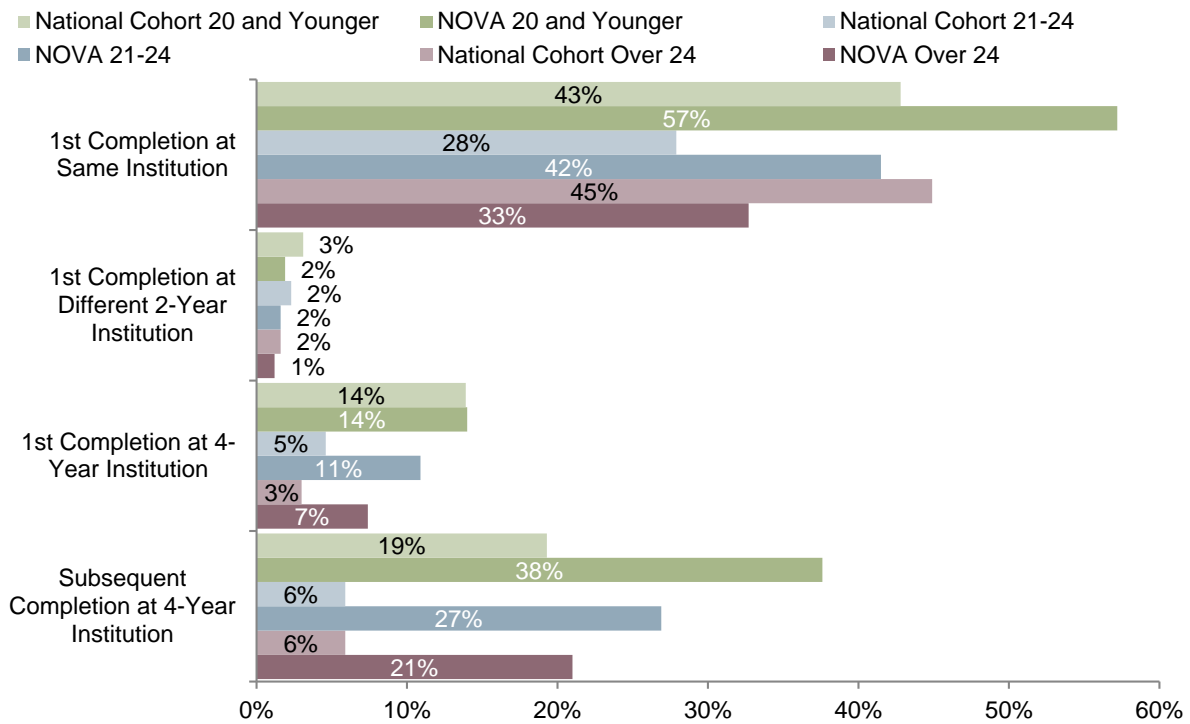
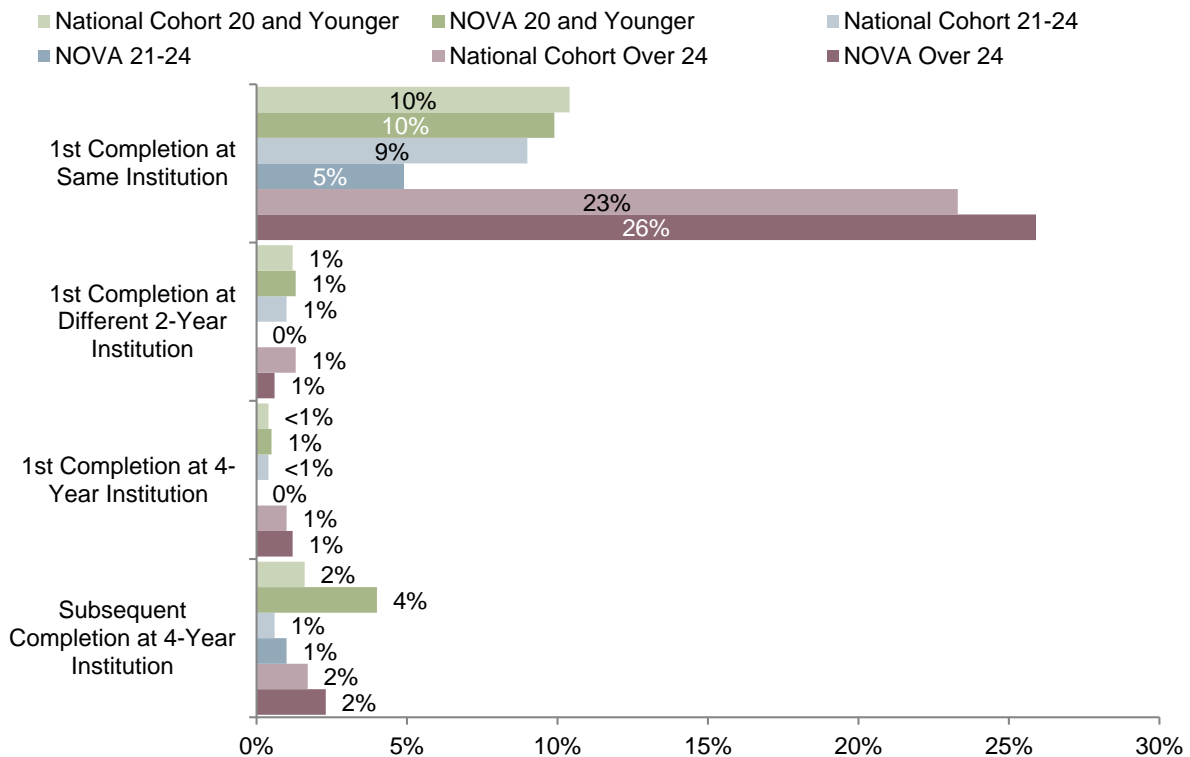


Figure 21. Completions of Part-Time Only Students by Age at First Entry: Fall 2009 Cohort



Appendix: Data Tables

Table 1. Six-Year Completions at NOVA and All Two-Year Public Institutions by Enrollment Intensity: Fall 2009 Cohort

Enrollment Intensity ³	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	1 st Completion at Same Institution (%)	1 st Completion at Different 2-Year Institution (%)	1 st Completion at 4-Year Institution ⁴ (%)	Subsequent Completion at 4-Year Institution ⁵ (%)	Total 4-Year Institution Completion (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
NOVA									
Full-Time Only	1,178	66.6	52.1	1.8	12.7	34.1	46.9	3.3	30.2
Part-Time Only	711	18.6	17.2	0.7	0.8	2.7	3.4	10.9	70.5
Mixed Enrollment	4,567	43.1	31.9	2.1	9.1	8.3	17.4	22.4	34.5
NOVA Total	6,456	44.7	34.0	1.9	8.9	12.4	21.2	17.6	37.7
National Benchmark: All Two-Year Public Institutions									
Full-Time Only	260,578	54.6	41.8	2.6	10.2	14.5	24.7	3.6	41.8
Part-Time Only	103,461	18.3	16.4	1.2	0.7	1.5	2.2	8.5	73.2
Mixed Enrollment	746,390	35.2	21.8	3.6	9.7	3.8	13.5	22.3	42.6
National Total	1,111,368	38.1	26.0	3.2	9.0	6.1	15.1	16.6	45.3

Table 2. Six-Year Outcomes at NOVA and All Two-Year Public Institutions by Gender: Fall 2009 Cohort

Gender	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	1 st Completion at Same Institution (%)	1 st Completion at Different 2-Year Institution (%)	1 st Completion at 4-Year Institution ⁴ (%)	Subsequent Completion at 4-Year Institution ⁵ (%)	Total 4-Year Institution Completion (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
NOVA									
Men	3,018	40.5	30.6	1.4	8.5	9.4	17.9	19.5	40.0
Women	2,891	49.9	38.1	2.5	9.3	14.7	24.0	18.2	31.9
NOVA Total	6,456	44.7	34.0	1.9	8.9	12.4	21.2	17.6	37.7
National Benchmark: All Two-Year Public Institutions									
Men	473,567	35.6	24.7	2.6	8.4	5.3	13.7	16.2	48.2
Women	560,542	41.5	27.9	3.8	9.8	7.1	16.9	17.5	41.0
National Total	1,111,368	38.1	26.0	3.2	9.0	6.1	15.1	16.6	45.3

³ Enrollment intensity categories are based on the enrollment status in all terms, not just the first term.

⁴ Students who completed a four-year degree without having first earned a credential at a two-year institution.

⁵ Students who earned a subsequent degree after a first completion awarded at a two-year institution.

Table 3. Six-Year Outcomes at NOVA and All Two-Year Public Institutions by Age at First Entry: Fall 2009 Cohort

Age at First Entry	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	1 st Completion at Same Institution (%)	1 st Completion at Different 2-Yr Institution (%)	1 st Completion at 4-Yr Institution ⁶ (%)	Subsequent Completion at 4-Yr Institution ⁷ (%)	Total 4-Yr Institution Completion (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
NOVA									
20 and Under	4,453	48.2	36.0	2.0	10.2	14.1	24.3	18.2	33.5
20 to 24	737	37.3	29.7	2.3	5.2	10.6	15.8	18.4	44.4
Over 24	1,267	36.7	29.3	1.2	6.3	7.3	13.6	15.0	48.3
NOVA Total	6,456	44.7	34.0	1.9	8.9	12.4	21.2	17.6	37.7
National Benchmark: All Two-Year Public Institutions									
20 and Under	722,436	40.7	25.4	3.6	11.7	7.6	19.4	19.0	40.3
20 to 24	106,891	25.2	18.4	2.7	4.0	2.9	6.9	16.0	58.9
Over 24	279,299	36.5	30.4	2.4	3.8	3.4	7.1	10.8	52.7
National Total	1,111,368	38.1	26.0	3.2	9.0	6.1	15.1	16.6	45.3

Table 4. Six-Year Outcomes at NOVA and All Two-Year Public Institutions by Age at First Entry and Enrollment Intensity: Fall 2009 Cohort

Age at First Entry	Enrollment Intensity	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	1 st Completion at Same Institution (%)	1 st Completion at Different 2-Yr Institution (%)	1 st Completion at 4-Yr Institution ⁸ (%)	Subsequent Completion at 4-Yr Institution ⁹ (%)	Total 4-Yr Institution Completion (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
NOVA										
20 and Under	Full-Time Only	885	73.1	57.2	1.9	14.0	37.6	51.6	2.7	24.2
	Part-Time Only	253	11.7	9.9	1.3	0.5	4.0	4.4	11.9	76.4
	Mixed Enrollment	3,315	44.4	32.4	2.1	9.9	8.6	18.5	22.9	32.8
21 to 24	Full-Time Only	130	54.0	41.5	1.6	10.9	26.9	37.8	3.1	42.9
	Part-Time Only	103	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	15.6	79.5
	Mixed Enrollment	503	39.6	31.8	2.9	4.9	8.3	13.2	22.9	37.6
Over 24	Full-Time Only	162	41.4	32.7	1.2	7.4	21.0	28.4	6.3	52.3
	Part-Time Only	356	27.6	25.9	0.6	1.2	2.3	3.4	8.7	63.7
	Mixed Enrollment	749	40.1	30.2	1.4	8.5	6.8	15.3	19.8	40.1
NOVA Total		6,456	44.7	34.0	1.9	8.9	12.4	21.2	17.6	37.7
National Benchmark: All Two-Year Public Institutions										
20 and Under	Full-Time Only	167,424	59.8	42.8	3.1	13.9	19.3	33.2	4.0	36.2
	Part-Time Only	40,889	12.1	10.4	1.2	0.4	1.6	2.0	9.8	78.2
	Mixed Enrollment	513,807	36.8	21.0	3.9	11.9	4.3	16.3	24.6	38.6
21 to 24	Full-Time Only	25,544	34.8	27.9	2.3	4.6	5.9	10.5	4.3	60.9
	Part-Time Only	12,548	10.3	9.0	1.0	0.4	0.6	1.0	8.6	81.1
	Mixed Enrollment	68,661	24.3	16.7	3.2	4.5	2.2	6.6	21.7	54.0
Over 24	Full-Time Only	66,206	49.5	44.9	1.6	3.0	5.9	8.8	2.3	48.3
	Part-Time Only	49,694	25.5	23.3	1.3	1.0	1.7	2.6	7.4	67.1
	Mixed Enrollment	162,922	34.7	26.7	3.0	5.0	2.9	7.8	15.3	50.0
National Total		1,111,368	38.1	26.0	3.2	9.0	6.1	15.1	16.6	45.3

⁶ Students who completed a four-year degree without having first earned a credential at a two-year institution.

⁷ Students who earned a subsequent degree after a first completion awarded at a two-year institution.

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.

NOVA

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