

RESEARCH BRIEF

61-16

October 2016

GPS Student Persistence Rates: Fall 2013 through Fall 2015 Cohorts

What is GPS for Success?

- GPS for Success is NOVA's comprehensive advising program for recent high school graduates who are first-time in college (FTIC) students.
- Focusing on early academic advising, GPS was developed as a part of NOVA's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for reaccreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- The goal of GPS for Success is to help students succeed in college by fostering connections with professional advisors and faculty who will help students plan for and attain their academic goals.

In this Research Brief

This document provides an overview of Fall-to-Spring and Fall-to-Fall persistence for first-time GPS students by various demographic categories.

- **Fall-to-Spring Persistence** is defined as the percentage of a Fall cohort of first-time GPS students who **returned** to NOVA in the Spring semester, **graduated** after their first Fall semester, or **transferred** prior to the end of the Spring semester.
- **Fall-to-Fall Persistence** is defined as the percentage of a Fall cohort of first-time GPS students who **returned** to NOVA in their second Fall semester, **graduated** after their first year at NOVA, or **transferred** prior to the end of their second Fall semester.

Fall-to-Spring Persistence

Table 1 (next page) shows Fall-to-Spring persistence for the Fall 2013, Fall 2014, and Fall 2015 GPS cohorts. The cohorts include GPS students enrolled for credit in the fall semester.

- Overall Fall-to-Spring persistence remained stable at 82 to 83 percent for GPS students in Fall 2013, Fall 2014, and Fall 2015.

Gender

- Fall-to-Spring persistence among female GPS students was 85 percent in all three cohorts, which is 4 to 6 percentage points higher than male GPS students.

Race/Ethnicity

- Asian GPS students had the highest Fall-to-Spring persistence rate among the largest racial/ethnic groups: 88 to 92 percent.

Enrollment Status

- Full-time students persisted at a greater rate (89 to 90 percent) as compared to part-time students (69 to 72 percent).

Program Placement

- GPS students placed in A.S. or A.A. programs persisted at the greatest rates (82 to 85 percent).

Table 1. Fall-to-Spring Persistence of First-Time GPS Students: Fall 2013 through Fall 2015 Cohorts

Demographic		Fall 2013			Fall 2014			Fall 2015		
		Cohort	Fall-to-Spring Persistence		Cohort	Fall-to-Spring Persistence		Cohort	Fall-to-Spring Persistence	
			N	%		N	%		N	%
Gender	Male	2,327	1,889	81.2%	2,738	2,173	79.4%	3,083	2,500	81.1%
	Female	1,795	1,531	85.3%	2,279	1,941	85.2%	2,214	1,890	85.4%
Race/ Ethnicity	White	1,536	1,254	81.6%	1,828	1,495	81.8%	1,880	1,535	81.6%
	Black/African American	641	524	81.7%	827	672	81.3%	853	689	80.8%
	Asian	623	558	89.6%	745	655	87.9%	793	728	91.8%
	Hispanic/Latino	989	813	82.2%	1,244	994	79.9%	1,331	1,078	81.0%
	Amer. Ind./AK Native	11	10	90.9%	10	10	100.0%	12	8	66.7%
	Nat. Hawaiian/Pac. Isl'r	27	21	77.8%	23	20	87.0%	19	17	89.5%
	Two or More Races	240	190	79.2%	272	211	77.6%	334	270	80.8%
	Unknown	53	48	90.6%	68	57	83.8%	74	65	87.8%
Not Specified	2	2	100.0%	-	-	-	1	0	0.0%	
Enrollment Status	Full-Time	2,700	2,426	89.9%	3,198	2,851	89.1%	3,351	2,997	89.4%
	Part-Time	1,422	994	69.9%	1,819	1,263	69.4%	1,946	1,393	71.6%
Program Placement	A.A.	522	443	84.9%	603	498	82.6%	616	505	82.0%
	A.A.A.	19	10	52.6%	17	13	76.5%	25	20	80.0%
	A.A.S.	509	405	79.6%	518	395	76.3%	505	384	76.0%
	A.S.	2,776	2,358	84.9%	3,578	3,003	83.9%	3,942	3,335	84.6%
	Certificate	143	105	73.4%	131	92	70.2%	85	60	70.6%
	Not Placed	153	99	64.7%	170	113	66.5%	124	86	69.4%
Total		4,122	3,420	83.0%	5,017	4,114	82.0%	5,297	4,390	82.9%

Note: The Fall 2013 cohort represents a pilot group of students identified as FTIC GPS students. The Fall 2014 and Fall 2015 cohorts represent all students marked as being new to GPS in those semesters, including formerly dual enrolled students. (Some other GPS reports may have reported a slightly less inclusive Fall 2014 GPS cohort.)

Figure 1. Fall-to-Spring Persistence of First-Time GPS Students: Fall 2013 Cohort

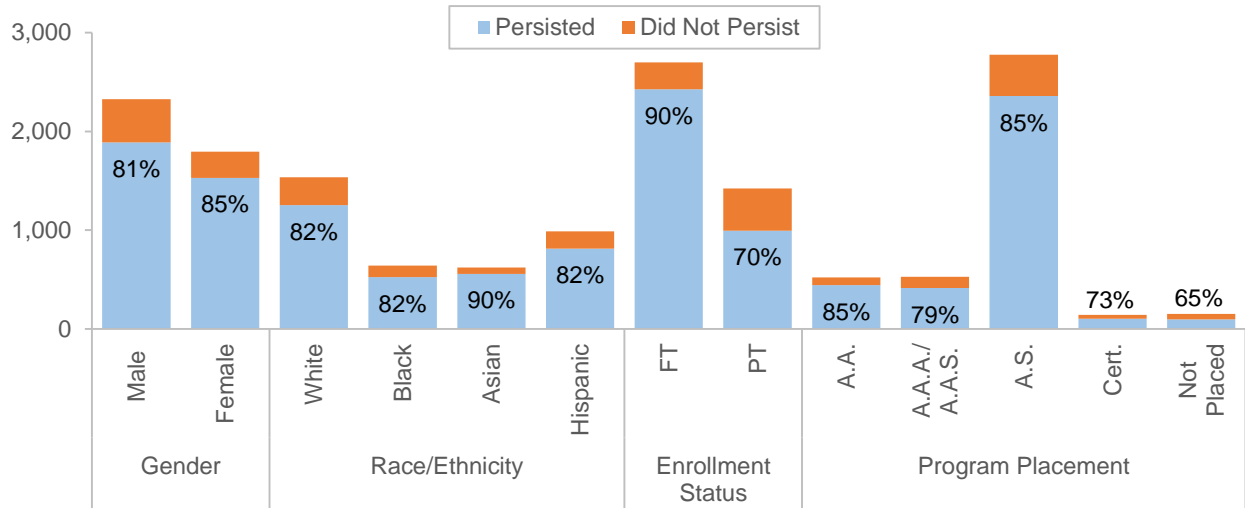


Figure 2. Fall-to-Spring Persistence of First-Time GPS Students: Fall 2014 Cohort

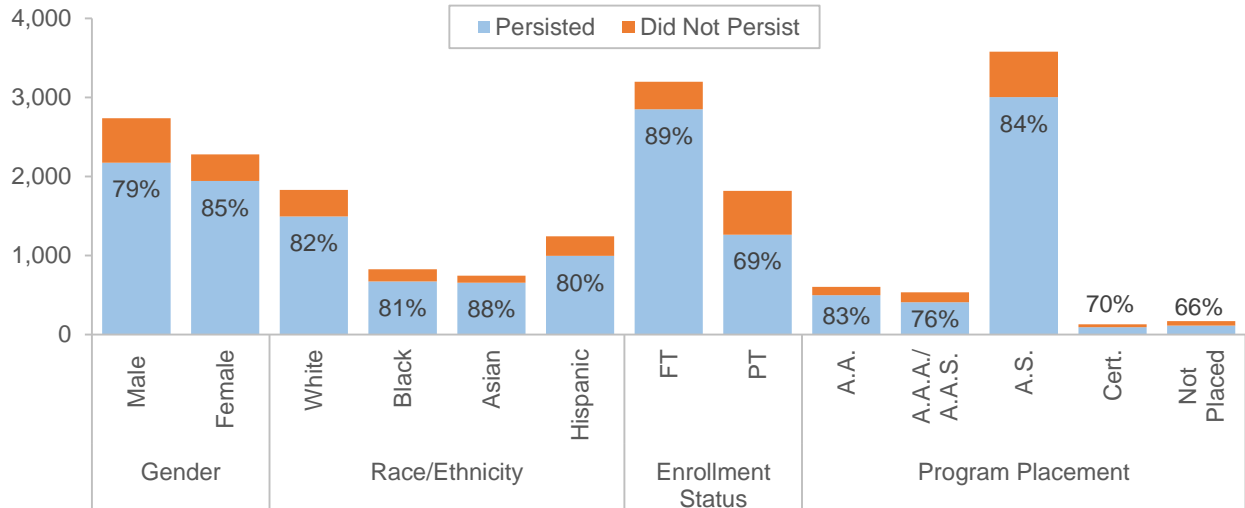
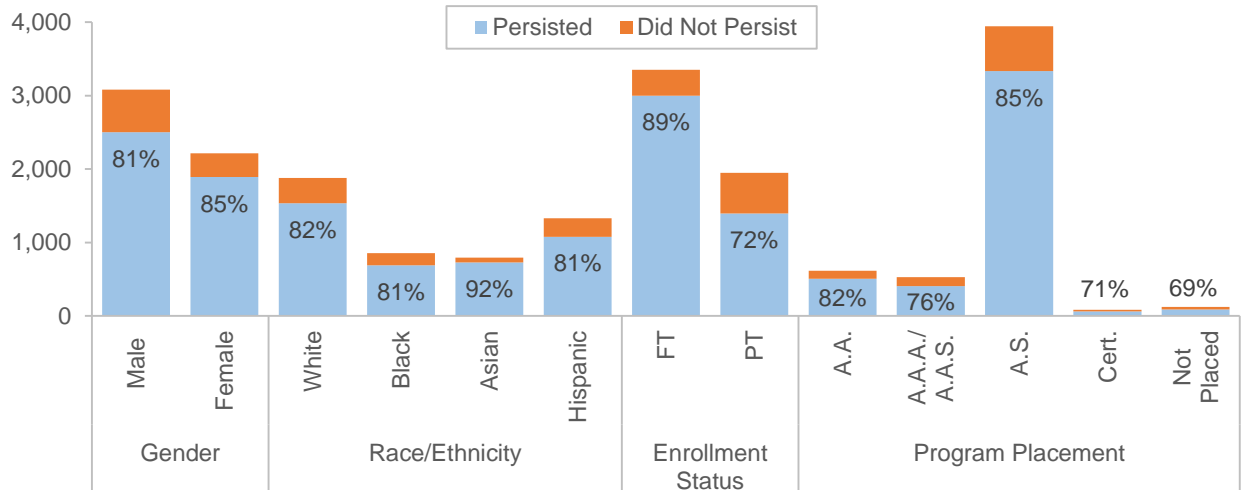


Figure 3. Fall-to-Spring Persistence of First-Time GPS Students: Fall 2015 Cohort



Fall-to-Fall Persistence

Table 2 shows Fall-to-Fall persistence for first-time GPS students for the Fall 2013 through Fall 2015 cohorts.

- Fall-to-Fall persistence was 64 to 69 percent for first-time GPS students for the Fall 2013 through Fall 2015 cohorts.

Gender

- Female GPS students had a Fall-to-Fall persistence rate between three and five percentage points higher than male GPS students in each of the three years.

Race/Ethnicity

- Black/African American students had the lowest Fall-to-Fall persistence rate among the largest racial/ethnic groups in each of the three years, decreasing from 61 to 56 percent from Fall 2013 to Fall 2015.

Enrollment Status

- Full-time students had higher persistence rates (72 to 76 percent) as compared to part-time students (50 to 57 percent).

Program Placement

- GPS students placed in an A.S. or A.A. program persisted from Fall-to-Fall at a rate of 63 to 72 percent, while students placed in A.A.A., Certificate, or no program persisted at a rate of 60 percent or less.

Table 2. Fall-to-Fall Persistence of First-Time GPS Students: Fall 2013 through Fall 2015 Cohorts

Demographic		Fall 2013			Fall 2014			Fall 2015		
		Cohort	Fall-to-Fall Persistence		Cohort	Fall-to-Fall Persistence		Cohort	Fall-to-Fall Persistence*	
			N	%		N	%		N	%
Gender	Male	2,327	1,552	66.7%	2,738	1,831	66.9%	3,083	1,920	62.3%
	Female	1,795	1,298	72.3%	2,279	1,596	70.0%	2,214	1,467	66.3%
Race/ Ethnicity	White	1,536	1,057	68.8%	1,828	1,280	70.0%	1,880	1,183	62.9%
	Black/African American	641	392	61.2%	827	487	58.9%	853	478	56.0%
	Asian	623	500	80.3%	745	601	80.7%	793	616	77.7%
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	Amer. Ind./AK Native	11	8	72.7%	10	5	50.0%	12	6	50.0%
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	Unknown	53	43	81.1%	68	47	69.1%	74	57	77.0%
Not Specified	2	2	100.0%	-	-	-	1	1	100.0%	
Enrollment Status	Full-Time	2,700	2,036	75.4%	3,198	2,420	75.7%	3,351	2,408	71.9%
	Part-Time	1,422	814	57.2%	1,819	1,007	55.4%	1,946	979	50.3%
Program Placement	A.A.	522	373	71.5%	603	400	66.3%	616	385	62.5%
	A.A.A.	19	9	47.4%	17	6	35.3%	25	15	60.0%
	A.A.S.	509	332	65.2%	518	297	57.3%	505	271	53.7%
	A.S.	2,776	1,971	71.0%	3,578	2,548	71.2%	3,942	2,615	66.3%
	Certificate	143	84	58.7%	131	75	57.3%	85	42	49.4%
	Not Placed	153	81	52.9%	170	101	59.4%	124	59	47.6%
Total		4,122	2,850	69.1%	5,017	3,427	68.3%	5,297	3,387	63.9%

Note: The Fall 2013 cohort represents a pilot group of students identified as FTIC GPS students. The Fall 2014 and Fall 2015 cohorts represent all students marked as being new to GPS in those semesters, including formerly dual enrolled students. (Some other GPS reports may have reported a slightly less inclusive Fall 2014 GPS cohort.) *Fall 2016 data preliminary as of September 27, 2016.

Figure 4. Fall-to-Fall Persistence of First-Time GPS Students: **Fall 2013 Cohort**

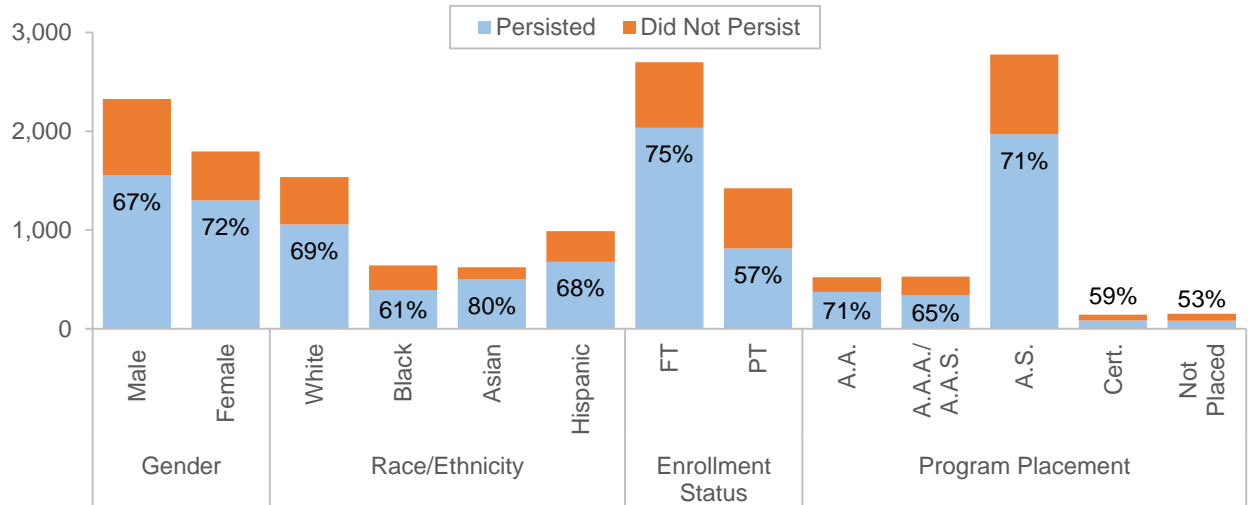


Figure 5. Fall-to-Fall Persistence of First-Time GPS Students: **Fall 2014 Cohort**

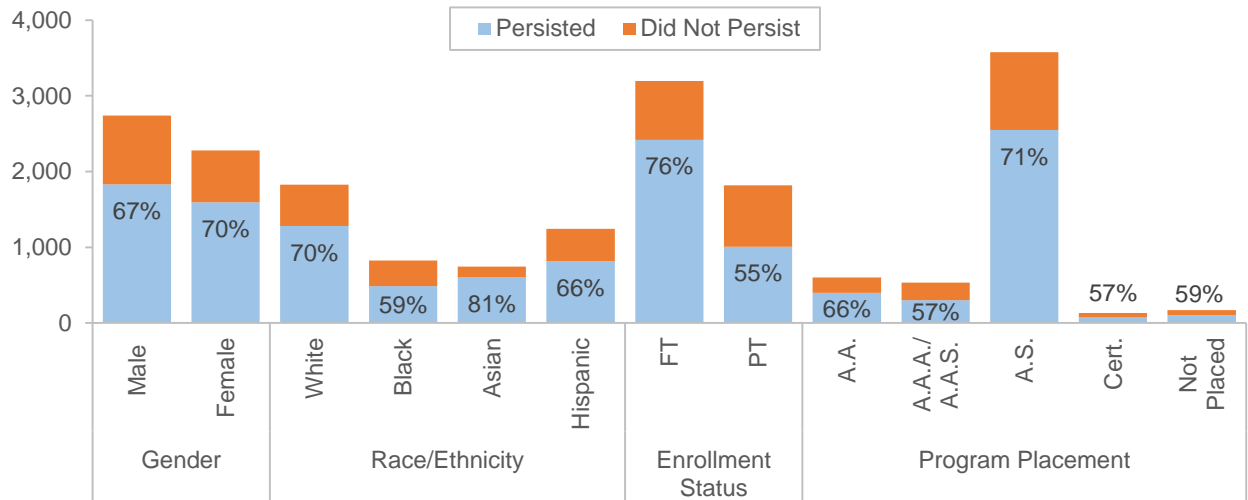


Figure 6. Fall-to-Fall Persistence of First-Time GPS Students: **Fall 2015 Cohort**

