

# Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA) Outcome Report

Strategy, Analytics and Research



PimaCommunityCollege

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## Overview

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

- Early Momentum Key Performance Indicators (First year progress) (Fall 2021)
- Two-year progress (Fall 2020)
- Six-year outcome (Fall 2016)

## Early Momentum Key Performance Indicators (First year progress)

As a part of American Association of Community Colleges Pathway (AACC Pathways) reform, VFA offers a data collection piece to focus on students' early momentum key performance indicators. These indicators help PCC identify if the Pathway efforts have a positive effect and if they are likely to improve our students' overall success. The indicators also assist in identifying if 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%
Fall 2021	43.5%	14.9%	30.6%	13.3%	5.6%	17.9%	32.6%	13.1%

Table 1 shows that students' credit taking behavior has been changing since fall 2012. This also reflects 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 time ([Klempin, S, 2014](#)).

Chart 1. Main cohort developmental education success in first year

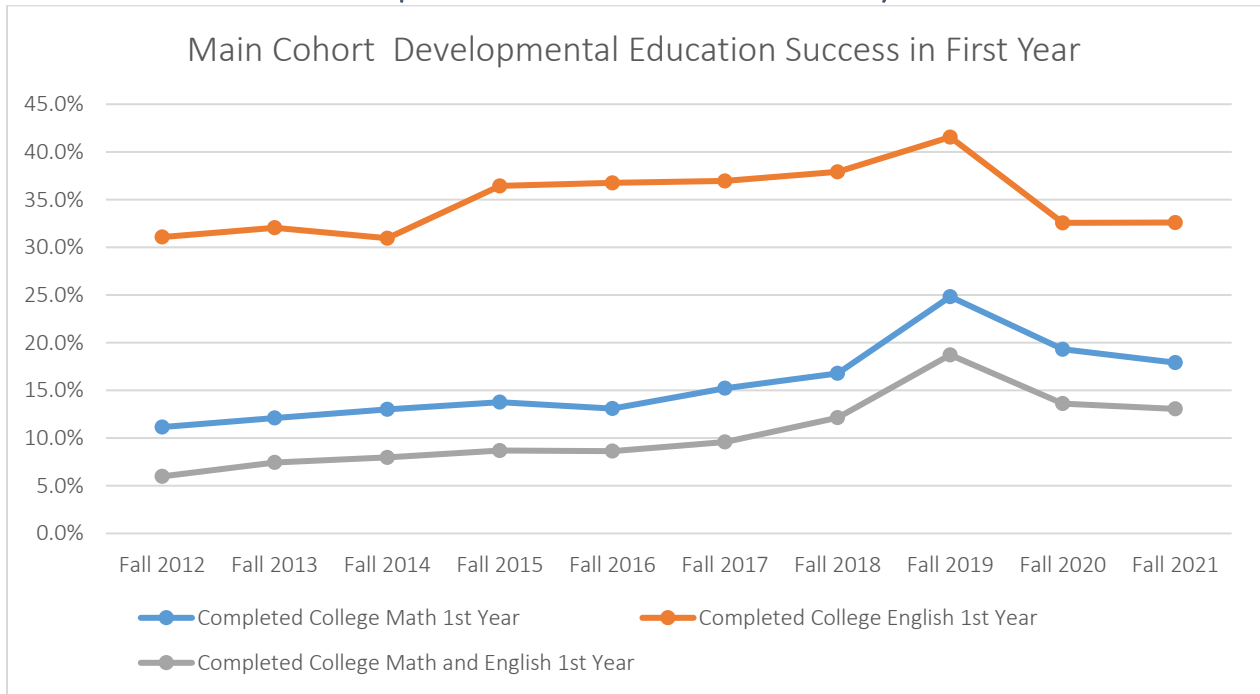
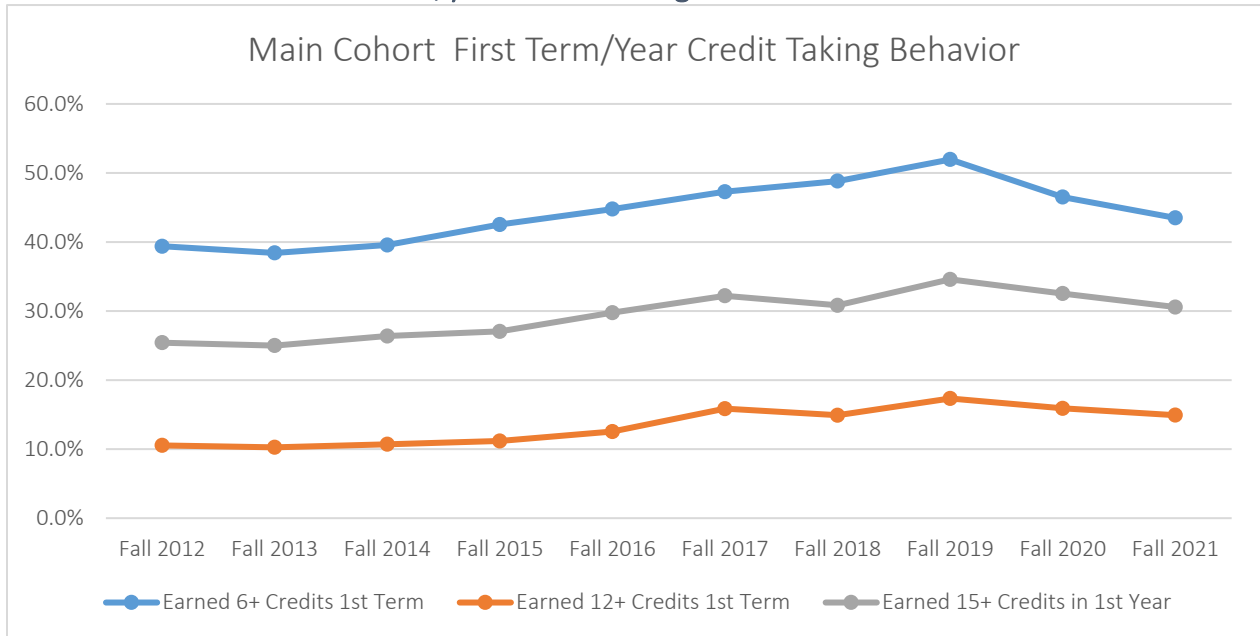


Chart 2. Main cohort first term/year credit taking behavior



## Two-year progress

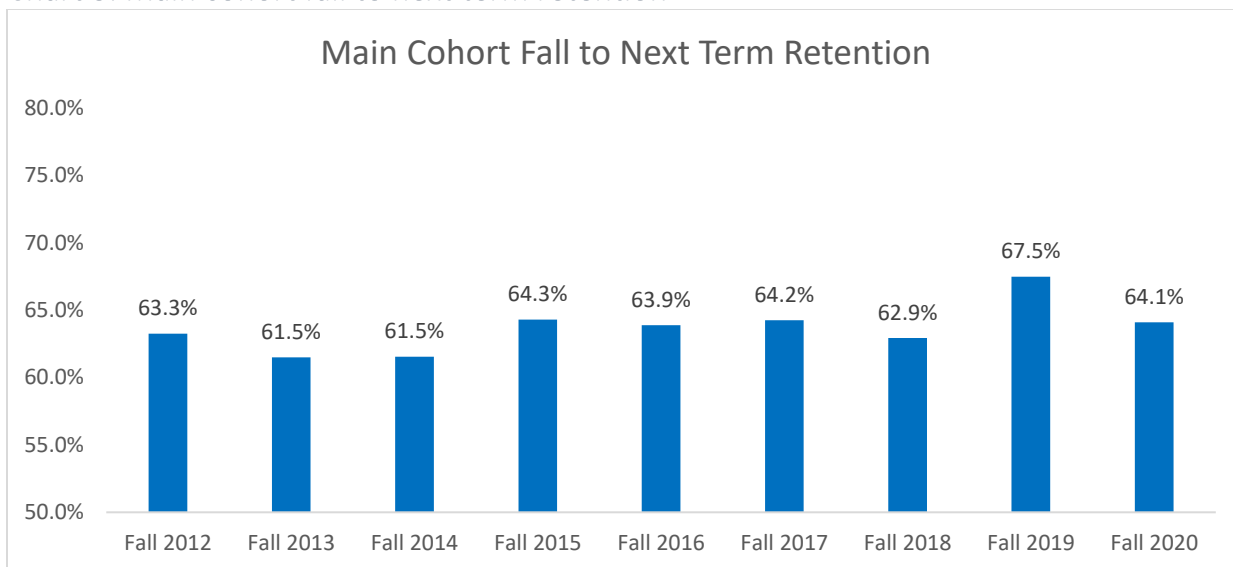
The second year completed credit rate had been rising from fall 2012; for example, it increased from 62.2% in fall 2012 to 71.5% in fall 2017. However, in the last two years it decreased to 68.1% for the fall 2019 cohort and was 69.8% for the fall 2020 cohort. The same positive trend is experienced in first term no success, completed certificate or degree, and first term completed credits rate until fall 2019. In fall 2020 all these measures declined due to the impact of the coronavirus 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%
Fall 2020	64.1%	22.4%	33.5%	66.2%	69.8%	8.3%	17.2%	42.1%

PCC's next term (fall to spring) retention rate has been steady around 64% for the last ten years, except for an increase to 67.2% for fall 2019 cohort (Chart 3). Benchmarking VFA colleges' fall-to-next-term retention rate was 68.4% for the fall 2020 cohort – an increase from 65.0% for the fall 2019 cohort, but a decrease from 71.5% in fall 2018.

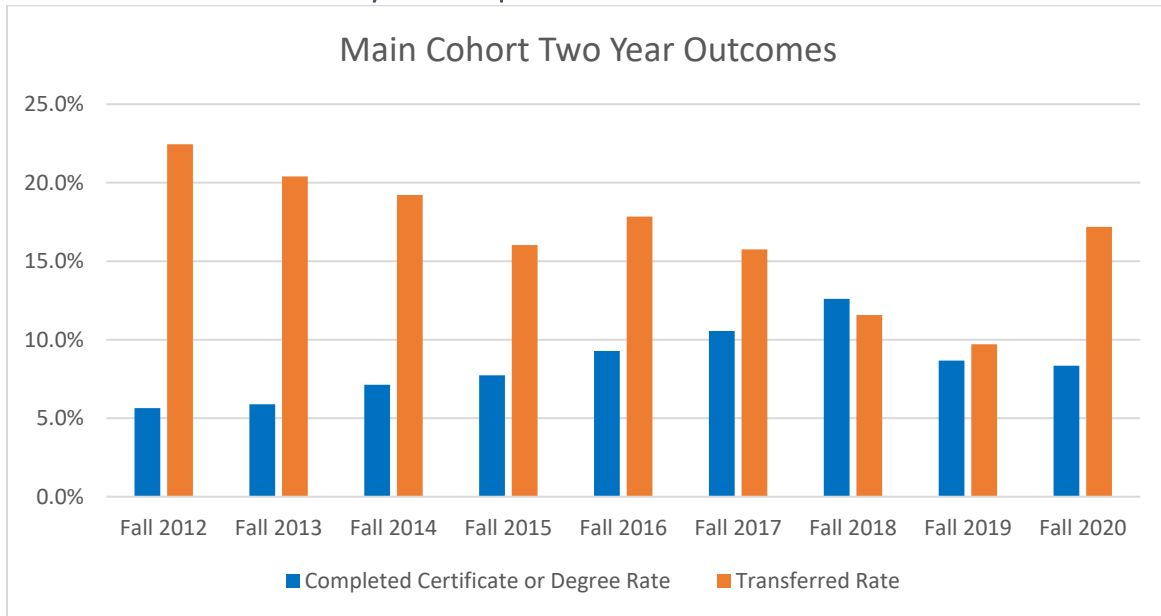
Chart 3. Main cohort fall to next term retention



PCC's certificate or degree completion rate increased until fall 2018 and declined for fall 2019 and 2020 (Chart 4), following the same trend with other measures. Other VFA benchmarking colleges rate for the same measure is noted as 19.9% for the fall 2020 cohort, which is much higher than PCC's rate, and it increased from 18.3% compared to the fall 2019 cohort.

PCC transfer rates show a general decline from fall 2012 to fall 2019 cohorts but fall 2020 transfer rates increased to 17.2% from 9.0% in fall 2019 (Chart 4). Benchmarking VFA colleges reported their main cohort transfer rate was 14.4% for the fall 2020 and fall 2019 cohorts.

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



### Six-year outcomes

The proportion of students who started in fall 2011 and received a degree and certificate over the six-year period was 14.5%. This percentage increased to 22.8% for the fall 2016 cohort (Chart 5), although still behind other VFA benchmarking colleges (30.5% in 2015 and 30.8% in 2016).

Close to one third of students transfer and do not complete a Pima credential (28.7% in 2016). Benchmarking VFA colleges no-award-transfer rate has been steady around 23% (fall 2015 and fall 2016).

Having a high no-award-transfer rate is 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. To address this, PCC is developing a reverse transfer process, which will be helpful to those students who did not earn credentials at the transferred institutions but completed the requirements for their previously incomplete PCC credential.



Chart 5. Main cohort six-year outcome

