

Relationship Between Units Attempted and Completion

Attached is an analysis I completed today tracking two Fall 2003 cohorts for degree, certificate, and transfer completion by number of units attempted. As part of my initial research agenda you had specified tracking students who had attempted (or earned) 45 or more units. This is my first go at that. Earlier, I had tracked the "undecideds."

For this analysis I tracked two groups over a six year period; a) Fall 2003 First-time College students who were matriculated and b) All Fall 2003 students other than special admits (i.e., concurrent high school students).

Highlights of the results are:

- For first-time college students with 45 or more units, 31% earn a degree, certificate or transfer.
- For first-time college students with 60 or more units, 35% earn a degree, certificate or transfer.
- For all Fall 2003 students with 45 or more units, 37% earn a degree, certificate or transfer.
- For all Fall 2003 students with 60 or more units, 40% earn a degree, certificate or transfer.

Thus, less than half of even those with 60 or more attempted units achieve a degree, a certificate, or transfer within a six year period. Apparently, more than half of those with 60 attempted units are not taking the right classes or are not successful enough to motivate them to complete a degree, certificate, or transfer program.

RBB – 4/13/11