

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SUCCESS UPDATE

Fall 2016

RECENT SUCCESS

Fall to Fall retention has increased 5% since 2010.

Course pass-rates are up.

Percent of students in Good Standing is up.

Hours earned are up.

More students are on-track.

More developmental students are progressing very well.

More to come.

CSU has begun to achieve national recognition for its successful efforts to increase persistence and improve graduation rates for undergraduate students. Last year, we received recognition from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. This year, CSU is one of five finalists in the Project Degree Completion competition held annually by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

To keep the campus informed about the work going on and the progress we are making, I'm initiating a periodic "student success update." In this first update, you will find some interesting and encouraging details about the progress we have made in improving outcomes for incoming freshman students over the past year.

Fall-to-fall retention for the freshman cohort improved slightly this year: we retained 70.87% of the freshman class this year, as compared to 70.36% last year (not a big improvement, but it was a MUCH larger freshman class!).

A deeper dive into the data reveals that we may actually be making more progress than it appears. Here are some facts to consider:

- Students passed a higher percentage of the courses they attempted: 81.4% in for the Fall 15 class as compared to 79.1% for the Fall 14 class)
- A larger percentage of the freshman class was in good academic standing after their first year: 69.25% for the Fall 15 class as compared to 65.24% for the Fall 14 class.
- Students earned more college-level credits: the average student admitted in Fall 15 earned 23.97 credits, as compared to 22.44 in Fall 14.
- The percentage of students who are doing *really* well (in good academic standing with no withdrawals or failures) also increased: from 42.38% for the Fall 14 cohort to 46.62% for Fall 15

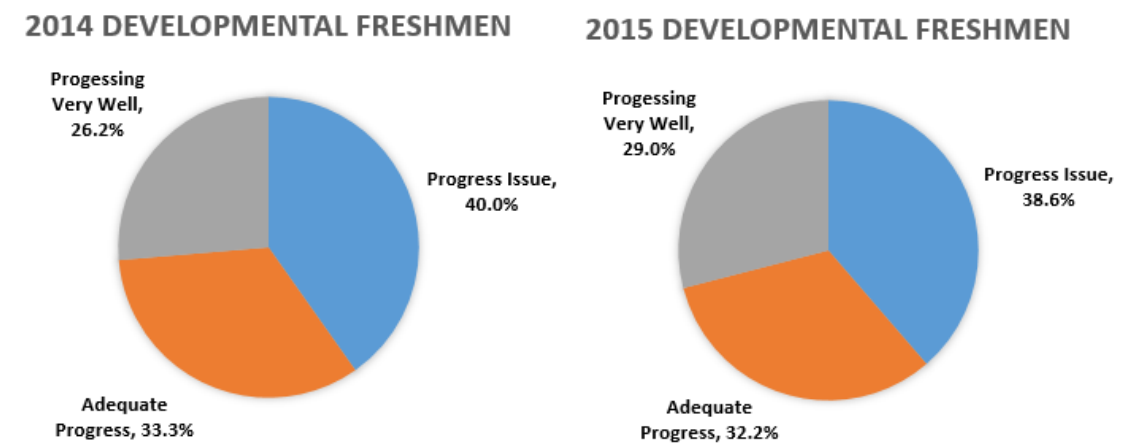


What all of this adds up to is the likelihood that we will continue to see graduation rates improve at a faster rate than fall-to-fall retention. More students are accumulating more credit hours, are in good standing and are completing the courses they attempt. Consider these data on the percentages of students who are on or off track for timely graduation:

- 39.85% of the students admitted in Fall 15 are on track for 4-year graduation after their first year, as compared to only 27.34% of the Fall 14 cohort who were in that position after one year.
- Only 25.18% of the Fall 15 cohort are defined as “off track” for timely graduation (having earned fewer than 20 hours); this is down from 30.67% for the Fall 14 cohort

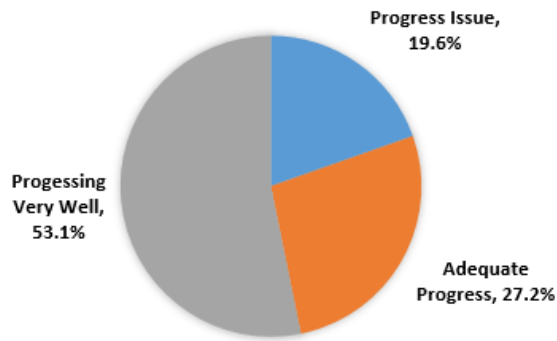
39.85% of students admitted in Fall 15 are on-track for 4-year graduation. Up from 27.34% for the Fall 14 cohort.

Another encouraging sign is improved performance by students admitted to CSU needing to complete developmental coursework in English and/or Math. The charts below document improved progress by the 2015 class, for both developmental and college-ready freshmen.

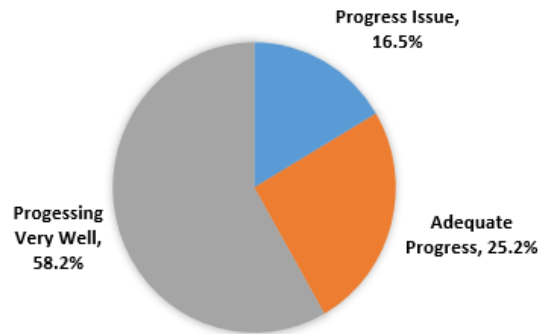


Progressing very well = GPA 2.5 or higher and 100% completed of attempted
Adequate progress = GPA 2.0 to 2.49 and > 67.7% completed of attempted
Progress Issues = GPA < 2.0 and/or < 67.7% completed of attempted

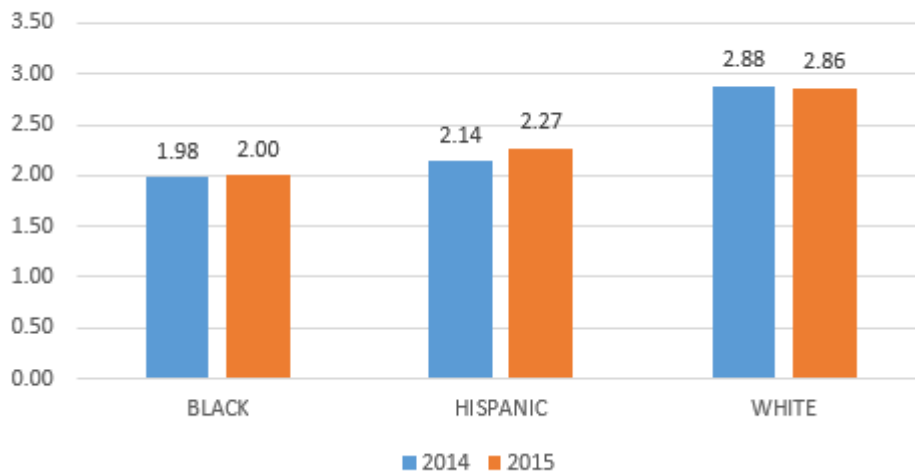
2014 COLLEGE READY FRESHMEN



2015 COLLEGE READY FRESHMEN

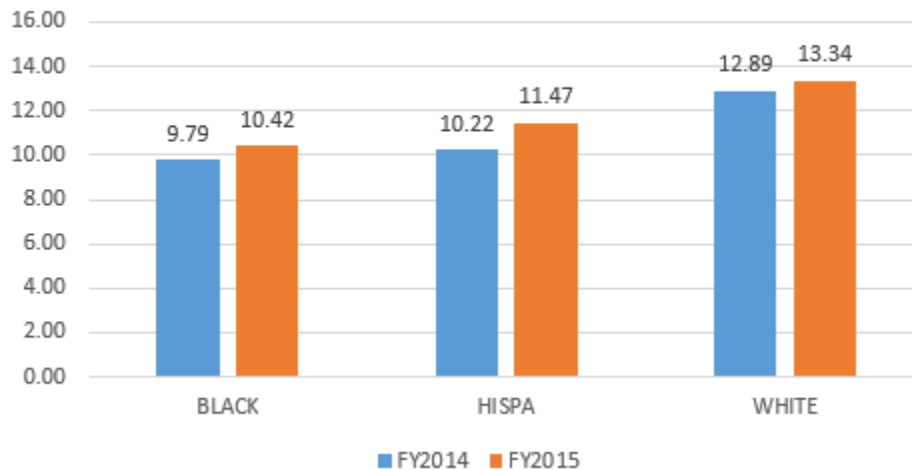


First Semester GPA for Freshmen



Finally, it is encouraging to note that 2015 saw improved outcomes for students of color. As indicated in the charts below, Hispanic freshmen in particular did significantly better in 2015 than in 2014; African-American students' first-semester GPA's were stable, but the 2015 cohort earned more hours, on average, than did the 2014 cohort, meaning that members of that cohort made more progress towards graduation.

Average of 1st Fall-Earned Hours



So, while we still have a lot of work to do, it's great to see that the many efforts across campus to promote student success are beginning to bear fruit. Congratulations to everyone for the good work we've already done. Let's use these encouraging results as an indication that we really *can* improve student outcomes and as a spur to continued innovation and action.



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Average Total First Year Hours Earned

