The future of California depends heavily on increasing the number of Californians with certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor’s degrees. Educational attainment in California has been declining with each younger generation—a statistic that bodes poorly for the state’s economic competitiveness.

Divided We Fail is a report that tracked more than a quarter of a million students (255,253) who entered a California Community College in 2003-04 over six years and analyzed their progress and outcomes by major racial/ethnic population. Analyses were restricted to “degree-seekers” (students believed to be seeking a certificate, associate degree, or bachelor’s degree), defined as all new students enrolling in more than 6 credits in the first year.

In California, too many students fail to complete community college:
- Six years after enrolling, 70% of degree-seeking students had not completed a certificate or degree and had not transferred to a university.
- 75-80% of Latino and black degree-seeking students did not complete.
- Only 23% of degree seekers transferred to a university, 11% earned an associate degree, and only 5% earned a certificate.

Key Findings for the Monterey Bay Region
(4,604 degree-seeking students)
- The overall completion rate of degree-seeking community college students in the Monterey Bay region was 27%, lower than the statewide rate. The lower percentage can be attributed, in part, to a lower share of students transferring to a university.
- The share of degree-seeking community college students in the Monterey Bay region transferring to a university was 20%, among the lowest in the state.
- 11% of Monterey Bay students earned an associate degree, the same as in the state as a whole.
- The share of students earning a certificate in the Monterey Bay region, 3%, was the lowest in California, two percentage points below than the statewide figure.
- Latino students comprised 42% of degree-seekers in Monterey Bay community colleges, but only 22% of completers.
**Most Transfer Students in the Monterey Bay Region Have Not Completed Two Years of Credits**

*Figures for black students not shown due to small numbers in the cohort.*

**Completed Transfer Curriculum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Transfers</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>API</th>
<th>Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSU</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Completed Associate Degree**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All Transfers</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>API</th>
<th>Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSU</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UC</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Transfer Destination of Monterey Bay Students Varies by Race/Ethnicity**

**White Transfer Students**

- CSU: 32%
- UC: 13%
- Out-of-State Public: 29%
- Out-of-State Private: 14%
- In-State Private: 7%

**API Transfer Students**

- CSU: 39%
- UC: 22%
- Out-of-State Public: 19%
- Out-of-State Private: 8%
- In-State Private: 7%

**Latino Transfer Students**

- CSU: 60%
- UC: 10%
- Out-of-State Public: 9%
- Out-of-State Private: 6%
- In-State Private: 7%

*Figures for black students not shown due to small numbers in the cohort.*
Completion Rates Vary Depending on Students’ Enrollment Patterns

Students who followed certain enrollment patterns did much better. Passing college level English and Math within 2 years and accumulating at least 20 credits in the first year increase student chances of success. As examples, 43% of students who took and passed college-level English within two years completed a certificate, degree or transfer within six years compared to only 17% who did not; 48% of students who passed college level Math within 2 years succeeded (vs. 18% who did not); and 57% of students who accumulated at least 20 credits in the first year succeeded (vs. 18% who did not). Unfortunately, few Monterey Bay students follow these successful patterns (see below).

Too Few Monterey Bay Community College Students Follow Successful Enrollment Patterns

*Figures for black students not shown due to small numbers in the cohort.

Passed College-Level English within 2 Years
Passed College-Level Math within 2 Years
Earned 20+ Credits within 1 Year

Divided We Fail: Improving Completion and Closing Racial Gaps in California’s Community Colleges is a report by the Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy at California State University, Sacramento and is sponsored by The Campaign for College Opportunity.

The full report can be accessed at
www.csus.edu/ihelp
www.collegecampaign.org