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 San Francisco Bay Region

* (51,727 degree-seeking students)

- The overall completion rate of degree-seeking community college students in the **San Francisco Bay region was 31%.**
- The share of degree-seeking community college students in the **San Francisco Bay region transferring to a university was 23%.**
- **9%** of San Francisco Bay students earned an associate degree, slightly lower than the figure statewide.
- The share of students earning a **certificate** in the **San Francisco Bay region, 6%,** was slightly higher than the statewide figure.
- **Black and Latino transfer students in the San Francisco Bay region were more likely to transfer to the for-profit sector (17% and 11%, respectively)** than their white and Asian-Pacific Islander counterparts (7% each).
Most Transfer Students in the San Francisco Bay Have Not Completed Two Years of Credits

Transfer Destination of San Francisco Bay Students Varies by Race/Ethnicity
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, **54% of students who took and passed college-level English within two years completed a certificate, degree or transfer within six years** compared to only 20% who did not; **56% of students who passed college level Math within 2 years succeeded** (vs. 21% who did not); and **59% of students who accumulated at least 20 credits in the first year succeeded** (vs. 21% who did not). Unfortunately, few San Francisco Bay students follow these successful patterns (see below).

---

**Too Few San Francisco Bay Community College Students Follow Successful Enrollment Patterns**

- **Passed College-Level English within 2 Years**: 31% (Degree-Seekers), 33% (White), 32% (API), 24% (Black), 26% (Latino)
- **Passed College-Level Math within 2 Years**: 28% (Degree-Seekers), 28% (White), 35% (API), 17% (Black), 22% (Latino)
- **Earned 20+ Credits within 1 Year**: 25% (Degree-Seekers), 24% (White), 33% (API), 15% (Black), 20% (Latino)

---

**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