

DIVIDED WE FAIL:

Improving Completion and Closing Racial Gaps in California's Community Colleges

Regional Profile—NORTH SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Counties of Calaveras, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne

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:

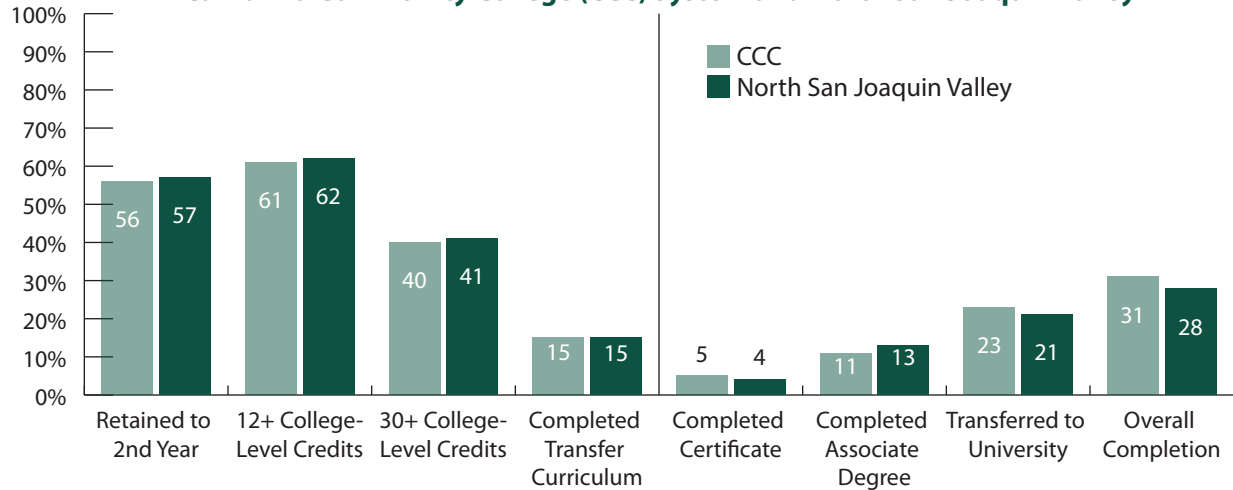
- Six years after enrolling, **70% of degree-seeking students had not completed a certificate or degree and had not transferred to a university.**
- **75-80% of Latino and black degree-seeking students did not complete.**
- Only **23% of degree seekers transferred to a university, 11% earned an associate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

Key Findings for the North San Joaquin Valley

(18,241 degree-seeking students)

- The **overall completion** rate of degree-seeking community college students in the **North San Joaquin Valley was 28%**, slightly lower than the statewide rate.
- The share of degree-seeking community college students in the **North San Joaquin Valley transferring to a university was 21%**, slightly lower than the share statewide.
- **13% of North San Joaquin Valley students earned an associate degree**, slightly higher than the statewide figure.
- The share of students earning a **certificate** in the **North San Joaquin Valley, 4%**, was slightly lower than the statewide figure.
- **Large percentages of transfer students enrolled in a for-profit university**, ranging from 12-17% across racial/ethnic groups.
- **Less than 30% of black transfer students in the North San Joaquin Valley enrolled in a California State University or the University of California.**

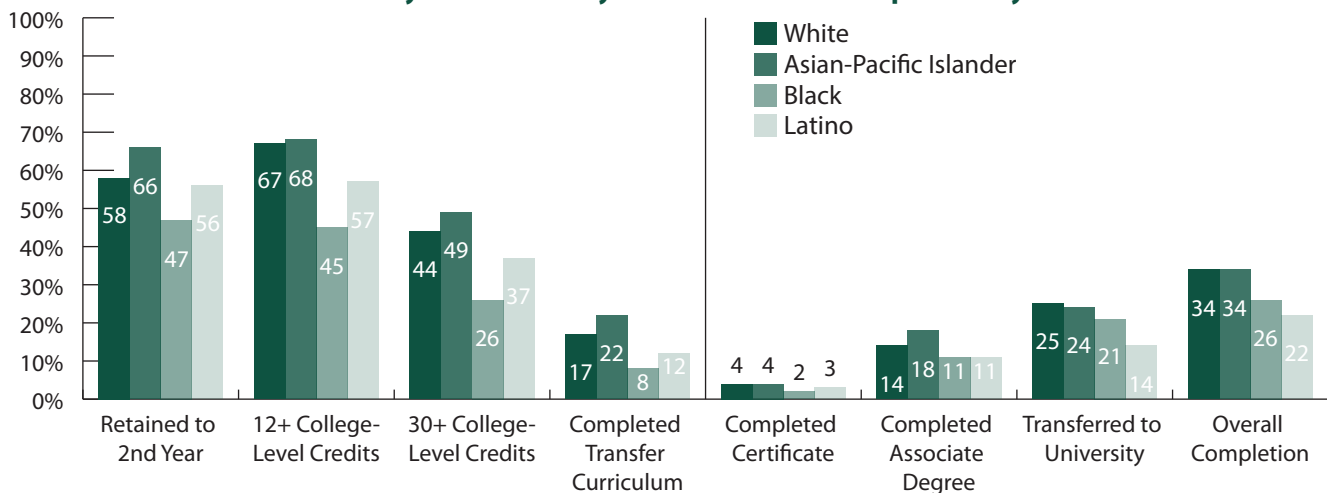
Milestone Attainment and Completion within 6 Years California Community College (CCC) System and North San Joaquin Valley



Intermediate Milestones

Completion

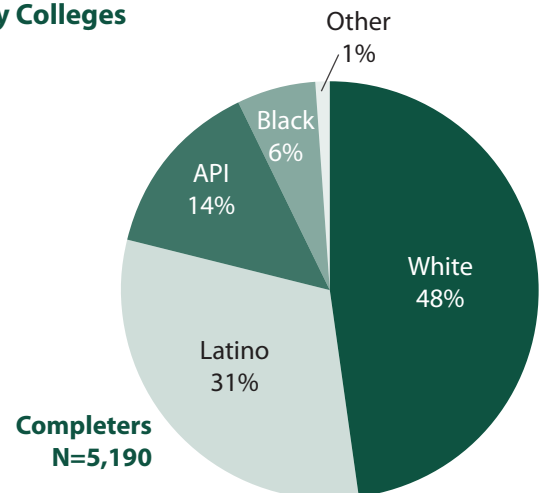
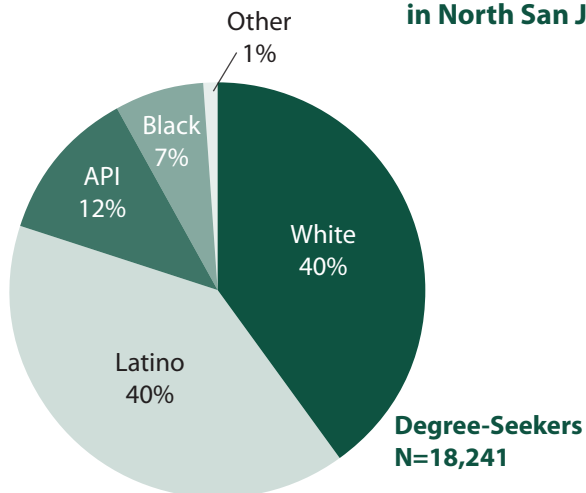
Milestone Attainment and Completion Within 6 Years by Race/Ethnicity in the North San Joaquin Valley



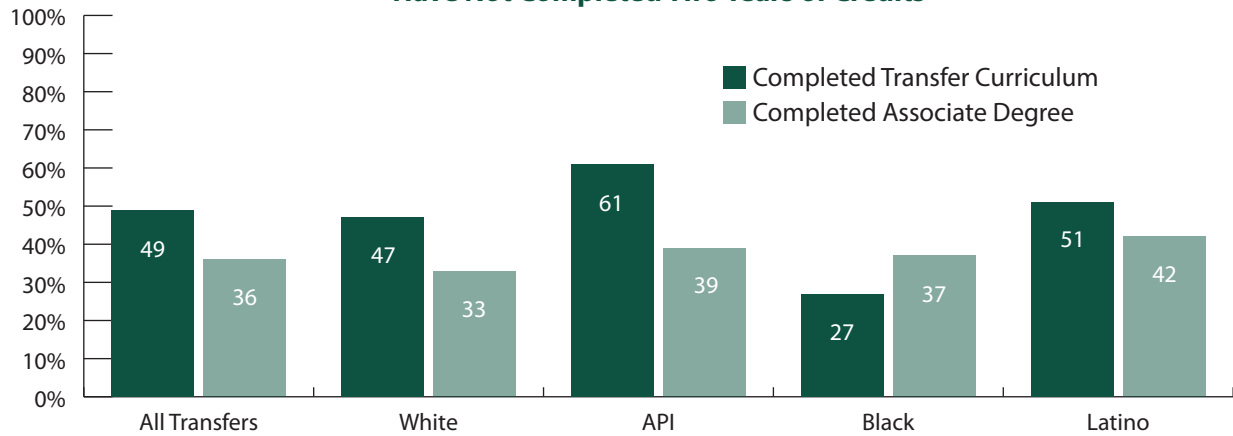
Intermediate Milestones

Completion

Racial/Ethnic Distribution of Degree-Seekers Compared to "Completers" in North San Joaquin Valley Colleges

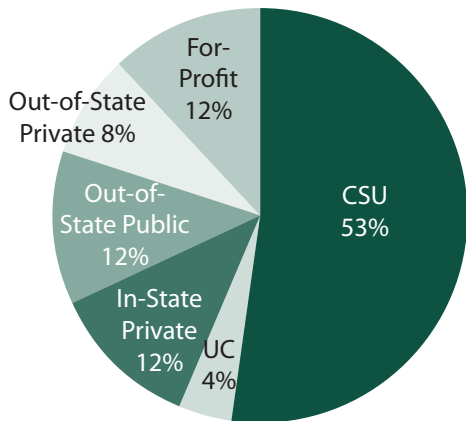


Most Transfer Students in North San Joaquin Valley Have Not Completed Two Years of Credits

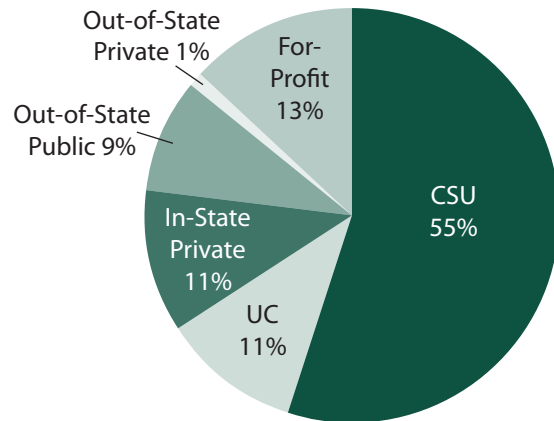


Transfer Destination of North San Joaquin Valley Students Varies by Race/Ethnicity

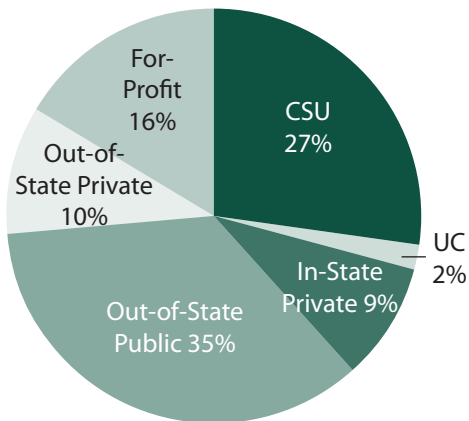
White Transfer Students



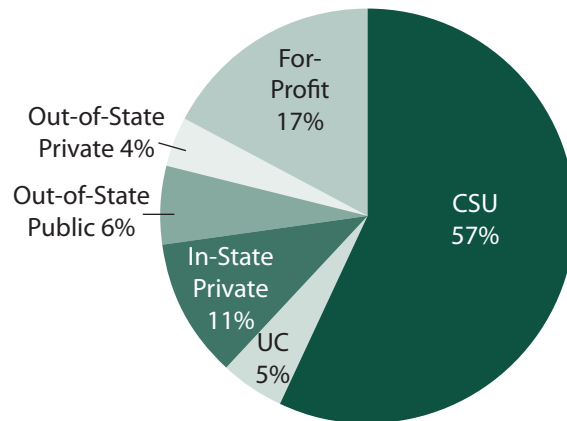
API Transfer Students



Black Transfer Students



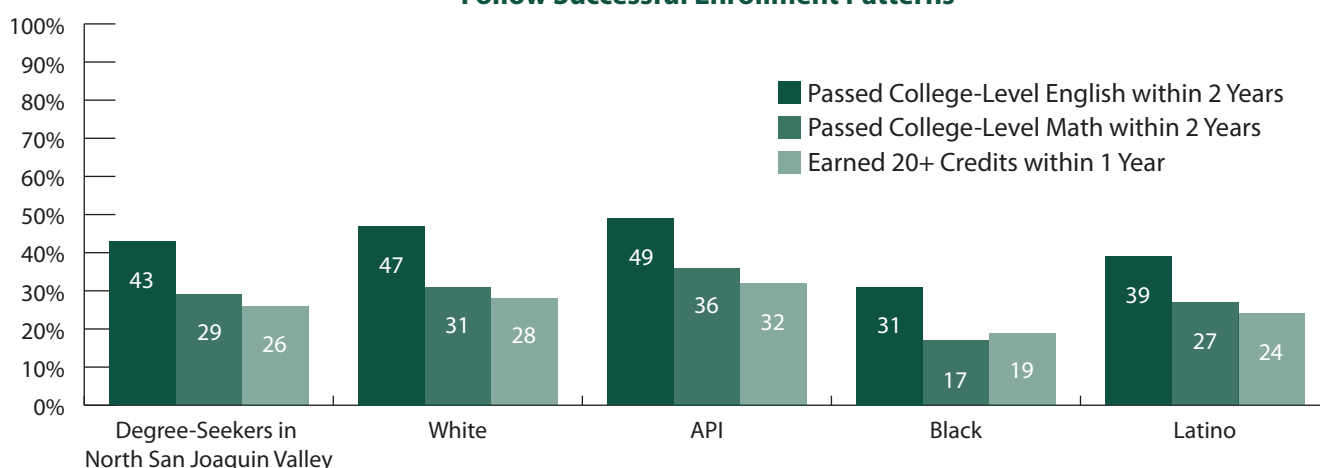
Latino Transfer Students



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, **46% of students who took and passed college-level English within two years completed a certificate, degree or transfer within six years** compared to only 16% who did not; **53% 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 North San Joaquin Valley students follow these successful patterns (see below).

Too Few North San Joaquin Valley Community College Students Follow Successful Enrollment Patterns



The Campaign for

College Opportunity

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