

FA16 Honors Student Achievement by Demographic Group

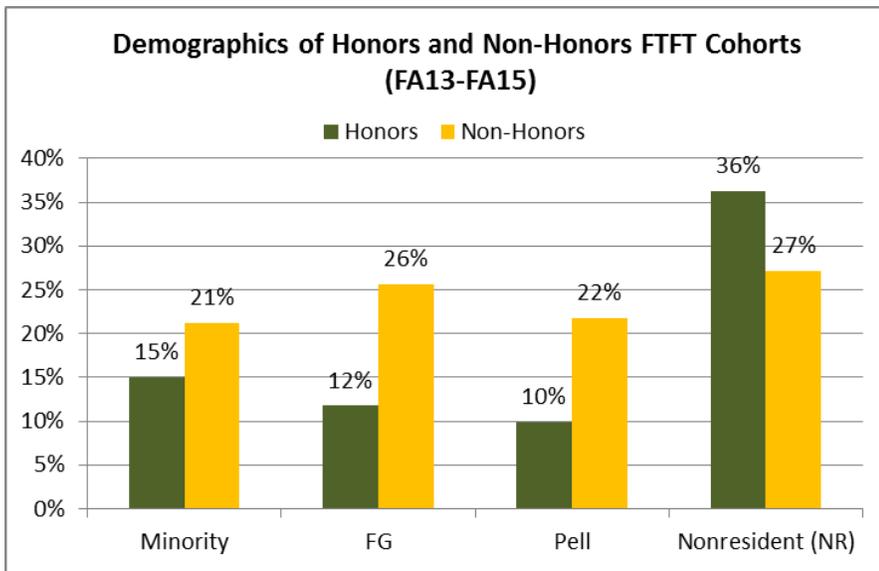
The purpose of this report is to explore student achievement differences (freshman retention and 4, 5, and 6 year graduation rates) by demographic group (minority, first generation (FG), Pell recipient, residency) for the Honors program.

This report concludes that the graduation and retention gaps for FG, minority and Pell students are smaller among Honors students (compared to non-honors), but that these demographic groups are underrepresented among the Honors program. These results indicate that increasing the representation of FG, minority, and Pell students among the Honors program could have a positive impact on the overall gaps at CSU. In contrast to these findings, graduation gaps for nonresidents are larger for Honors compared to non-Honors students.

Demographics of Honors Students

Minority, FG, and Pell recipients are underrepresented in the Honors program compared to non-Honors students. Nonresidents are overrepresented in the Honors program. Figure 1 displays the proportions of students from each demographic group by Honors status for the three most recent cohorts. The counts of students by demographic group for Honors and non-Honors status are included for all cohorts in Appendix A.

Figure 1.



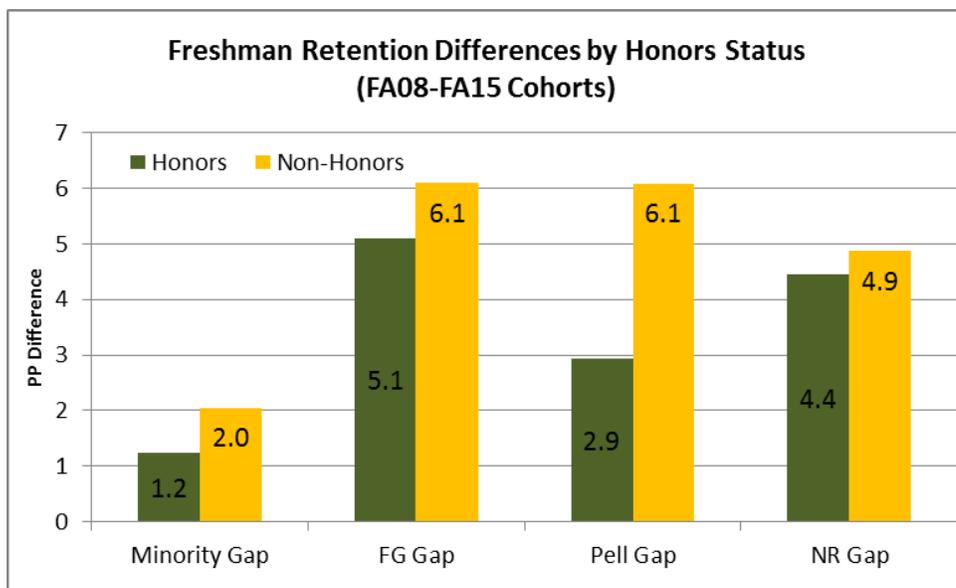
Appendix A shows the count of Honors students by Honors Track, cohort, and demographic group. Over the FA13 through FA15 cohorts there are an average of 380 Honors students per cohort, with an average of 57 minority, 45 FG, and 45 Pell recipient students per Honors cohort. It is important to keep these small numbers of diverse students in mind because with populations around 50, one student impacts the overall cohort persistence and graduation rates by roughly 2 percentage points. Additionally, the FA13-FA15 Honors cohorts average 137 nonresident students per semester, representing 12.3% of the overall nonresident cohort population.

Differences in Freshman Retention

Minority, FG, and Pell students have lower rates of freshman retention across both Honors and non-Honors students; however, the difference in retention rates across demographic groups are more pronounced for non-Honors than for Honors. For instance, FG Honors students have a retention rate of 89% and non-FG Honors students have a retention rate of 94.1%, a difference of 5.1 PP. This is a smaller percentage point difference than non-Honors FG students and non-Honors non-FG students (80.0% and 86.1% respectively; 6.1 PP difference).

Nonresident students also have lower rates of freshman retention compared to resident students. The difference in retention for nonresidents is relatively similar for Honors and non-Honors students.

Figure 2.



Appendix B shows the freshman retention rates by cohort and demographic group. Retention is the only student success achievement for which some Honors student populations show lower achievement rates than comparable non-Honors students. For instance, FG Honors students in the FA14 cohort retained at a rate that was lower than FG and non-FG students who are not in the Honors program; however this data point likely represents a one-sample outlier rather than a trend, as FG Honors students in FA15 (and prior to FA14) retain at rates that are better than non-Honors students. Another example of a one-year outlier is among the FA12 Honors students who are Pell recipients. This group retained at rate of 85.5%, which was slightly lower than non-Pell, non-Honors students (87.2%). When assessing single data points in this analysis, it is important to remember that a single student's retention can influence subgroup rates by about 2 percentage points.

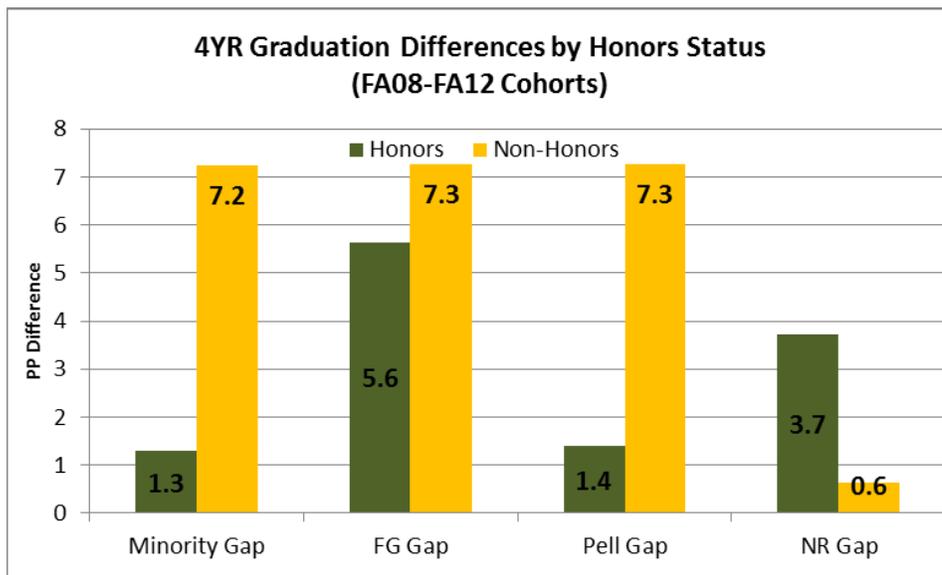
It should be noted that that minority Honors students have higher retention rates than non-minority Honors students in FA09, FA11, FA12, and FA13. Additionally, FG Honors students have a slightly higher retention rate compared to non-FG Honors students in FA13 and Pell recipient Honors students have a higher retention rate compared to non-Pell Honors students in FA13 and FA09. This pattern of higher rates for FG, low-income, and students of color is not observed among non-Honors students.

Differences in 4 Year Graduation Rates

FA08-FA12 minority, FG, and Pell students show lower 4 year graduation rates than students not in these groups, across both Honors and non-Honors students. However, the difference in 4 year graduation rates across groups are more pronounced for non-Honors compared to Honors. For instance, minority Honors students have a 4 year graduation rate of 67.2% and non-minority Honors students have a 4 year graduation rate of 68.5%, a difference of 1.3 PP. This is a smaller PP difference than non-honors FG students versus non-FG students (34.0% and 41.3%, 7.2 PP difference). The gap is also much smaller for Pell Honors students compared to Pell non-Honors students as well (1.4 PP versus 7.3 PP). Overall, Honors students (regardless of demographic group) have higher 4 year graduation rates than non-Honors students.

The nonresident gap is much larger for Honors students because both resident and nonresident non-Honors students graduate within 4 years at a very similar rate. However, nonresident Honors students graduate within 4 years at much higher rates than non-Honors students (regardless of residency) and at a lower rate than resident Honors students.

Figure 3.



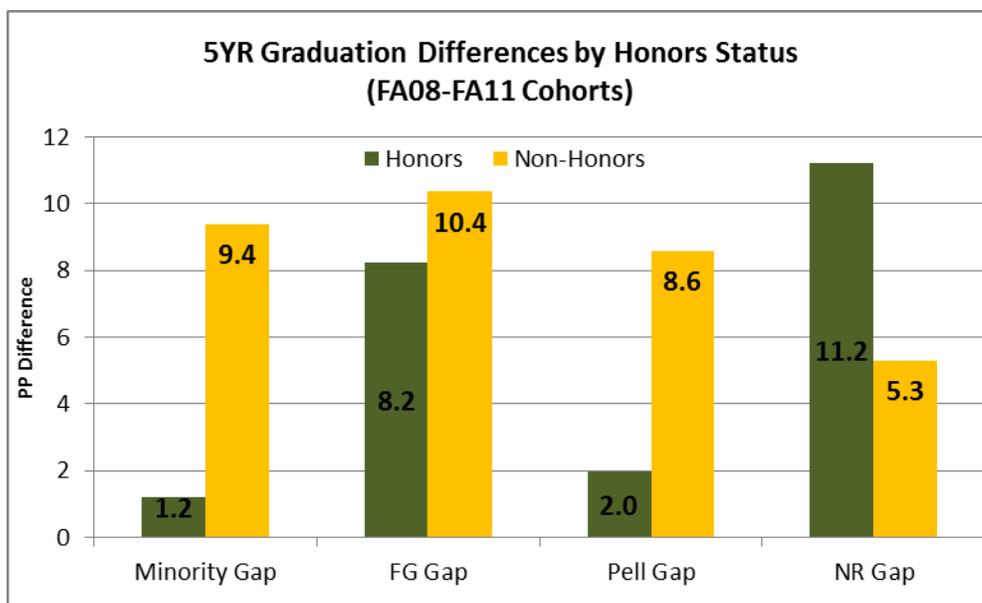
Appendix C shows the 4 year graduation rates by cohort and demographic group. The FA11 minority and Pell Honors students have a four year graduation rate that exceeds the non-minority and non-Pell Honors students. This is the only graduation outcome where the gap is negative. Among non-Honors there are no negative gaps observed for any cohort's 4-year graduation rates.

Differences in 5 Year Graduation Rates

Minority, FG, and Pell students have lower 5 year graduation rates for both Honors and non-Honors students; however, the difference in 5 year graduation rates across groups are more pronounced for non-Honors compared to Honors. For instance, FG honors students have a 5 year graduation rate of 76.3% and non-FG honors students have a 5 year graduation rate of 84.5%, a difference of 8.2 PP. This is a slightly smaller PP difference than the non-honors FG students and non-FG students (53.8% and 64.2%; 10.4 PP difference). Overall, Honors students (regardless of demographic group) have higher 5 year graduation rates compared to non-Honors students.

Differences in 5 year graduation rates by residency are much larger for Honors students compared to non-Honors. This finding matches the Honors gap pattern observed for 4 year graduation.

Figure 4.



Appendix D shows the 5 year graduation rates by cohort and demographic group.

The 5 year graduation gaps appear to be increasing from FA08 through FA10 for FG students in the Honors program. For instance, the Honors FG gap is about 2 PP in FA08, 6 PP in FA09, and 17 PP in FA10. This trend has attenuated somewhat for the FA11 Honors cohort, which exhibits about a 12 PP gap between FG and non-FG students.

Similarly, the Honors minority gap increased from about 2 PP in FA08 to 5.5 PP in FA09 and 10 PP in FA10. However, for the FA11 cohort we observe a large 5 year graduation gap in favor of Honors minority students of about -9 PP. This abrupt one-year reversal in Honors minority achievement underscores the volatility of single cohort data points that are associated with populations near N = 50.

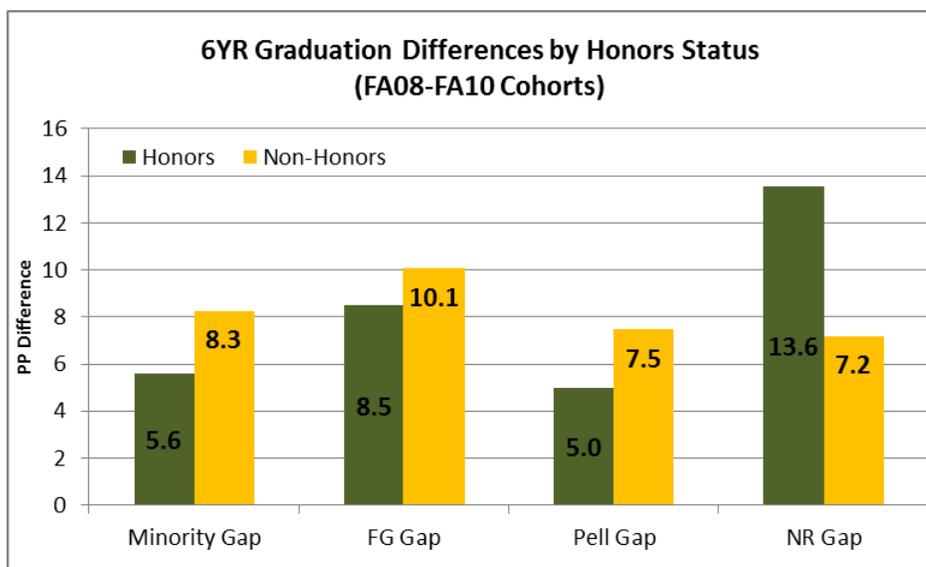
Honors nonresident students graduate within 5 years at rates much lower than resident Honors students across all cohorts.

Differences in 6 Year Graduation Rates

Minority, FG, and Pell students exhibit lower 6 year graduation rates among both Honors and non-Honors students; however, the 6 year graduation gaps are more pronounced for non-Honors than for Honors. For instance, Pell recipient Honors students have a 6 year graduation rate of 81% while non- Pell Honors students have a 6 year graduation rate of 86.0%, a difference of 5 PP. This is a smaller percentage point difference than non-Honors Pell versus non-Honors non-Pell (59.3% and 66.8%; 7.5 PP difference). Overall, Honors students (regardless of demographic group) have higher 6 year graduation rates compared to non-Honors students.

Similar to the 5 year graduation outcome, the difference in 6 year graduation rates by residency is larger for Honors students compared to non-Honors.

Figure 5.



Appendix E shows the 6 year graduation rates by cohort and demographic group.

There are only two cohorts with 6 year graduation rates so trends over time are more difficult to infer. The 6 year graduation rate gap for minority students in the honors program is very small. The 6 year gap is larger in FA09 compared to FA08 for FG and nonresident Honors students and smaller in FA09 compared to FA08 for Pell Honors students.

Conclusions

Graduation and retention gaps for FG, minority and Pell students are smaller for Honors compared to non-Honors; however, these demographic groups are underrepresented in the Honors program. The results from this gap analysis indicate that increasing the demographic representation among the Honors program could have a positive impact on the overall gaps at CSU.

However, graduation gaps for nonresidents are larger for Honors compared to non-Honors students, but the retention gaps are relatively equal. A likely hypothesis is that nonresident Honors students have mobility to transfer to in-state schools to finish their degrees after a couple of years at CSU.

Appendix A: Enrollment Counts by Cohort, Honors Status, and Demographic Group

Honors Enrollment by Cohort Term and Minority Status

Headcount Honors/Minority Status	Cohort Term								
	FA08	FA09	FA10	FA11	FA12	FA13	FA14	FA15	
Honors	327	383	349	360	362	379	375	386	
Non-Minority	298	344	315	314	315	326	327	316	
Minority	29	39	34	46	47	53	48	70	
Non-Honors	3981	3820	4020	4059	4087	3994	3909	4277	
Non-Minority	3424	3206	3333	3266	3274	3156	3080	3357	
Minority	557	614	687	793	813	838	829	920	
Overall	4308	4203	4369	4419	4449	4373	4284	4663	

Honors Enrollment by Cohort Term and First Generation Status

Headcount Honors/FG Status	Cohort Term								
	FA08	FA09	FA10	FA11	FA12	FA13	FA14	FA15	
Honors	327	383	349	360	362	379	375	386	
Non- First Generation	284	328	315	315	301	337	331	338	
First Generation	43	55	34	45	61	42	44	48	
Non-Honors	3981	3820	4020	4059	4087	3994	3909	4277	
Non- First Generation	2978	2843	3041	2966	2986	2988	2935	3131	
First Generation	1003	977	979	1093	1101	1006	974	1146	
Overall	4308	4203	4369	4419	4449	4373	4284	4663	

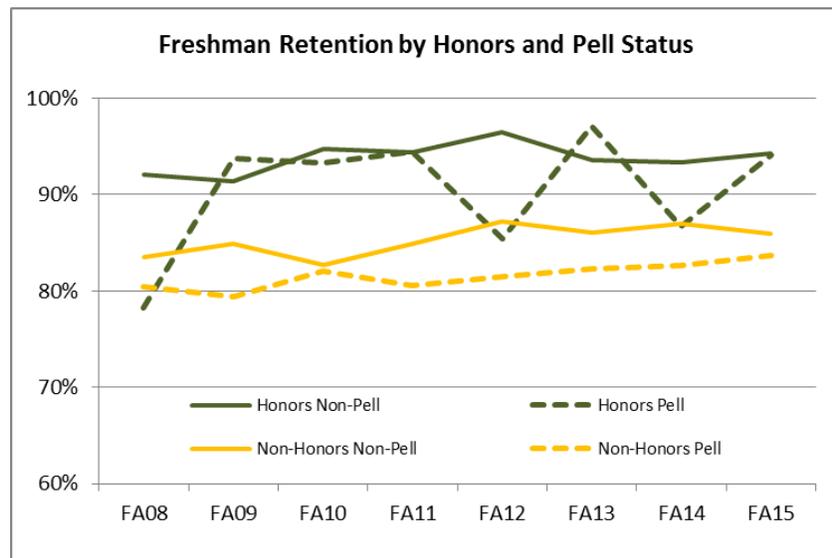
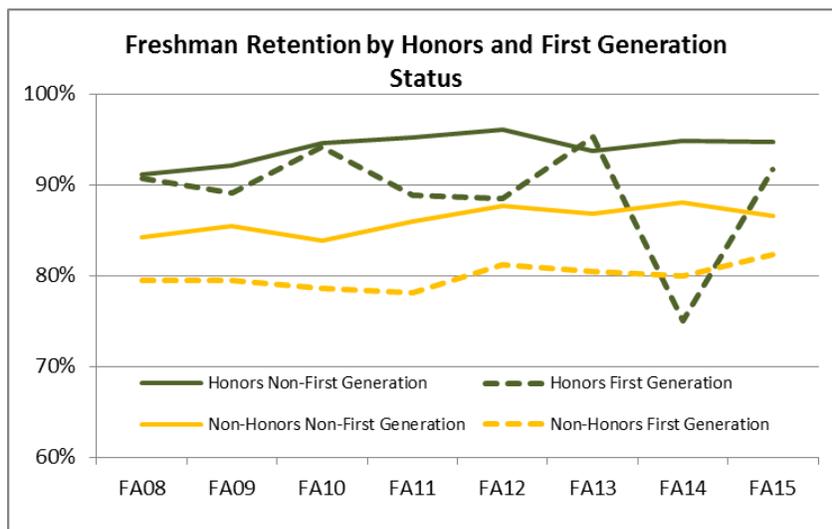
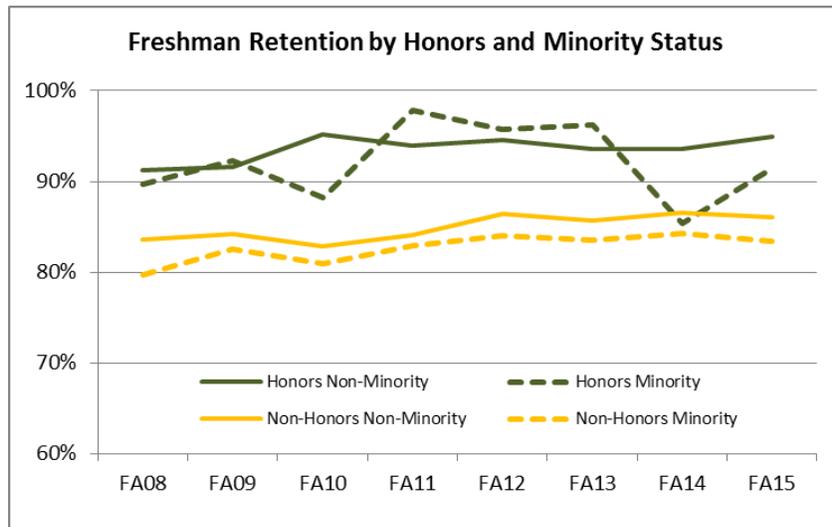
Honors Enrollment by Cohort Term and Pell Status

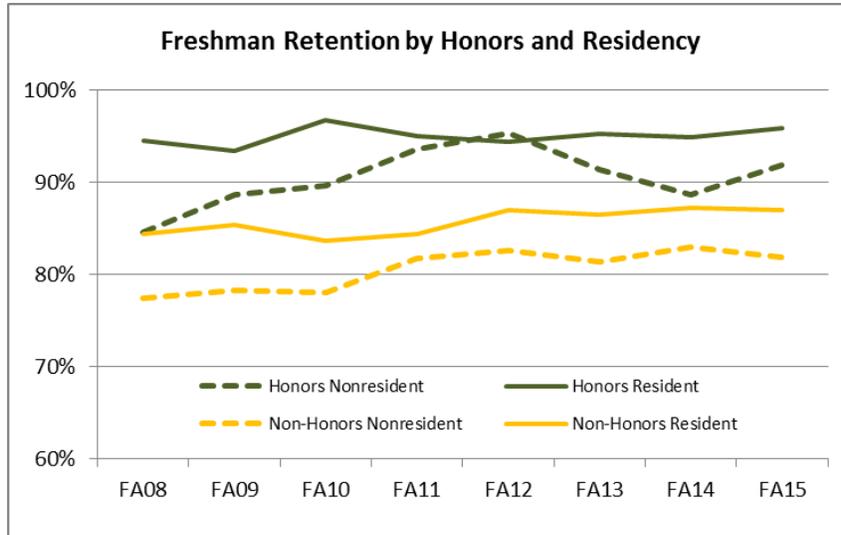
Headcount Honors/Pell Status	Cohort Term								
	FA08	FA09	FA10	FA11	FA12	FA13	FA14	FA15	
Honors	327	383	349	360	362	379	375	386	
Non-Pell	304	335	304	306	307	345	330	352	
Pell	23	48	45	54	55	34	45	34	
Non-Honors	3981	3820	4020	4059	4087	3994	3909	4277	
Non-Pell	3383	3101	3104	3043	3134	3102	3063	3365	
Pell	598	719	916	1016	953	892	846	912	
Overall	4308	4203	4369	4419	4449	4373	4284	4663	

Honors Enrollment by Cohort Term and Resident Status

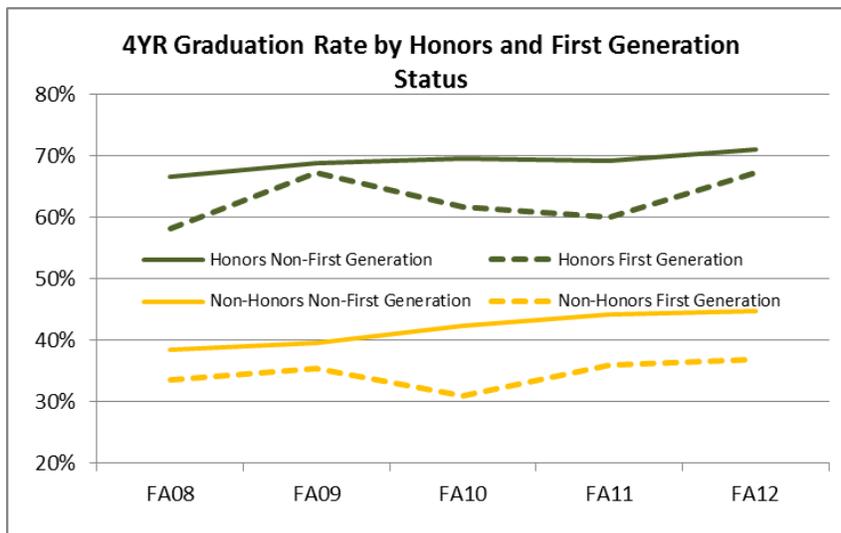
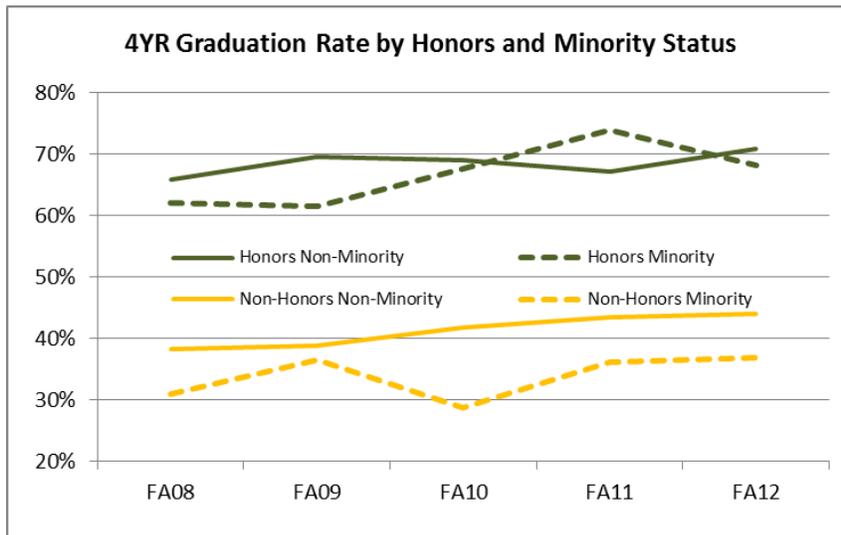
Headcount Honors/Pell Status	Cohort Term								
	FA08	FA09	FA10	FA11	FA12	FA13	FA14	FA15	
Honors	327	383	349	360	362	379	375	386	
Resident	217	242	243	221	233	252	235	240	
Non-Resident	110	141	106	139	129	127	140	146	
Non-Honors	3981	3820	4020	4059	4087	3994	3909	4277	
Resident	3198	3057	3234	3186	3097	2986	2871	3012	
Non-Resident	783	763	786	873	990	1008	1038	1265	
Overall	4308	4203	4369	4419	4449	4373	4284	4663	

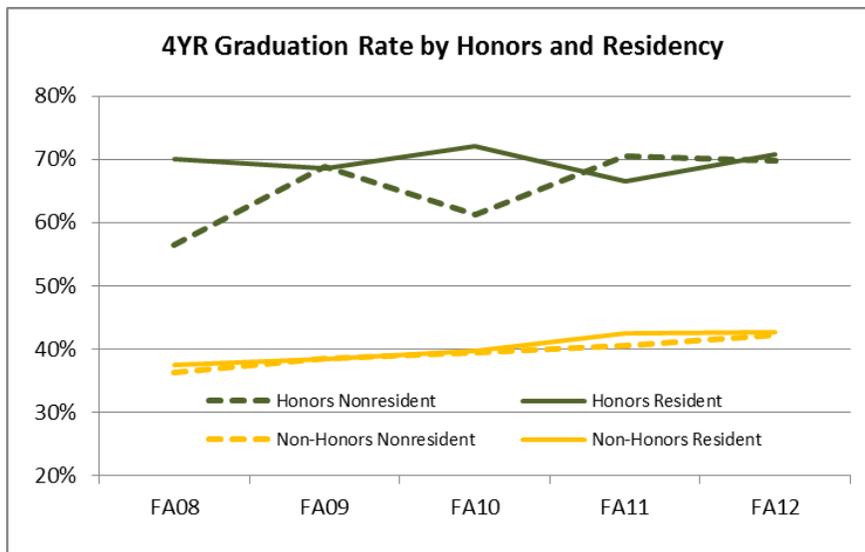
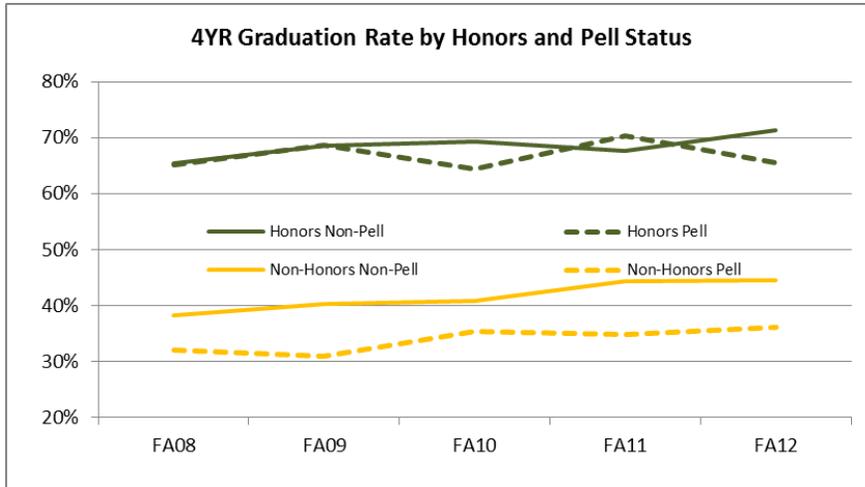
Appendix B: Freshman Retention



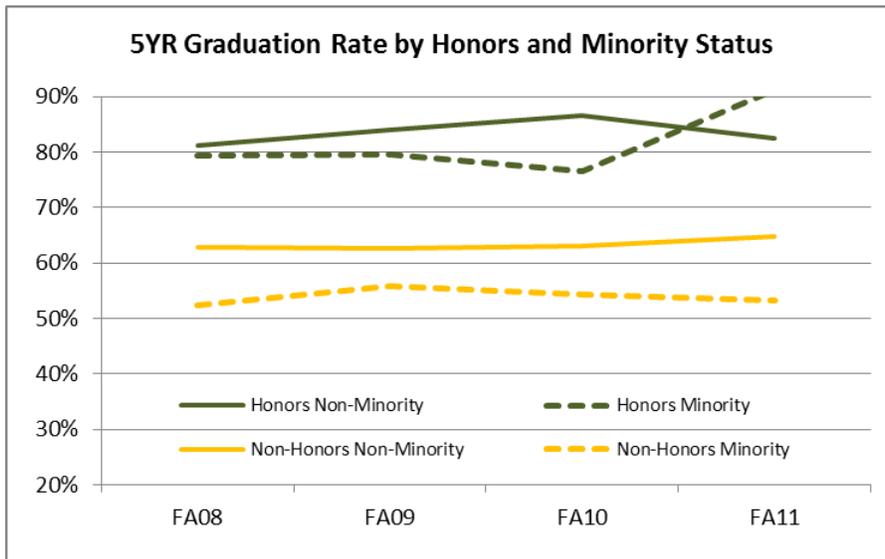


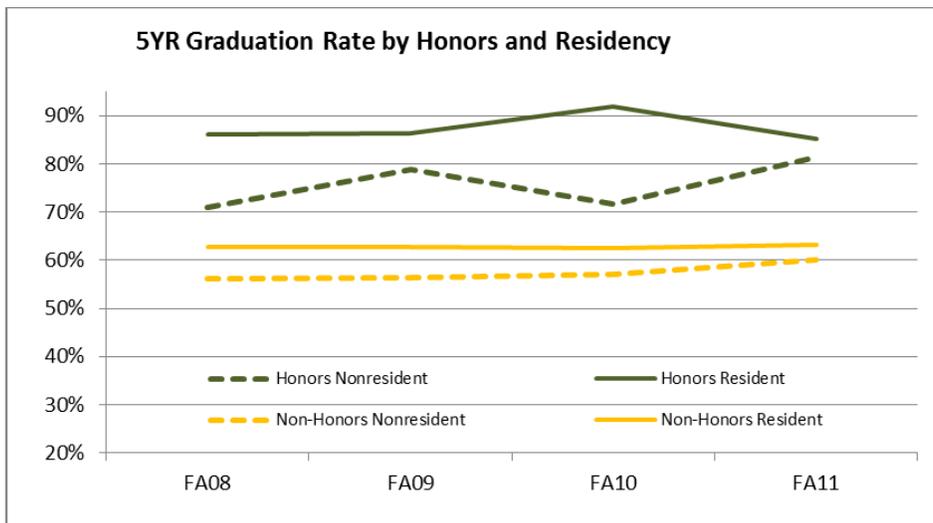
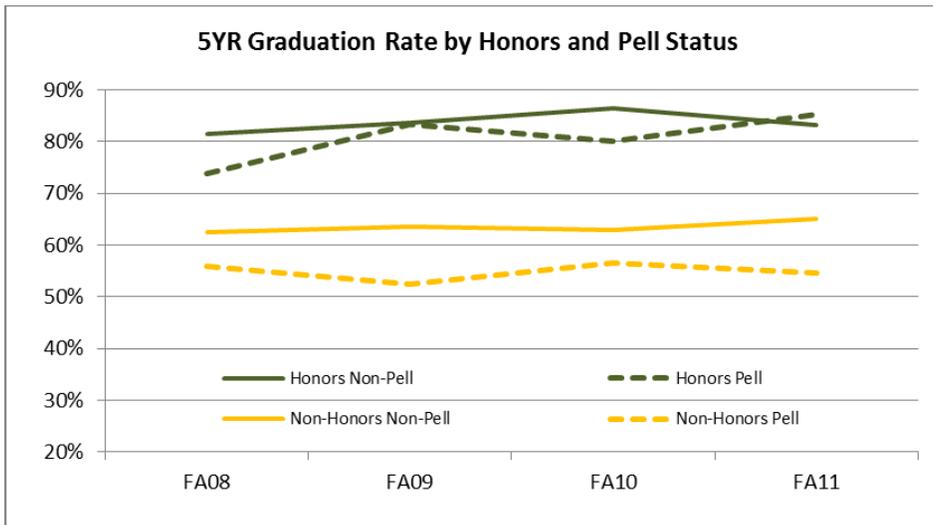
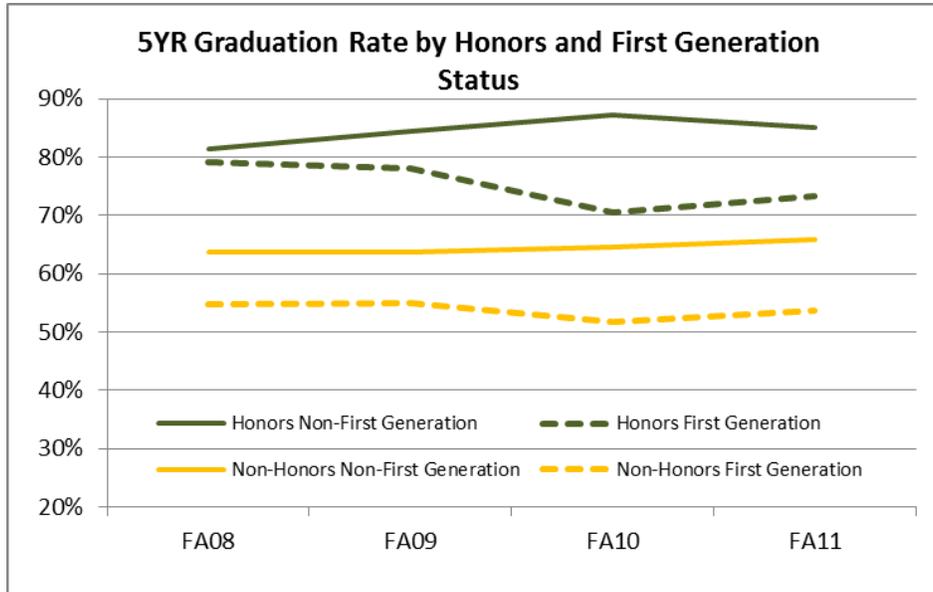
Appendix C: 4 Year Graduation Rates





Appendix D: 5 Year Graduation Rates





Appendix E: 6 Year Graduation Rates

