



Puksta Scholars at Colorado State University

The purpose of this brief is to describe the academic and demographic characteristics of Puksta Scholars at CSU and to highlight their success (measured by graduation rates).

CSU’s Puksta scholars are very diverse and have been very successful (15 of the 16 scholars who started at CSU in FA09 or prior have graduated). The first Puksta award was given at CSU during the FA06 semester and there have been a total of 36 Puksta scholars. Additionally, the time to graduation for graduated Puksta scholars is 12.4 semesters which is very similar to the university average. The table pasted below shows Puksta Scholars’ demographics and graduation rates.

FA06-FA14 Puksta Scholars at CSU

| HDCT | FG (%) | Male (%) | Minority (%) | Index (average) | 4 YR Grad Rate* | 6 YR Grad Rate* |
|------|--------|----------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 36 | 72.2% | 44.4% | 86.1% | 109.5 | 52.0% | 93.8% |

*Please note that the 4-year graduation rate is calculated among the 25 Puksta Scholars who started at CSU in FA11 or prior and the 6-year graduation rate is calculated among the 16 Puksta Scholars who started at CSU in FA09 or prior.

On average students received their Puksta award during their second fall semester. For a rough comparison, the overall 4-year graduation rate among students who persist to their second fall semester is 47.9% and the average 6-year graduation rate for these students is 77.6%. Puksta scholars have a **4-year graduation rate that is about 4 percentage points higher and a 6-year graduation rate that is about 16 percentage points** higher than the overall population.

This comparison point doesn’t take into consideration the demographic profile and average index of Puksta scholars. Nearly three-quarters of Puksta Scholars are first generation which is an attribute that has consistently been associated with lower graduation rates (about 21% of the comparison group is FG) and the average index of Puksta scholars is about 5 points lower than the comparison group. If a comparison group was selected with similar demographics, the already large percentage point differences in graduation rates for Puksta scholars would be larger.

The variability in the timing of the Puksta award and the small number of Puksta scholars doesn’t allow for a more sophisticated statistical analysis that matches non-Puksta scholars to the Puksta Scholars. However, based on the observed success rates of Puksta scholars CSU can state that the Puksta scholarship goes to a diverse group of students who graduate at very high rates in a timely manner.