

Student Success of Alliance Scholarship Recipients

This report explores student persistence and graduation for Alliance Scholarship Recipients compared to all other students. Additionally, this study presents the rate of Alliance Scholarship renewal among students who are retained. The purpose of this report is to provide information about when Alliance students are leaving CSU to help inform outreach policies.

Data

First-time, full-time (FTFT) freshman from the FA07 through FA12 cohorts are included in this study. To be included in Alliance Scholarship group students must receive the Alliance Award their cohort semester as well as being from an Alliance High school. There is a small number (16) of students who came from Alliance high schools, but did not receive the scholarship award and are excluded from this grouping. The Alliance scholarship also has students in the FA13 freshman cohort; however, this cohort is excluded from the current analysis because they do not have at least a year’s worth of persistence data.

Demographics

Table 1 below displays the demographics of each Alliance Scholarship cohort. There are a total of 328 students included in the Alliance Scholarship group with cohort sizes ranging from 45 to 69 students.

Table 1.

| Demographics of Alliance Scholarship Recipients | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | FA07 | FA08 | FA09 | FA10 | FA11 | FA12 |
| Count of Alliance Students | 46 | 53 | 59 | 45 | 69 | 56 |
| Female (%) | 50% | 47% | 56% | 60% | 58% | 54% |
| Minority (%) | 46% | 45% | 58% | 56% | 55% | 66% |
| First Generation (%) | 37% | 47% | 66% | 64% | 75% | 80% |
| Pell Recipient (%) | 33% | 49% | 53% | 69% | 70% | 64% |
| Index (average) | 114.8 | 113.0 | 114.8 | 111.1 | 114.3 | 111.2 |

Overall, Alliance students are more likely to be minority, first generation, and Pell recipients compared to CSU’s FTFT cohorts as well as have a slightly lower index score. However, the representation of first generation, Pell recipient, and minority students among the Alliance Scholarship group has increased dramatically from the inaugural cohort in FA07 to FA12. For instance, in FA07 37% percent of the Alliance group are first generation compared to 80% in FA12. Similarly, minority students are 47% of the Alliance group in FA07 and 66% in FA12. In terms of gender and index there isn’t a clear pattern over time. The average index is lowest for the FA10 and FA12 cohorts and highest for the FA07 and FA09 cohorts.

Persistence by Cohort

Student persistence is defined as the percent of students who are still enrolled or graduated among those in the cohort. Persistence is tracked every fall and spring semester through the seventh fall for the cohorts included in this study. Due to the timing of this report persistence is available through the FA13 semester, which is the 7th fall for the FA07 cohort and it is the 2nd fall for the FA12 cohort. Table 2 displays the percentage point gap (PP), non-Alliance minus Alliance, in persistence rates as well as the rates (%) for Alliance and non-Alliance students.

Table 2.

| Non-Alliance/Alliance Persistence* Rates (%) and Percentage Point (PP) Gap | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
| | Cohort Size | 1st Spring | 2nd Fall | 2nd Spring | 3rd Fall | 3rd Spring | 4th Fall | 4th Spring | 5th Fall | 5th Spring | 6th Fall | 6th Spring | 7th Fall |
| FA07 PP Gap | | -1.4 | 0.2 | 3.4 | -1.0 | -2.2 | 1.0 | 0.3 | -1.4 | -3.8 | -4.3 | -0.1 | 0.1 |
| Non-Alliance | 4242 | 94.3 | 82.8 | 77.3 | 72.9 | 71.7 | 70.6 | 69.9 | 68.2 | 67.9 | 67.4 | 67.3 | 67.5 |
| Alliance | 46 | 95.7 | 82.6 | 73.9 | 73.9 | 73.9 | 69.6 | 69.6 | 69.6 | 71.7 | 71.7 | 67.4 | 67.4 |
| FA08 PP Gap | | 0.7 | 4.5 | 15.4 | 22.8 | 21.2 | 20.0 | 20.4 | 26.5 | 23.9 | 25.3 | | |
| Non-Alliance | 4255 | 95.0 | 83.7 | 79.6 | 75.6 | 74.0 | 72.8 | 71.3 | 69.9 | 69.2 | 68.7 | | |
| Alliance | 53 | 94.3 | 79.2 | 64.2 | 52.8 | 52.8 | 52.8 | 50.9 | 43.4 | 45.3 | 43.4 | | |
| FA09 PP Gap | | 1.5 | -5.3 | 0.5 | 7.8 | 12.9 | 10.1 | 7.8 | 7.0 | | | | |
| Non-Alliance | 4144 | 94.7 | 84.5 | 80.2 | 75.6 | 73.9 | 72.8 | 72.2 | 69.7 | | | | |
| Alliance | 59 | 93.2 | 89.8 | 79.7 | 67.8 | 61.0 | 62.7 | 64.4 | 62.7 | | | | |
| FA10 PP Gap | | 1.9 | -0.9 | -1.1 | 17.0 | 17.8 | 16.5 | | | | | | |
| Non-Alliance | 4324 | 95.2 | 83.5 | 78.9 | 74.8 | 73.4 | 72.1 | | | | | | |
| Alliance | 45 | 93.3 | 84.4 | 80.0 | 57.8 | 55.6 | 55.6 | | | | | | |
| FA11 PP Gap | | 3.9 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 3.0 | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Alliance | 4350 | 95.2 | 84.7 | 80.3 | 76.9 | | | | | | | | |
| Alliance | 69 | 91.3 | 82.6 | 78.3 | 73.9 | | | | | | | | |
| FA12 PP Gap | | 3.2 | 9.9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Alliance | 4393 | 94.3 | 86.7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alliance | 56 | 91.1 | 76.8 | | | | | | | | | | |

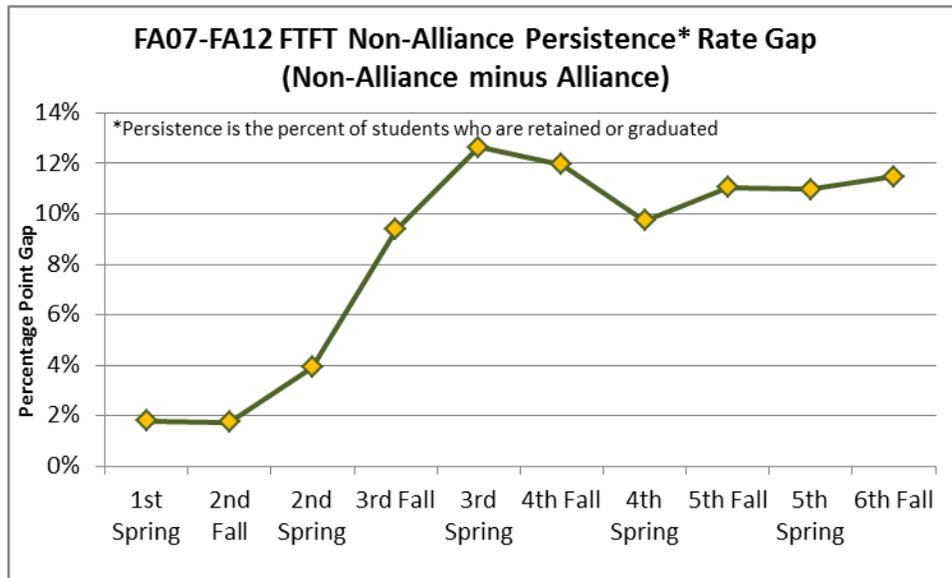
*Persistence is the percent of students who are retained or graduated

As shown in table 2, there is some variation in the performance Alliance students between cohorts. For instance, 89.8% of the FA09 Alliance cohort persisted to the 2nd fall semester compared to only 84.5% of the non-Alliance cohort; in FA09 the Alliance group has a freshman retention rate that is 5.3 percentage points higher than the non-Alliance group. However, among the FA12 cohorts the Alliance group has a freshman retention rate that is 9.9 percentage points lower than the non-Alliance group. This range of variation is present in all semesters, but on average the gaps are largest for the FA08 and FA10 cohorts and smallest for FA07 and FA11 cohorts.

Overall Persistence

Overall Alliance students have persistence rates that are lower than non-Alliance students. Figure 1 below shows the percentage point difference in persistence rates for non-Alliance compared to Alliance students over all possible cohorts. This analysis is ignoring any variation between cohorts.

Figure 1.



As shown in figure 1, the percentage point gap is relatively small for Alliance students (compared to non-alliance students) through the second year; however, by the 3rd fall the gap increases to nearly 10 percentages points and this gap is maintained through the 6th fall. In other words, Alliance students persist at a rate that is close to the non-Alliance rate through the second year but after the second year Alliance students persist at a rate that is considerably lower than the non-Alliance rate. The majority of students who leave CSU do so by their second fall semester; however, for Alliance students the external pressures to drop out of school appear to persist into the third and fourth academic years. This could indicate that the Alliance students are in need of extra support beyond the second year.

Graduation by Cohort

Student graduation is defined as the percent of students who graduated among those in the cohort. Graduation is tracked from the fourth year through the sixth year for the cohorts included in this study. Due to the timing of this report graduation is available through the SM13 semester. A graduation rate tracks students through the summer of the specified year and the half year graduation rate tracks students through the fall semester of the succeeding year. For instance, the 5.5 year graduation rate allows students the opportunity to graduate any time in or before their 6th fall semester while the 5 year graduation rate captures graduation in or before their 5th summer semester. Table 3 displays the percentage point gap (PP), non-Alliance minus Alliance, in graduation rates as well as the rates (%) for Alliance and non-Alliance students.

Table 3.

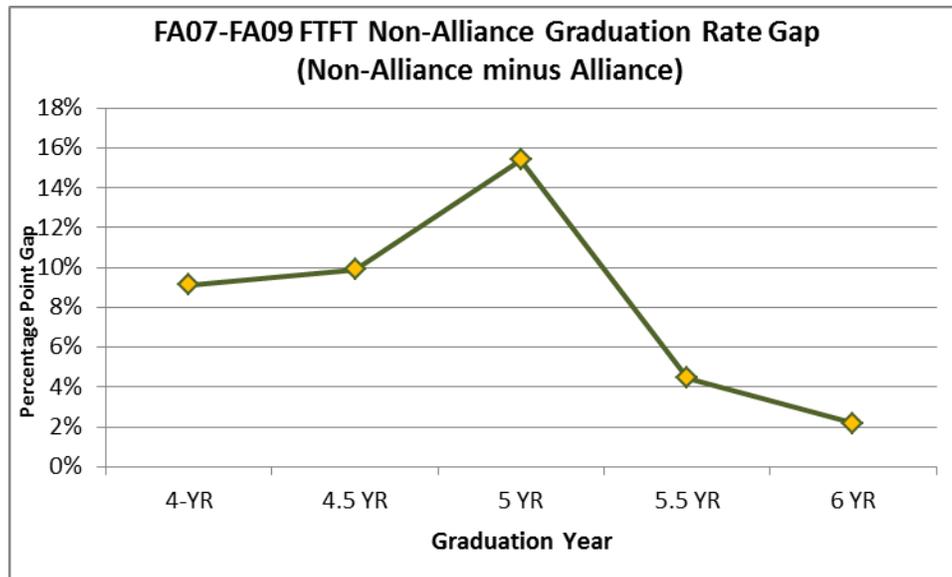
| Non-Alliance/Alliance Graduation Rates (%) and Percentage Point (PP) Gap | | | | | | |
|--|------|--------|------|--------|------|------|
| Cohort Size | 4 YR | 4.5 YR | 5 YR | 5.5 YR | 6 YR | |
| FA07 PP Gap | -1.4 | -0.7 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 2.2 | |
| Non-Alliance | 4242 | 37.7 | 49.3 | 60.6 | 63.1 | 65.2 |
| Alliance | 46 | 39.1 | 50.0 | 56.5 | 58.7 | 63.0 |
| FA08 PP Gap | 17.0 | 19.2 | 25.5 | | | |
| Non-Alliance | 4255 | 39.6 | 51.3 | 63.2 | | |
| Alliance | 53 | 22.6 | 32.1 | 37.7 | | |
| FA09 PP Gap | 10.7 | | | | | |
| Non-Alliance | 4144 | 41.2 | | | | |
| Alliance | 59 | 30.5 | | | | |

Similar to the persistence rates, there is variation in the graduation rates between the Alliance cohorts. For instance, 39.1% of the FA07 Alliance cohort graduated within four years compared to only 37.7% of the FA07 non-Alliance group; thus, the FA07 Alliance cohort has a four year graduation rate that is 1.4 percentage points higher than the non-Alliance group. However, among the FA08 cohorts the Alliance group has a five year graduation rate that is 25.5 percentage points lower than the non-Alliance group. Overall the Alliance cohort in FA07 has the highest graduation rates and the Alliance cohort in FA08 has the lowest graduation rates. This difference between cohorts is partially due to factors that are beyond the institutions control such as prior academic preparation, student demographics, and other external factors. However, there could be programmatic differences that partially explain the difference in graduation performance between cohorts.

Overall Graduation

Overall Alliance students have graduation rates that are lower than non-Alliance students. Figure 1 below shows the percentage point difference in graduation rates for non-Alliance compared to Alliance students over all possible cohorts. This analysis is ignoring any variation between cohorts.

Figure 2.

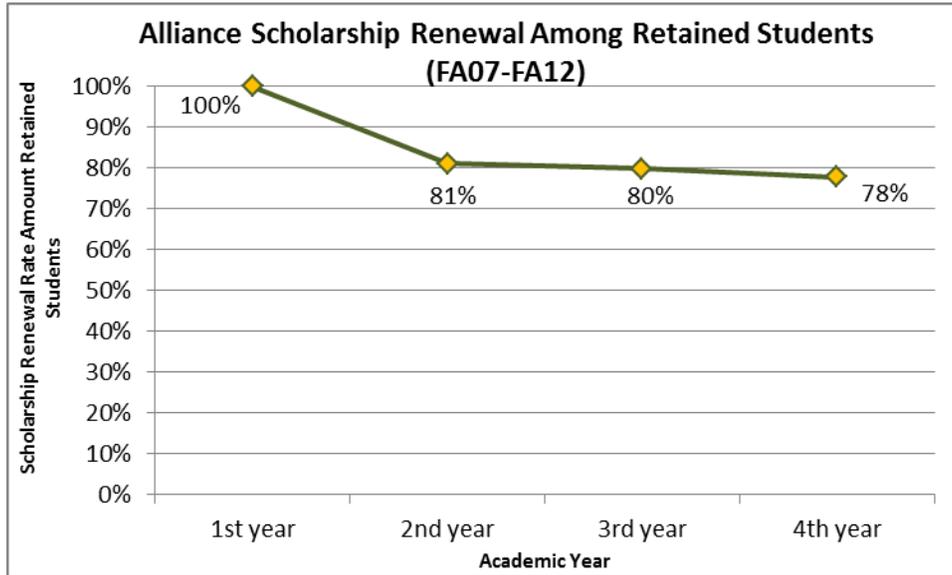


Similar to the persistence rates there is an interesting trend over time in the gap between non-Alliance and Alliance graduation rates. At four, four and half, and five years the gap between non-Alliance and Alliance is at least 10 percentage points; however, by five and half and six years the gap decreases to four and two percentage points (respectively). This could indicate that Alliance students eventually graduate at a rate that is similar to non-Alliance students, but they are taking longer to graduate. A possible implication of this finding could relate to the Alliance scholarship renewal criteria. This population might benefit from receiving a fifth year scholarship renewal (the current award is eligible for four years of renewal). A limitation of the current study is that five and half and six year rates only include the FA07 Alliance cohort (a high performing cohort) so some of this trend could be due to the cohort effect rather than an overall trend seen in the Alliance students.

Scholarship Renewal

Figure 3 displays the percent of Alliance students whose scholarship is renewed among those retained to the specified year.

Figure 3.



All students in the Alliance grouping received the Alliance scholarship in their cohort year; therefore, 100% of the students received the scholarship in their first year. Among those students who got the scholarship in the first year and are retained to the second year, only 81% of them received an Alliance renewal scholarship. This means that about 19% of the Alliance cohort who enrolled for their second year at CSU did not meet the renewal criteria to receive a second year of scholarship funding. Similar proportions of students receive the renewal award in the third and fourth year. The biggest drop off in scholarship funding (because of lack of renewal) is between the first and second year.

There is a strong positive association among second year scholarship receipt and third year retention:

- Among the Alliance students who are retained to the second year, but did not receive an Alliance Award in their second year **61% DO NOT persist to the third year.**
- Among the Alliance students who are retained to the second year and receive an Alliance Award in their second year **88% DO persist to the third year.**

The dramatic increase in the persistence rate gap for Alliance students in the third year compared to the second year could be partially due to the large proportion of Alliance students who lose eligibility for their scholarship in the second year. The persistence rate gap suggests that this population of students could benefit from support services continued through the second year and beyond. Additionally the renewal proportions suggest that Alliance students need support services during the first year to ensure that their academic performance meets the renewal criteria for second year scholarship receipt.

Conclusions

- Alliance students are more likely to be minority, first generation, Pell recipients, and have a slightly lower index compared to CSU's FTFT cohorts.
- The representation of first generation, Pell recipient, and minority students among the Alliance Scholarship group has increased dramatically from the inaugural cohort in FA07 to FA12.
 - The demographic attributes of Alliance students are also attributes that CSU has determined to be associated with lower rates of persistence and graduation.
- There is variation in the student graduation and persistence rates among Alliance cohorts. Among all six of the Alliance cohorts included in this study, on average the FA08 and FA10 cohorts have the lowest persistence rates and the FA07 and FA11 cohorts have the highest persistence rates. In terms of graduation rates, the FA07 cohort has relatively high graduation rates.
 - This variation is partially due to student attributes and other external factors. However, there could be programmatic differences that also contribute to the differences in student success among cohorts.
 - It is recommended that program administrators discuss this variation within the context of programmatic differences by year in order to hypothesize about effective and ineffective processes.
- Overall Alliance students have persistence rates that are lower than non-Alliance students; however, the timing of Alliance attrition is different than the overall FTFT cohort.
 - Alliance students persist at a rate that is close to the non-Alliance rate through the second year but after the second year Alliance students persist at a rate that is considerably lower than the non-Alliance rate.
 - This could indicate that the Alliance students are in need of extra support in the second year and beyond.
- Overall Alliance students have graduation rates that are lower than non-Alliance students; however, the timing of Alliance graduation is different than the overall FTFT cohort.
 - The gap in graduation rates is large prior to the 5th year; however, the gap decreases to a couple of percentage points after the 5th year.
 - This could indicate that Alliance students eventually graduate at a rate that is similar to non-Alliance students, but are taking a longer time to reach graduation.
 - An implication of this finding is that the Alliance population may benefit from an additional year of scholarship eligibility.
- Only about 80% of Alliance students that are retained have their scholarship renewed in subsequent years.
- There is a strong positive association between second year scholarship renewal and third year retention.
 - Alliance students who don't get their scholarship renewed in the second year are not very likely to return for the third year and Alliance students who do get their scholarship renewed in the second year are very likely to return for the third year.
 - The dramatic increase in the persistence rate gap for Alliance students in the third year compared to the second year could be partially due to the large proportion of Alliance students who lose eligibility for their scholarship in the second year.
 - This could indicate that Alliance students need extra support during the first year to ensure that their academic performance meets the renewability criteria.