Cumulative Rate of Degree or Certificate Completion

The data presented below provides some evidence that the cumulative rate of degree or certificate completion may be improving, indicating that more recent *new 1st time to college students* may be completing their degrees and certificates (i.e., achieving their educational goals) at a faster rate or more efficiently, than earlier cohorts. This could be the result of institutional efforts to provide clear and effective paths for students (*ARC Strategic Goal #2*)[1].

Specifically, the earliest cohort presented below (New, Fall 2016 students—dark blue line) did not achieve a cumulative degree or certificate completion rate of over 20% until 5 years later. By contrast, both the New, Fall 2017 (orange line) and New, Fall 2018 (grey line) cohorts exceeded that threshold in 4 years.

Although a slight dip was observed for the Fall 2019 cohort (yellow line), perhaps as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that began to influence outcomes in 2020, their rates still exceeded those of the Fall 2016 cohort. The Fall 2020 cohort (light blue) has also started out at a relatively strongly rate of 7% degree or certificate completion in 2 years.

THE CUMULATIVE RATE OF DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE COMPLETION BY EACH 1ST TIME, NEW-TO-COLLEGE COHORT SHOWS SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT FROM FALL 16 TO FALL 20
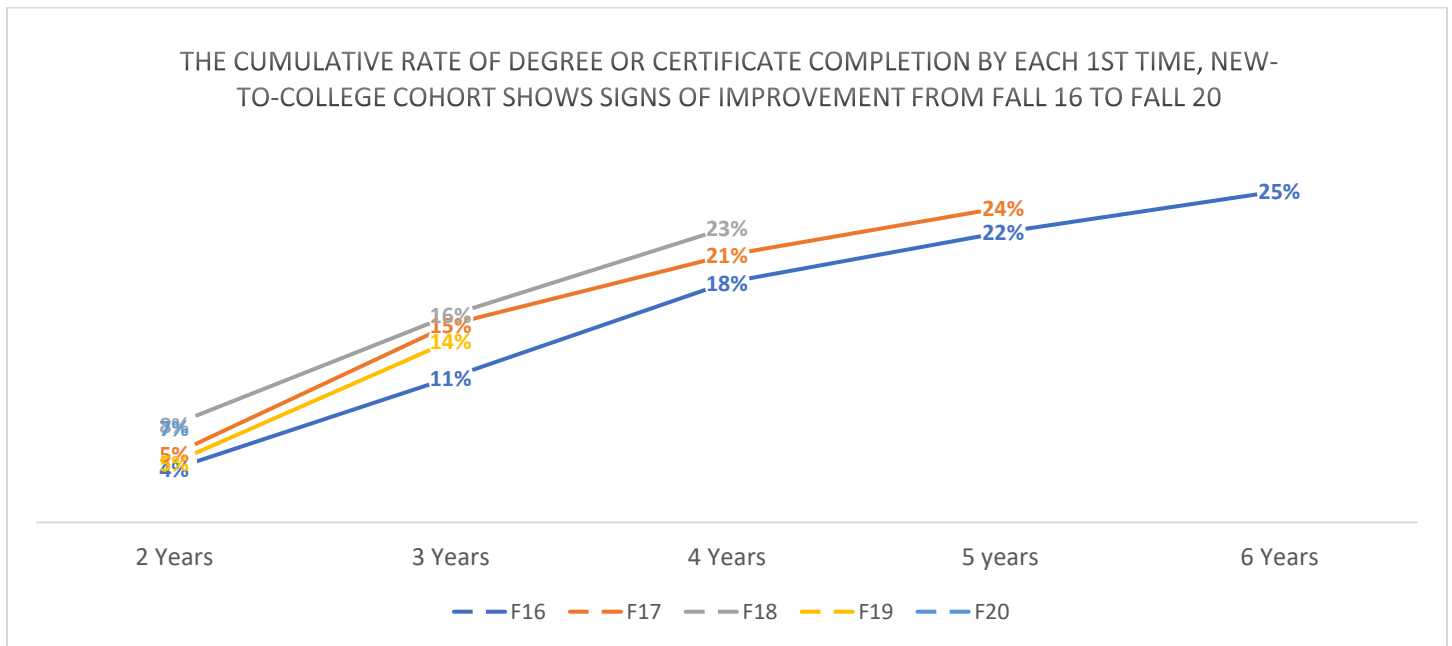
Cumulative Rate of Degree or Certificate Completion

	2 Years	3 Years	4 Years	5 years	6 Years
F16	4%	11%	18%	22%	25%
F17	5%	15%	21%	24%	
F18	8%	16%	23%		
F19	5%	14%			
F20	7%				

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[1] *Includes Public Safety and Apprenticeship Programs. Source: New, 1st time to college student cohort lists extracted from ARC Research Database. These cohort lists were then imported into ARC Data on Demand (Precision Campus) using the Manage Cohorts functionality and counts of degree or certificate completion were extracted from the Precision Campus Factbook using these Cohorts as ad hoc user-generated filters.*