

National Student Clearinghouse

In efforts to monitor and support student completion data, the Commission required colleges to select a key student completion metric and peer institutions for comparison. Craven Community College chose to utilize National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data as an additional form of measuring student achievement, specifically student completion data.

When comparing Craven's completion rates using the SACSCOC graduation rate, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) overall graduation rate, IPEDS outcome measure, and National Student Clearinghouse total completion rate, Craven administrators felt strongly that the NSC data was the more comprehensive resource for the institution as it included first-time degree- and certificate-seeking students attending the College, both full-time and part-time, and tracks completions at subsequent institutions. Because Craven is an open-admissions college, enrollment consists of a significant number of nontraditional students who may advance at a slower pace than traditional students and transfer to other institutions to continue their education. A six-year graduation rate allows better tracking of the long-term success of all Craven students.

The National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Six-Year Total Graduation Rate looks at first-time students who have not attended any postsecondary institution after high school. NSC tracks students over a six-year period to see if they have completed at Craven, at another two-year institution, at a four-year institution, are still enrolled at any institution, or are not enrolled at any institution. Craven disaggregates those students by enrollment intensity, gender, age at first entry, and race/ethnicity.

The National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Total Completion Rate criterion aligns with many of Craven's Strategic Goals for Teaching and Learning and Student-Centered Experience. The purpose of these goals are to increase the number of students leaving with job-ready credentials that can lead to successful employment in a global economy and provide better skills, better jobs, better pay, and continued educational attainment. In addition, successful student completion of a credential supports the College's mission.

Six-Year Graduation Rate

Craven seeks to increase the six-year completion rate for first-time fall credential-seeking (Degree, diploma, or certificate) students who have graduated from secondary education institutions.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness uses the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) StudentTracker query services to develop longitudinal cohort reports to examine the six-year total graduation rate for the specific entering cohorts. In alignment with the College's mission to be a responsive and dynamic institution. The threshold of acceptability is the moving average for the previous three years. The threshold of acceptability and goal for this criterion was discussed and accepted by the College's Executive Leadership Team. The dynamic threshold of acceptability aligns with Craven's process for establishing baselines, standards, and targets for performance metrics.

The goal for this outcome is to exceed the acceptability threshold by 2% annually. For AY 2020-21, the threshold of acceptability was established by averaging the total six-year completion rate for entering cohorts in Fall 2012, Fall 2013, and Fall 2014.

Table 1

National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Graduation Rate by Cohort Year

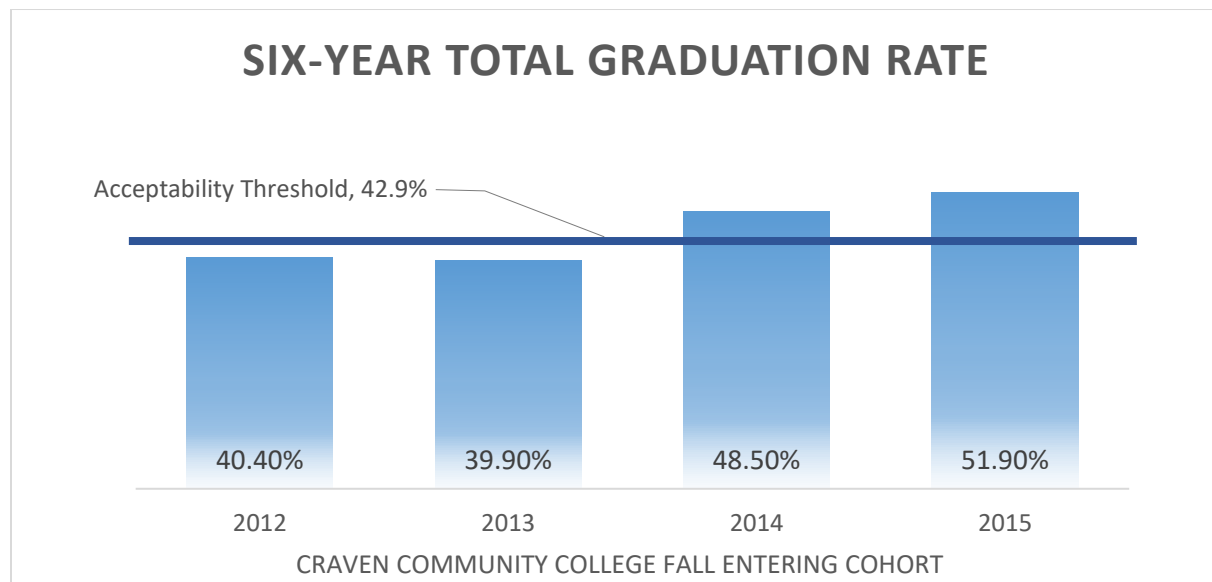
Criteria	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	3-Year Mean	Fall 2015
Six-Year Total Graduation Rate	40.4%	39.9%	48.5%	42.9%	51.9%

Source: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Longitudinal Cohort Reports

For first-time credential-seeking students in the fall of 2015 entering cohort (n=462), the six-year completion rate is 51.9% (n=240). Craven exceeded the threshold of acceptability of 42.9% by 9% and surpassed the goal of 44.9%.

Figure 1

National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Graduation Rate



Comparison Data. Craven opted to compare completion rates to both the North Carolina two-year public institutions and national two-year public institutions. Craven selected the North Carolina two-year public institutions because it included all 58 of the North Carolina Community Colleges and the national two-year public institutions due to the accessibility of the NSC Research Center’s StudentTracker Postsecondary Completions Institutional Benchmark Reports. Table 2 provides a summary of the completion comparison data.

Table 2

Completion Comparison for 2015 Cohort

<i>Benchmark Groups</i>	<i>Total Enrolled</i>	<i>Total Completion Rate</i>	<i>Still Enrolled (at any institution) *</i>	<i>Not Enrolled (at any institution)</i>
	<i>(n)</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Craven Community College</i>	<i>462</i>	<i>51.9%</i>	<i>21.6%</i>	<i>37.7%</i>
<i>North Carolina Two-Year Institutions</i>	<i>39,638</i>	<i>46.3%</i>	<i>9.9%</i>	<i>43.8%</i>
<i>National Two-Year Institutions</i>	<i>744,101</i>	<i>42.2%</i>	<i>12.6%</i>	<i>45.2%</i>

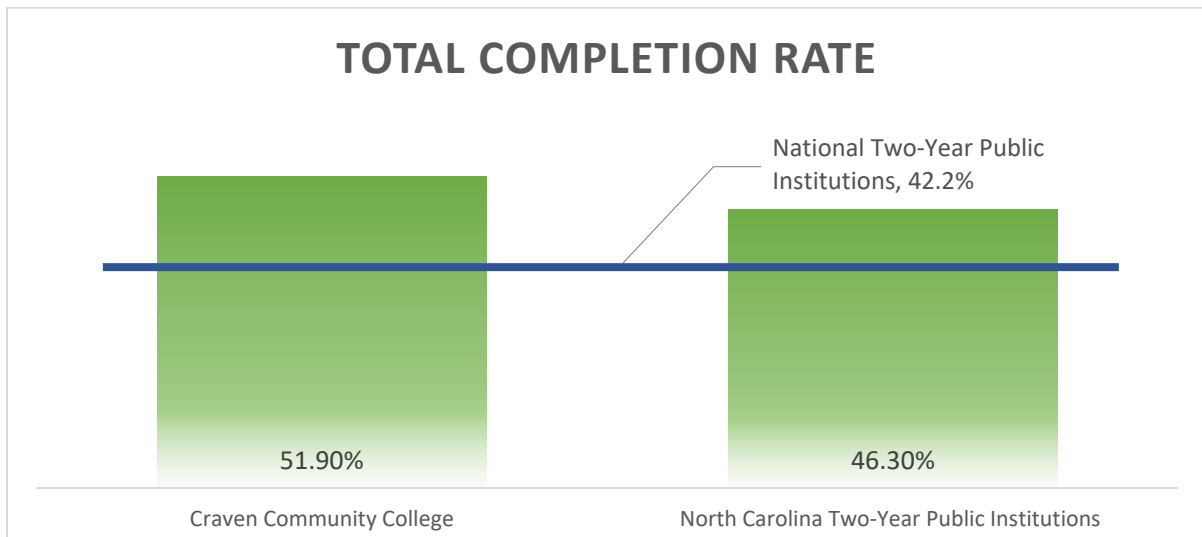
Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Longitudinal Cohort Reports; NSC Research Center – Signature Report 20– Completing College National and State Report – February 2022

**Data presented does not contain completers still enrolled at any institution.*

Craven’s overall six-year completion rate for the 2015 Fall entering cohort (51.9%) exceeded the national benchmark for two-year public institutions (42.2%) by 9.7% and the North Carolina two-year public institutions benchmark (46.3%) by 5.6%.

Figure 2

National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Completion Rate – Fall 2015 Cohort Benchmark Group



Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Longitudinal Cohort Reports; NSC Research Center – Signature Report 20– Completing College National and State Report – February 2022

To support continual improvement, Craven will monitor the six-year graduation rate benchmark group of national two-year public institutions and the North Carolina two-year public

institutions. The College’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness will continue to work with key administrators, faculty, and staff to seek best practices that may help increase student achievement.

Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 disaggregate the student completion data by age at first entry, enrollment intensity, gender, and race/ethnicity, respectively.

Table 3

National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Graduation Rate by Age at First Entry

Criteria	Overall	20 or Younger	21-24	Older than 24
Total Enrolled (n)	462	362	45	55
Total Completion (%)	51.9%	46.7%	31.1%	60.0%
First Completion at Craven (%)	31.2%	30.1%	15.6%	50.9%
First Completion at Another Institution: 2-Year (%)	5.1%	4.9%	6.7%	5.5%
First Completion at Another Institution: 4-Year (%)	15.6%	18.2%	8.9%	3.6%
Subsequent Completion at a 4-Year (%)	8.9%	10.8%	2.2%	7.3%
Total 4-Year Completion Rate (%)	24.5%	28.7%	6.7%	10.9%
Still Enrolled at any Institution (%) *	21.6%	44.5%	31.1%	18.8%
Not Enrolled at any Institution (%)	37.7%	35.4%	55.6%	38.2%

Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Longitudinal Cohort Reports; Datatel UI by Informer

**Data includes graduates who subsequently enrolled after their first completion*

The majority (62%) of Craven’s fall 2015 entering cohort of students were 20 years old or younger. These students represent a higher percentage of completers at Craven, at completing a four-year degree and subsequent completion at a four-year college or university. However, more 21 to 24-year-olds successfully completed at another two-year institution and are more likely to be still enrolled at a post-secondary institution. Students older than 24 were more likely to be no longer enrolled at a post-secondary institution.

Table 4*National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Graduation Rate by Enrollment Intensity*

Criteria	Overall	Exclusively Full-Time	Exclusively Part-Time	Mixed Enrollment
Total Enrolled (n)	462	71	164	227
Total Completion (%)	51.9%	56.3%	40.2%	59.0%
First Completion at Craven (%)	31.2%	32.4%	7.9%	47.6%
First Completion at Another Institution: 2-Year (%)	5.2%	4.2%	4.9%	5.7%
First Completion at Another Institution: 4-Year (%)	15.6%	19.7%	27.4%	5.7%
Subsequent Completion at a 4-Year (%)	9.3%	15.5%	1.2%	13.2%
Total 4-Year Completion Rate (%)	24.5%	35.2%	27.4%	18.9%
Still Enrolled at any Institution (%)	40.0%	26.8%	37.2%	46.3%
Not Enrolled at any Institution (%)	37.7%	39.4%	46.3%	30.8%

Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Longitudinal Cohort Reports; Datatel UI by Informer

*Data includes graduates who subsequently enrolled after their first completion

The majority (59%) of students identified in the cohort of completers were mixed enrollment. Mixed enrollment includes students who attended both full-time and part-time over the course of their enrollment at the College. It is interesting to note that the exclusively part-time students did not successfully complete at Craven or another two-year institution but did at another four-year institution. Even though this is a relatively small number of students, this is an area in which the Office of Institutional Effectiveness can focus attention through a deeper dive into data and develop strategies to improve the success rates of exclusively part-time students.

Table 5*National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Graduation Rate by Gender*

Criteria	Overall	Male	Female
Total Enrolled (n)	462	215	247
Total Completion (%)	51.9%	44.2%	58.7%
First Completion at Craven (%)	31.2%	28.4%	33.6%
First Completion at Another Institution: 2-Year (%)	5.1%	4.2%	6.1%
First Completion at Another Institution: 4-Year (%)	15.6%	11.6%	19.1%
Subsequent Completion at a 4-Year (%)	8.9%	7.4%	10.1%
Total 4-Year Completion Rate (%)	24.5%	19.1%	29.2%
Still Enrolled at any Institution (%) *	40.4%	34.4%	44.9%
Not Enrolled at any Institution (%)	37.7%	45.6%	30.8%

Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Longitudinal Cohort Reports; Datatel UI by Informer

*Data includes graduates who subsequently enrolled after their first completion

The cohort was predominately female (58.7%) compared to 44.2% male. Interestingly, females were more successful with had higher completion rates across all institutions. Females were also more likely to subsequently enroll and complete at a 4-year institution and still be enrolled at any institution.

Table 6***National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Graduation Rate by Race/Ethnicity***

Criteria	Overall	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Other	Unknown
Total Enrolled (n)	462	14	82	37	255	9	65
Total Completion (%)	51.9%	78.6%	35.4%	45.9%	55.7%	66.7%	53.8%
First Completion at Craven (%)	31.2%	42.9%	18.3%	21.6%	30.2%	55.6%	50.8%
First Completion at Another Institution: 2-Year (%)	5.2%	7.1%	2.4%	8.1%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%
First Completion at Another Institution: 4-Year (%)	15.6%	28.6%	14.6%	16.2%	18.4%	11.1%	3.1%
Subsequent Completion at a 4-Year (%)	8.9%	0.0%	2.4%	8.6%	8.1%	8.6%	20.0%
Total 4-Year Completion Rate (%)	24.5%	28.6%	17.1%	24.3%	27.1%	22.2%	23.1%
Still Enrolled at any Institution (%)	39.8%	50.0%	31.7%	40.5%	38.4%	66.7%	50.8%
Not Enrolled at any Institution (%)	37.7%	14.3%	53.7%	40.5%	34.5%	22.2%	35.4%

Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Longitudinal Cohort Reports; Datatel UI by Informer

**Data includes graduates who subsequently enrolled after their first completion*

The Asian population had the highest six-year completion rate out of all race/ethnicity populations for the 2015 Fall entering cohort. What is interesting to note, however, is that 53.8% of students in the cohort did not identify their race/ethnicity on their application, as it is a voluntary field. Therefore, the College is unable to accurately report the six-year graduation rate by race/ethnicity at this time. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness will work with the Office of Admissions and Records to discuss a better way to collect this data in the future.

Continuous Improvement. The interpretation of the disaggregate data indicates that increased efforts are needed in the support of students who are (1) male; (2) age 25 or older at the time of college entry; and (3) enroll part-time, exclusively. College efforts to continuously improve in this metric include the expansion of advising practices that demonstrated success in Craven's most recent Quality Enhancement Plan, and the implementation of a new Underserved Minority Male program was proposed in the Summer of 2022 and recently funded through a Longleaf Commitment Community Grant sponsored by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges. Additionally, an increased emphasis will be placed on increasing the retention and persistence of students through the use of the College's Institutional Effectiveness Committee.