

Student Achievement Trend Analysis 2026

NSC Six-Year Completion Rate

Completion at Any Institution

This measure reflects the percentage of first-time curriculum/degree-seeking students who completed a credential within six years at Craven Community College or another participating institution, based on National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) cohort data.

For this measure, the Baseline, or threshold of acceptability, is defined as the national public two-year three-year running average for the cohort year and two preceding cohort years. The College's minimum aspiration is for its students to outperform at an above-average level nationally.

The Excellence level is defined as the NCCCS three-year running average for the cohort year and two preceding cohort years. This benchmark reflects the College's goal of performing among stronger peer institutions within the North Carolina Community College System.

In addition to reviewing results against the established Baseline and Excellence levels, the College monitors annual cohort results for Craven CC, national public two-year institutions, and the NCCCS as part of its trend analysis. These results are used to identify patterns in student completion and to support ongoing improvement efforts.

Table 1: Annual Six-Year Completion Rates by Cohort

COHORT	NATIONAL PUBLIC TWO-YEAR COMPLETION RATE	NCCCS COMPLETION RATE	CRAVEN CC COMPLETION RATE
FALL 2013	41.5%	42.2%	--
FALL 2014	41.9%	41.8%	--
FALL 2015	41.9%	46.1%	48.3%
FALL 2016	42.6%	47.4%	47.8%
FALL 2017	42.8%	48.9%	50.5%
FALL 2018	43.9%	50.3%	45.1%
FALL 2019	43.9%	49.9%	45.0%

Fall 2013 and 2014 are included to support calculation of the three-year running averages.

Source: <https://nscresearchcenter.org/yearly-progress-and-completion/>

Table 2: Six-Year Completion Performance Analysis

COHORT	BASELINE: NATIONAL THREE-YEAR RUNNING AVERAGE	EXCELLENCE: NCCCS THREE-YEAR RUNNING AVERAGE	CRAVEN CC RESULT	STATUS
FALL 2015	41.5%	43.4%	48.3%	Met Excellence
FALL 2016	41.8%	45.1%	47.8%	Met Excellence
FALL 2017	42.4%	47.5%	50.5%	Met Excellence
FALL 2018	43.1%	48.9%	45.1%	Met Baseline
FALL 2019	43.5%	49.7%	45.0%	Met Baseline

Baseline is defined as the national public two-year three-year running average for the current cohort year and two preceding cohort years. Excellence is defined as the NCCCS three-year running average for the current cohort year and two preceding cohort years.

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Fall-To-Fall Retention Rate

First-Time Student Retention is defined as the percentage of students who enroll at Craven Community College for the first time in a given fall term, regardless of enrollment intensity or prior postsecondary experience, and re-enroll in the following fall term. This institutional measure provides a high-level view of student persistence by including both full-time and part-time students.

For this measure, the Baseline, or threshold of acceptability, is defined as three percentage points below the national public two-year three-year running average for the corresponding retention year. This benchmark provides a minimum acceptable level of performance while accounting for annual variation in national retention outcomes.

The Excellence level is defined as three percentage points above the national public two-year three-year running average for the corresponding retention year. This benchmark reflects the College's goal of performing above national public two-year retention levels.

In addition to reviewing results against the established Baseline and Excellence levels, the College monitors annual retention results for Craven CC and national public two-year institutions as part of its trend analysis. These results are used to identify patterns in student persistence and to support ongoing improvement efforts.

Table 3: Annual Fall-to-Fall Retention Rates

RETENTION YEAR	NATIONAL PUBLIC TWO-YEAR RETENTION RATE	NATIONAL THREE- YEAR RUNNING AVERAGE	CRAVEN CC RETENTION RATE
2018 TO 2019	54.6%	--	52.2%
2019 TO 2020	52.4%	--	51.5%
2020 TO 2021	53.2%	53.4%	54.4%
2021 TO 2022	54.3%	53.3%	53.3%
2022 TO 2023	55.6%	54.4%	52.7%
2023 TO 2024	55.5%	55.1%	59.5%
2024 TO 2025	56.2%	55.8%	61.7%

Source: <https://nscresearchcenter.org/persistence-retention/>

Table 4: Fall-to-Fall Retention Performance Analysis

RETENTION YEAR	BASELINE: <i>average – 3 percentage points</i>	EXCELLENCE: <i>average + 3 percentage points</i>	CRAVEN CC RESULT	STATUS
2020 TO 2021	50.4%	56.4%	54.4%	Met Baseline
2021 TO 2022	50.3%	56.3%	53.3%	Met Baseline
2022 TO 2023	51.4%	57.4%	52.7%	Met Baseline
2023 TO 2024	52.1%	58.1%	59.5%	Met Excellence
2024 TO 2025	52.8%	58.8%	61.7%	Met Excellence