

STUDENT SUCCESS SNAPSHOT

Achieving Their Dreams: Trends in Enrollment and Success of Underserved Populations

"We give everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened." – Virginia's Community Colleges Mission Statement

Achieve 2015 emphasizes increasing the number and success of underserved students, also called under-represented populations (URP). Three-fifths of all URP undergraduates attending Virginia public colleges are VCCS students¹.

Definitions:

Under-represented population (URP): students who meet at least one of the following criteria: *location* – live in localities with lower higher education participation rates; *low income* – Pell recipients; *first generation* – first in their family to attend college; and/or *minority race/ethnicity*.

Cohort: students who were enrolled in VCCS at any time in the corresponding academic year. The enrollment numbers are unduplicated systemwide.

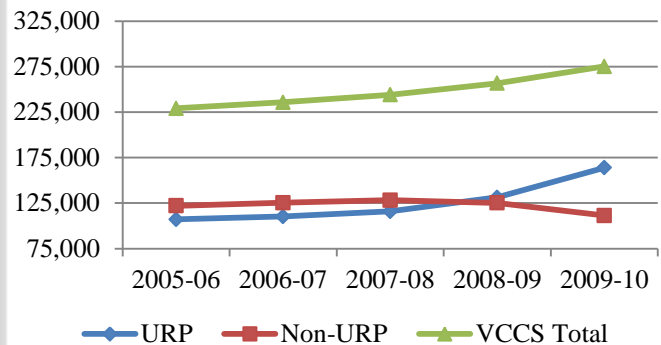
Highlights for 2009-10:

- Over 163,000 VCCS students were identified as URP – an increase of 24.5% over the previous year. First generation, minority, and Pell eligible students contributed almost equally to the growth.
- Nearly 35% of all students enrolled in non-credit workforce courses were considered URP (based on location and/or race only).
- Two-thirds (63%) of URP students were pursuing associate degrees, compared with 52% of non-URP. Enrollment in transfer degree programs is also higher for URP students – 41% vs. 36% for non-URP.
- A higher proportion of URP students enrolled in developmental education classes (40% vs. 25%). Furthermore, a lower percentage of URP students have a credit passing rate of 80% or more and a GPA of 2.0 or better.
- URP students graduated and/or transferred to 4 year institutions at a lower rate (19%) than non-URP students (28%).

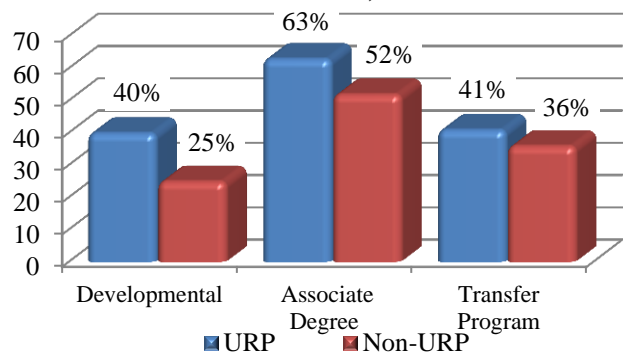
Reflections:

Virginia's Community Colleges play a critical role in providing access to postsecondary education for large numbers of URP students. To enhance attainment of graduation and transfer outcomes, colleges should seek early identification of URP students and direct them to existing support services such as tutoring and advising. Colleges should also consider implementing additional strategies and services targeted to URP students in order to move more of these students from access to success.

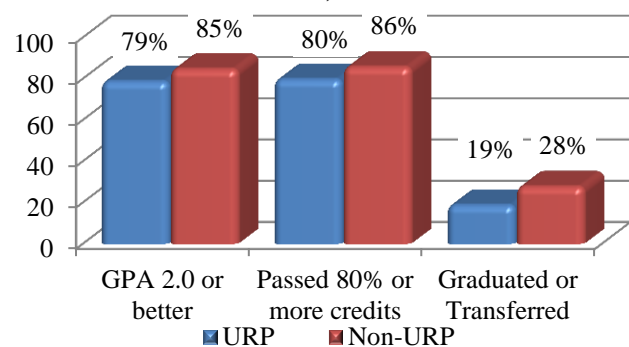
Five Year Trend for URP Enrollment



Academic Indicators of URP and non-URP Students, 2009-10



Success Rates for URP and non-URP Students, 2009-10



Profile and Success Measures for Students from Under-represented Populations (URP), 2009-10

College	Cohort	Profile						Success Measures						
		URP Students		Location	Low Income	Minority Race/Ethnicity	First Generation	Award Sought		Program		GPA 2.0 or better	Passing 80% or more credits	Graduated or Transferred
		N	%											
		N	%	% of cohort				% of URP Students						
Blue Ridge	6,610	3,384	51	15	24	15	18	61	18	42	37	79	80	19
Central Virginia	7,896	5,867	74	62	17	22	12	54	10	43	22	78	86	24
Dabney S. Lancaster	2,204	1,548	70	45	25	10	17	34	23	23	34	78	82	18
Danville	6,444	4,937	77	34	32	43	11	32	30	16	46	80	83	17
Eastern Shore	1,411	944	67	0	42	44	19	53	27	37	44	82	85	17
Germanna	9,590	4,296	45	0	16	27	16	55	27	46	36	78	76	17
J. Sargeant Reynolds	19,157	10,831	57	1	24	45	13	58	24	34	48	79	80	18
John Tyler	13,337	7,247	54	4	22	37	14	52	18	36	34	79	80	19
Lord Fairfax	8,823	4,484	51	18	20	14	18	52	21	41	32	81	82	18
Mountain Empire	4,444	2,754	62	24	42	3	17	54	28	27	54	79	75	18
New River	8,082	3,564	44	12	22	12	12	64	7	39	32	78	82	25
Northern Virginia	72,024	40,546	56	1	12	52	10	77	5	56	26	80	80	19
Patrick Henry	4,860	4,265	88	64	42	29	22	46	29	25	50	85	84	19
Paul D. Camp	2,407	1,566	65	2	34	44	21	49	23	32	40	81	80	15
Piedmont Virginia	7,307	3,509	48	14	18	24	13	68	6	57	17	80	82	18
Rappahannock	4,431	2,034	46	0	19	28	14	55	17	31	41	81	84	15
Southside Virginia	8,627	6,569	76	32	33	48	18	31	28	15	44	81	84	16
Southwest Virginia	5,480	3,537	65	31	35	4	19	49	28	28	48	85	80	19
Thomas Nelson	15,479	9,502	61	1	27	48	14	67	15	44	38	71	78	17
Tidewater	44,915	29,362	65	14	30	47	14	80	8	45	43	77	76	18
Virginia Highlands	3,732	3,449	92	86	34	4	19	49	19	30	38	84	85	22
Virginia Western	12,977	6,184	48	13	20	17	15	50	18	29	39	74	82	17
Wytheville	5,058	3,542	70	38	30	8	23	46	18	22	43	87	87	18
VCCS Total	275,295	163,921	60	13	22	38	14	63	14	41	37	79	80	19

How Were Data Generated?

- CRT student and SCHEV financial aid files were used to identify URP students, to generate demographic data, and to determine Pell recipients. CRT class files were used to identify developmental students. GPA and credits earned files were used to produce intermediate success measures.
- Graduation and transfer to four-year institutions information was retrieved from VCCS graduate files and National Student Clearinghouse files.

For More Information

Visit <http://www.vccs.edu/studentsuccess> to learn more about student success.

ⁱ Measure A.1.b: Under-represented Populations, 2010 IPS State Certification Report, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, http://research.schev.edu/ips/review/ips_status.asp?ID=A1b.