

# Achieving Their Dreams

Trends in Enrollment and Success  
of Underserved Students

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# Achieve 2015 and Underserved Students

## **Access Goal:**

***Increase the number of individuals who are educated and trained each year by Virginia's Community Colleges by 50,000 to an annual total of 423,000, with emphasis on increasing the number from underserved populations\* by at least 25,000 individuals.***

## **Success Goal:**

***Increase the number of students graduating, transferring or completing a workforce credential by 50%, including increasing the success of students from underserved populations\* by 75%.***

\* Also called under-represented populations (URP)

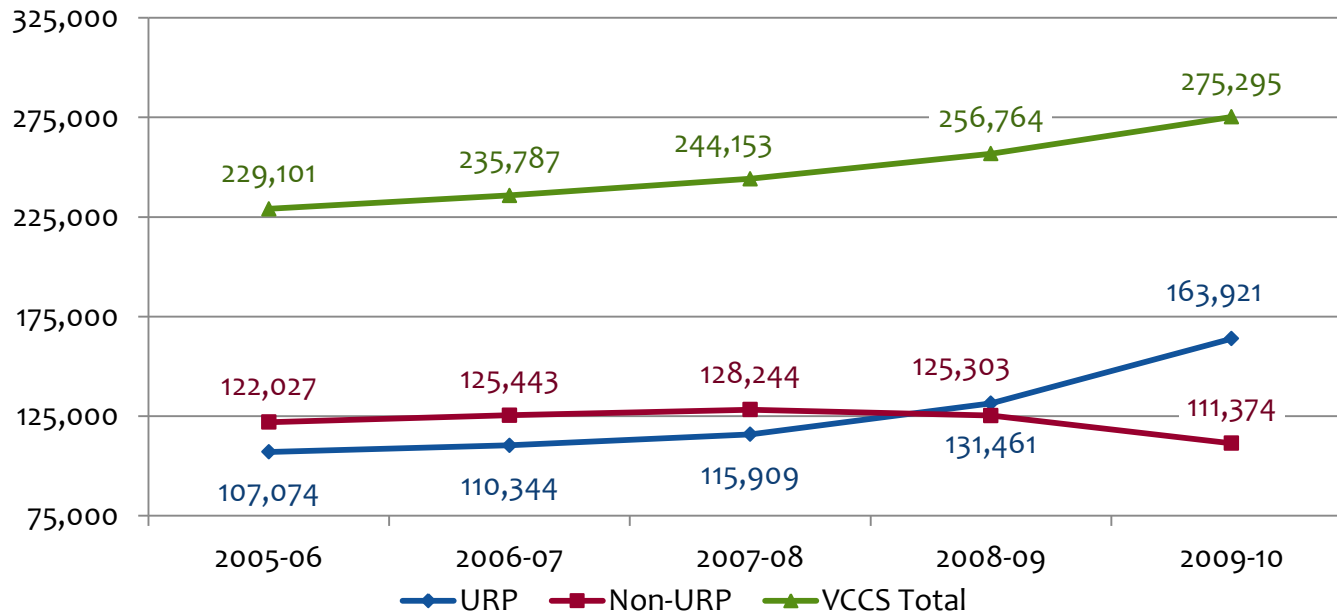
# Who are URP Students?

- \* Students who meet one or more of the following:
  - Low income – receiving a Pell Grant
  - Minority race or ethnicity
  - First Generation – first in their family to attend college
  - Location – living in a city or county in Virginia with lowest higher education participation rates
- \* VCCS serves 60% of all URP undergraduates at Virginia public institutions.



# Growth in Enrolled URP Students

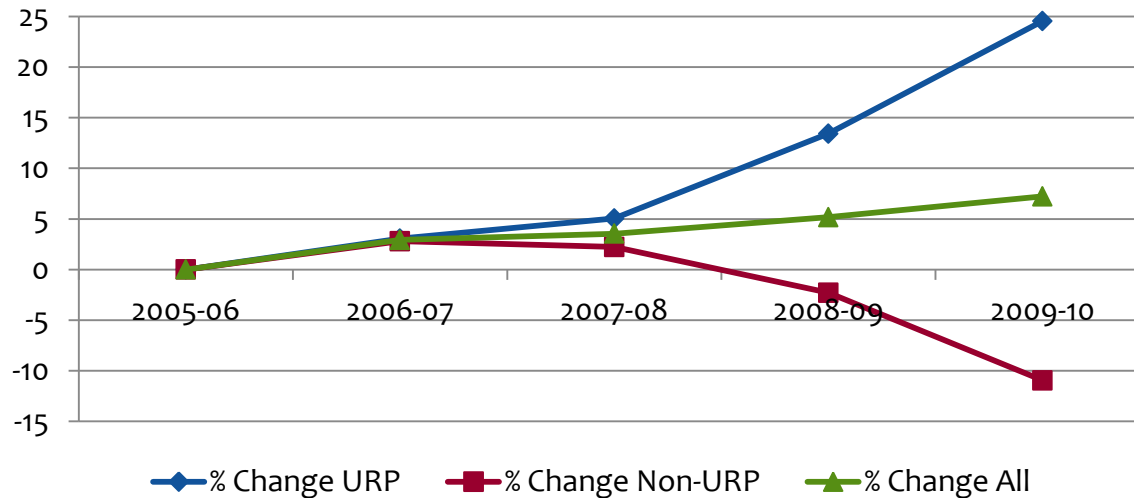
## Five Year Trend for URP Enrollment



- \* 59.5% of VCCS students were considered URP in 2009-10
- \* 53% increase in enrolled URP Students since 2005-06

# Percent Change in URP

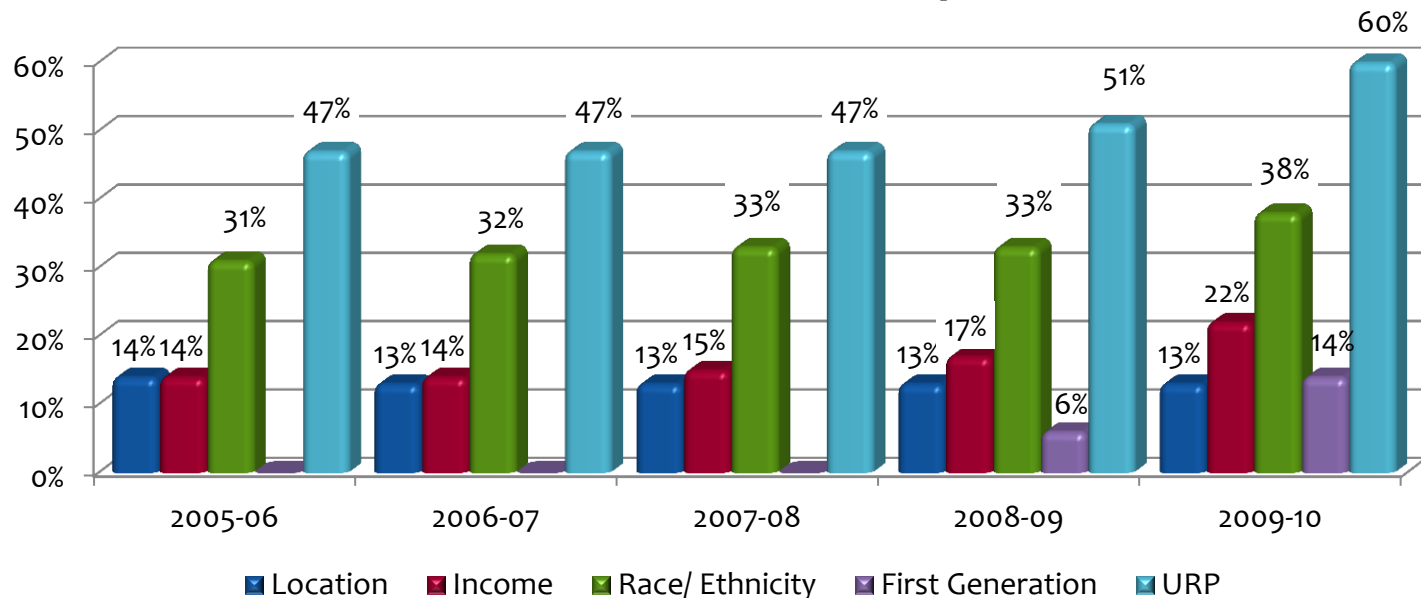
## Percentage Change in URP Enrollments



- \* Little divergence prior to 2006-07
- \* Change in reporting in Fall 2008

# Change in URP Population Composition

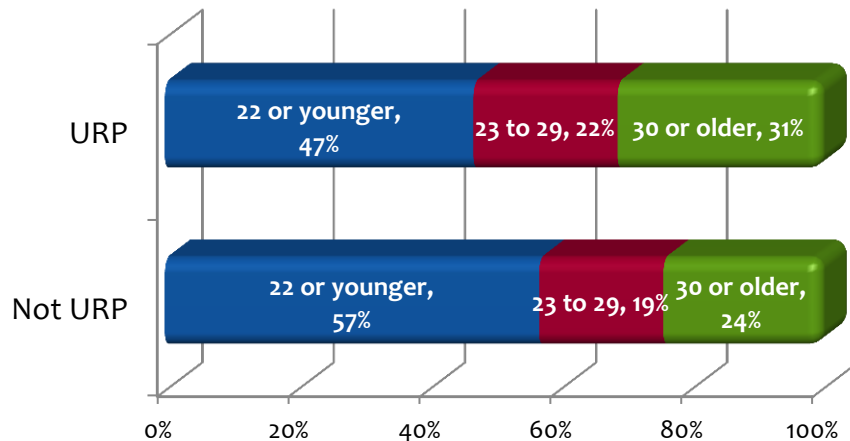
## Five Year Trend for URP Composition



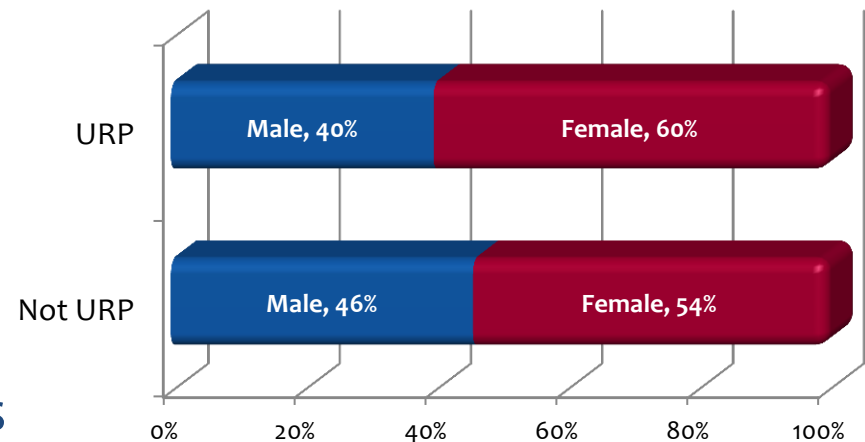
- \* 4% of growth attributed to first generation status
- \* Significant growth in low income and minority race/ethnicity

# Demographics: URP vs. Non-URP

## Age



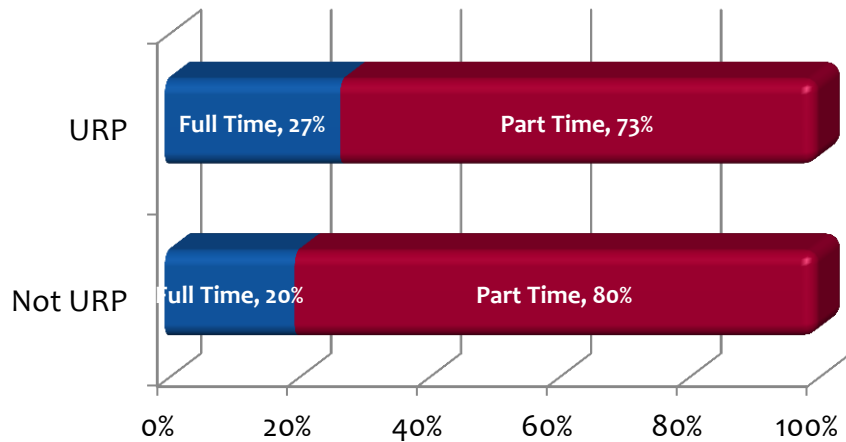
## Gender



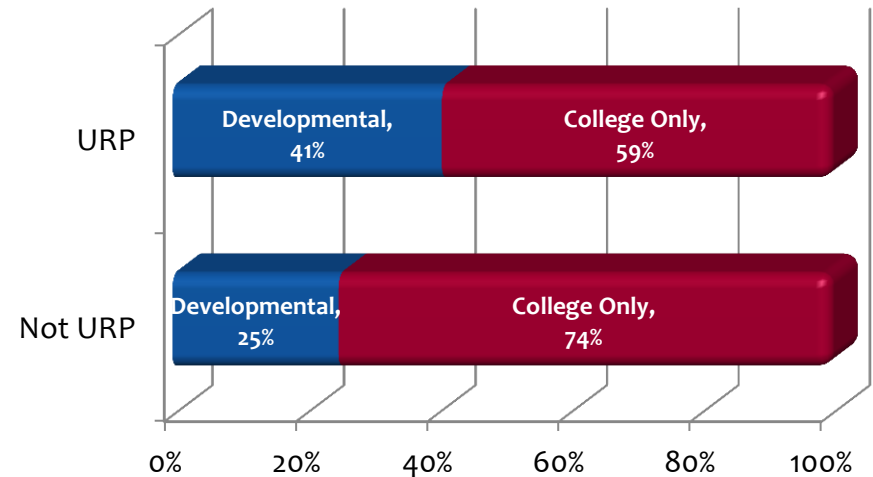
- \* More URP students are 23 years or older.
- \* More URP students are female.

# Academic Status: URP vs. Non-URP

## Full Time/Part Time



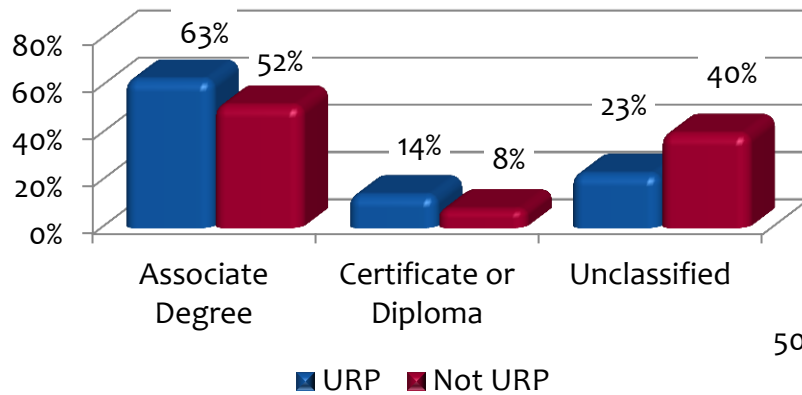
## Student Category



- \* One in four URP students are full-time.
- \* Two-fifths of URP students took developmental courses.

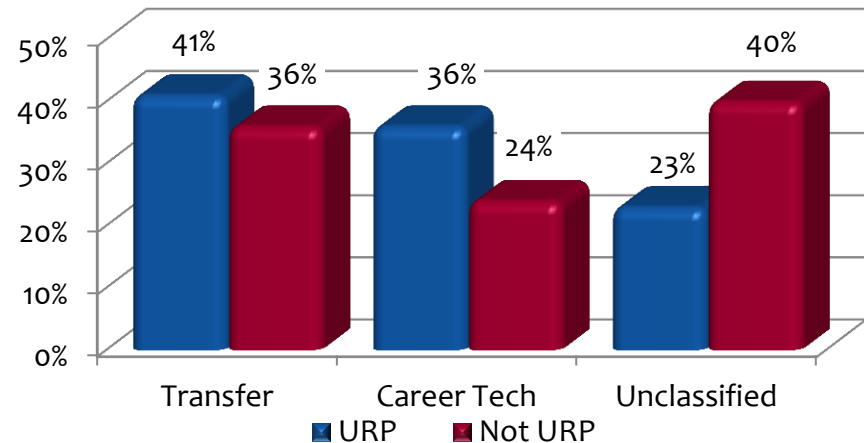
# Academic Goal: URP vs. Non-URP

## Award Sought



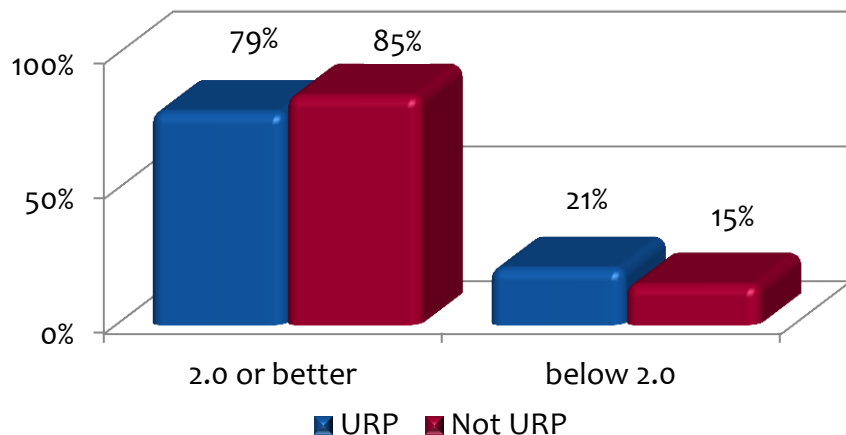
- \* More URP students enrolled in associate degrees.
- \* 77% of URP students are program placed compared to 60% of non-URP students.

## Program Type



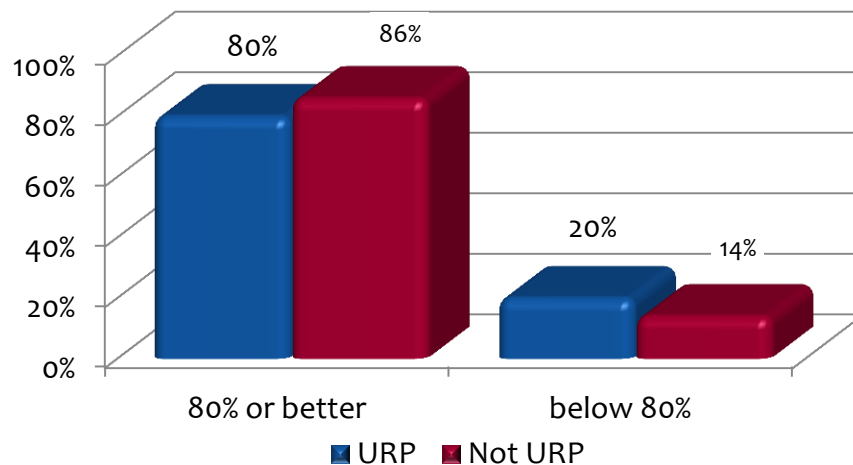
# Academic Success: URP vs. Non-URP

## GPA Distribution



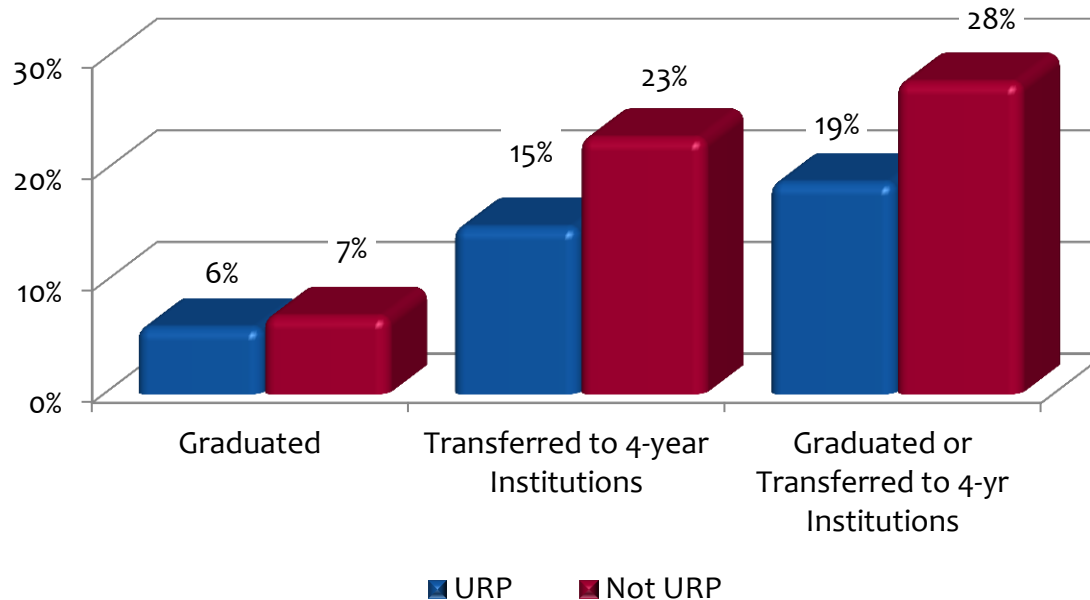
\* Slightly fewer URP students had GPAs of 2.0 or better and completed at least 80% of credits attempted.

## Credit Passing Rate



# Overall Success: URP vs. Non-URP

## Graduation and Transfer Rates



- \* Although a higher percentage of URP students are enrolled in transfer programs, a lower percentage transferred to 4 year institutions.

# Reflections

- \* VCCS plays a critical role in providing academic access to Virginia's URP students.
- \* Lack of college readiness may lead to lack of success.
- \* Colleges should:
  - Identify URP students early and direct toward existing services.
  - Consider additional strategies and services targeted at URP students to improve access and success.

# Questions?

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