

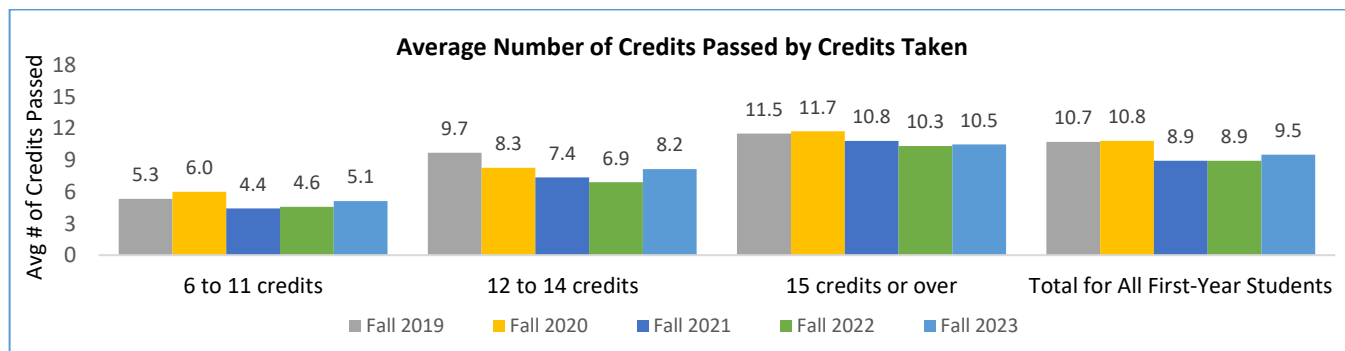
**Assessing Academic Momentum: Trends in First-Year Student Success Outcomes (2019-2023)**

This research brief provides information on first-year student outcomes by credits taken. Student outcomes include: average number of credits earned; end-of semester GPA; percent of credits passed by credits taken; one-semester and one-year retention rates. Data are provided for first-year students enrolled in fall semesters 2019 through 2023. The results of this analysis contribute to the assessment of students’ performance with regard to the Academic Momentum campaign, a CUNY-wide initiative implemented in Fall 2018 aimed at helping students graduate in four years, and York College’s strategic plan, Goal 1, *Student Success*.

Over time, even before the introduction of the Academic Momentum campaign in fall 2018, the proportion of first-year students taking 15 credits constitute more than 50% of the students, averaging almost 64% over the past 5 fall semesters – reaching almost 76% in 2020. In 2021, likely due to the COVID pandemic, the proportion taking 15 or more credits dropped to 52%, but increased to 63% in the past two fall semesters.

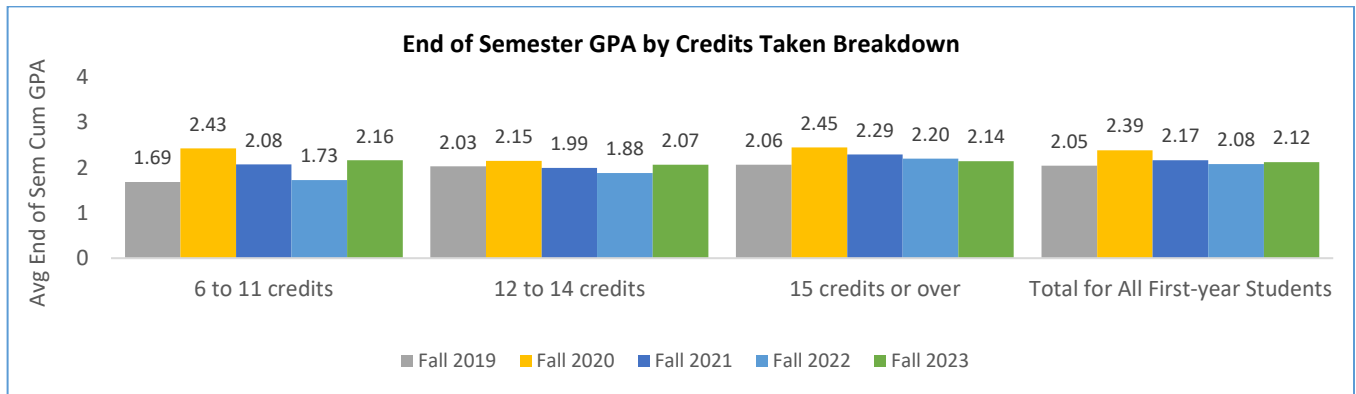
Credits Taken by First-year Students	Fall 2019			Fall 2020			Fall 2021			Fall 2022			Fall 2023		
	#	%	Avg Credits Passed	#	%	Avg Credits Passed	#	%	Avg Credits Passed	#	%	Avg Credits Passed	#	%	Avg Credits Passed
0 to 5	4	0.4%	3.3	2	0.2%	3.0	4	0.4%	1.8	7	0.9%	0.0	1	0.1%	3.0
6 to 11	25	2.2%	5.3	21	2.5%	6.0	66	7.3%	4.4	29	3.7%	4.6	22	3.2%	5.1
12 to 14	372	33.2%	9.7	184	21.7%	8.3	357	39.8%	7.4	248	31.9%	6.9	227	33.2%	8.2
15 or over	721	64.3%	11.5	642	75.6%	11.7	471	52.4%	10.8	493	63.4%	10.3	434	63.5%	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1122</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9.5</b>

- As the graph below illustrates<sup>1</sup>, for each of the past five fall semesters, first-year students earned less than 12 credits on average. The average hovers around 9 and 10 credits earned.
- The average number of credits earned by students taking 12 to 14 credits increased from 6.9 in fall 2022 to 8.2 in fall 2023.
- For the past five fall semesters, first-year students taking 15 or more credits earned slightly less on average than a full-time credit load (11.5, 11.7, 10.8, 10.3, and 10.5 respectively).

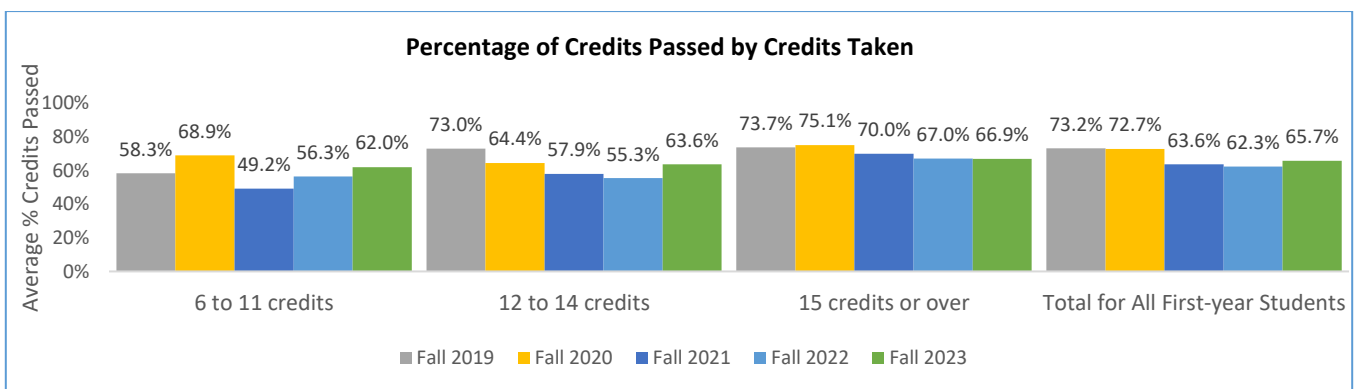


<sup>1</sup> Due to the small N, students enrolled in 0 to 5 credits were excluded from the graphical representation.

- The mean GPA at the end of the fall 2023 semester for all first-year students was 2.12.
- In Fall 2023, all groups had an average cumulative GPA slightly above 2.0.
- Students taking six to eleven credits have an average cumulative GPA that fluctuates more compare to its peers.
- For the past five fall terms, the average cumulative GPA for students in the 15 credits or over has consistently stayed above its peers, except for fall 2023.



- First-year students earned an average of 66% of the credits they attempted in 2023. This proportion has declined over time and is 7 percentage points (pp) lower than in 2019.
- In the past three months, students taking 6 to 11 credits have increased the average credits passed by 13 pp (62% in fall 2023 compared to 49% in fall 2021.)
- In 2023, students taking 12 to 14 credits passed an average of 63.6% of the credits attempted. This is -9.4 pp lower than the 73% average achieved by the 2019 cohort.
- Students taking 15 credits passed 66.9% of the credits attempted in 2023, 6.8 pp lower than in 2019. The average credits passed have consistently decreased from a high of 75.1% in fall 2020 to a low of 66.9% in fall 2023.



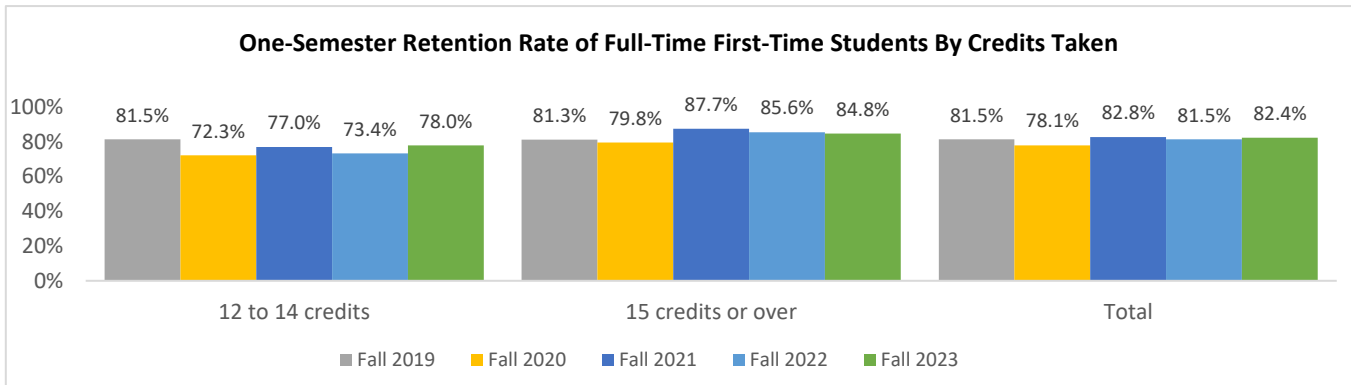
**Retention: First-time, Full-time**

Retention data are provided for first-time, full-time students<sup>2</sup>.

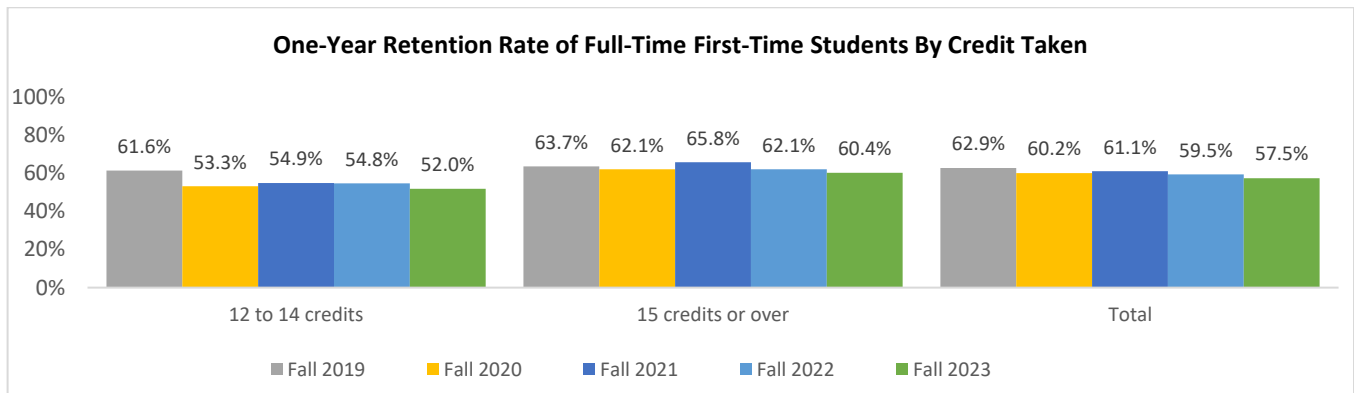
- For the past 5 fall semesters, the one-semester retention rate has consistently stayed above 80%, with the exception of fall 2020 (COVID).

<sup>2</sup> Federal mandates require that we report retention data for first-time, full-time cohorts.

- For the 2023 cohort, the one-semester retention rate for students taking 15 or more credits was 3.5 pp higher than that of the 2019 cohort, while students taking 12 to 14 credits decreased by 3.5 pp.



- The one-year retention rate for the 2023 cohort (preliminary) was 57.5%, slightly lower than last year’s cohort.
- In Fall 2023, students taking 12 to 14 credits were retained at a lower rate than students taking 15 credits or more.



### Grade Distribution

In an effort to determine where students lost credit, the OIESP conducted a cumulative grade analysis for the past five fall semesters (2019-2023) for first-year students. Courses with at least 100 students enrolled during that time frame (2019-2023) were included in the final analysis (see table on the following page, sorted by course).

- The cumulative F and W rate for the past five years (2019-2023) was 29.4%. This is up from the 26.8% cumulative F and W rate reported last year (2018-2022).

### Gateway Courses

As documented in CUNY’s Performance Management Process Databook and the table that follows, the College’s Gateway course pass rates, as previously reported by [OIESP](#), document the difficulty students have with passing Gateway English and Math<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> As defined in CUNY PMP Databook, “Gateway English courses are those that satisfy the English Composition requirement of the Pathways Common Core. Gateway Math courses are those that satisfy the Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning requirement of the pathways common core”. As per this definition and the York College bulletin, Gateway courses are common core for English and Math which include ENG 125 and 126, MATH 111, 115, 117, 120, 121, 150 and 190.

- Gateway English: 3843 students took ENG 125 over the past five fall semesters. Of those, 32% were in the F and W category (last year, it was 29% for 2018-2022 cumulative). Similarly, 138 first-year students enrolled in ENG 126 and of those, 25% were in the F and W category (up from 19% cumulative percentage reported last year).
- Gateway Math: 1131 first-time students enrolled in MATH 111. Of those, 38% were in the F and W category (one percentage point up from the 37% cumulative reported last year). MATH 115 had a total enrollment of 420 students and of those, 21% were in the F and W category (one percentage point down from the 22% cumulative reported last year).

Freshmen Course Enrollment and Grades, 2019-2023					
(Sorted in alphabetical order by course)					
The 3-color scale heatmap uses the F and W rate with the following parameters: Minimum is 0% (green), Maximum is 100% (red), and midpoint is 20% (yellow).					
Course	A to D	F and W (all)		Other (CR, INC, NC,P/S, PEN, OTHER)	Total First-Year Student Enrollment
<b>Total</b>	<b>13875</b>	<b>6028</b>	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>20492</b>
ANTH101	246	118	31.5%	11	375
ASTR101	124	34	21.5%	0	158
ASTR141	125	35	21.7%	1	161
BIO120	68	52	43.0%	1	121
BIO140	89	75	45.2%	2	166
BIO201	181	192	49.1%	18	391
BLST101	118	20	14.3%	2	140
BLST103	87	51	36.4%	2	140
BUS201	92	64	39.8%	5	161
CLDV100	464	176	26.6%	22	662
ECON102	439	116	20.0%	25	580
ECON103	108	51	30.0%	11	170
ENG125	2539	1233	32.1%	71	3843
ENG126	100	34	24.6%	4	138
FREN101	130	97	40.8%	11	238
HE111	635	205	23.3%	40	880
HIST100	262	163	36.6%	20	445
HIST108	269	120	29.5%	18	407
HIST113	82	42	33.3%	2	126
ITAL101	55	47	45.6%	1	103
MATH102	79	57	41.3%	2	138
MATH104	1079	406	26.7%	38	1523
MATH111	662	428	37.8%	41	1131
MATH115	296	88	21.0%	36	420
MUS101	162	75	31.0%	5	242
PHIL103	192	81	29.4%	3	276
POL103	468	154	24.4%	9	631
PSY102	1216	460	26.7%	49	1725
SD110 (course discontinued)	67	95	56.9%	5	167
SKCS102	456	128	21.5%	11	595
SOC101	785	274	25.2%	30	1089
SPAN101	385	138	26.1%	6	529
SPCH101	258	65	19.5%	10	333
TA110	109	38	24.2%	10	157

#### Other Courses in Pathways

- Courses beyond English and Math that are part of the Life and Physical Sciences Required Core where students lost credits included BIO 201 (49.1%); BIO140 (45.2%); and ASTR141 (21.7%).
- Courses that are considered World Cultures and Global Issues Flexible Core where students lost credits included BLST103 (36.4%); ANTH101 (31.5%); HIST100 (36.6%); HIST113 (33.3%); and HIST108 (29.5%).

- Courses that are considered U.S. Experience in its Diversity Flexible Core where students lost credits included POL103 (24.4%) and BLST101 (14.3%).
- Courses that are considered Creative Expression Flexible Core where students lost credits included MUS101 (31%); TA110 (24.2%); and SPCH101 (19.5%).
- Courses that are considered Individual and Society where students lost credits included PHIL103 (29.4%); CLDV100 (26.6%); SOC101 (25.2%); and ECON102 (20%).
- Courses that are considered Scientific World where students lost credits included BIO120 (43%); PSY102 (26.7%); and ASTR101 (21.5%).

