Analysis Brief
A PERIODIC ANALYSIS BY THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Vol. 1 No. 2 **March 1, 2009**

CSU Stanislaus' first-time freshman retention and graduation rates, how they compare system-wide.

As reported in a previous edition of *Analysis Brief* (January 14, 2009), CSU Stanislaus performed very well overall in the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA).

The CLA reported CSU Stanislaus' retention and graduation rates to be exceptional nationally. In fact, CSU Stanislaus performed higher than 99 percent of the 176 CLA undergraduate institutions in first-time freshman (FTF) retention rates. The Performance Level was reported as *well above* the expected level. For the 4-year graduation rate, CSU Stanislaus performed *above* the expected level, and higher than 72 percent of the CLA schools. For the 6-year graduation rate, CSU Stanislaus performed higher than 96 percent of the 176 CLA undergraduate institutions, and earned a Performance Level at *well above* the expected level. (California State University, Stanislaus. (2008). *Collegiate Learning Assessment, 2006/07, Summary of Findings*).

Drawing from a CSU system-wide search of online campus reports of the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), fall 2008 College Portrait, we attempt to look at the retention and graduation rates within the system. Thus, when comparing retention and graduation rates within the CSU system, "How does CSU Stanislaus stand?"

Voluntary System of Accountability, College Portrait

Table 1 summarizes the retention and graduation rates for all CSU campuses as reported in the VSA fall 2008 College Portrait. The table displays the fall 2001 full-time, first-time freshman (FTF) cohort size, the 1-year retention rate for FTF, the 4-year and 6-year graduation rates for FTF.

In addition, the table shows the rankings for FTF cohort size, retention rate, and graduation rates. Clearly, CSU Stanislaus is one of the smallest in terms of FTF cohort size, with CSU San Marcos only slightly smaller.

Retention Rates. The three largest campuses in terms of FTF cohort size also occupy the top three rankings for retention rate. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (90%), CSU Long Beach (85%), and San Diego State University (83%), in that order, are ranked 1, 2 and 3. However, within the top five and ranked at fifth is CSU Stanislaus (81%). CSU San Bernardino is ranked fourth.

Graduation Rates. Very few campuses graduate more than 20 percent of their students in four year. Although not all campuses reported this information in the College Portrait, these data show the top three campuses to be: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (22.6%), San Diego State University (20%), and CSU Stanislaus (19.4%), in that order.

The 6-year graduation rate comparisons reveal very favorable outcomes for CSU Stanislaus. Here, the top three campuses are: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (68.2%), San Diego State University (56.5%), and CSU Chico (53%). The top five includes CSU Stanislaus (51.8%) at number four and CSU Fullerton (49.9%) at number five.
In summary, only three campuses were consistently in the top five ranks for retention, 4-year graduation rate, and 6-year graduation rate: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, San Diego State University, and CSU Stanislaus, in that order.

Table 1. System-wide fall 2001 First-time Freshman Cohort Retention Rate, 4-Year and 6-Year Graduation Rates

CSU Campus	Fall 2001 Cohort: Number First-Time Freshmen	Rank FTF Size	*Retention Rate*		*4-year Graduation Rate*		*6-year Graduation Rate*	
			Retention of Fall 2006 First-Time, Full-Time Students, Percent Returned for Fall 2007	*Rank FTF 1-yr Ret. Rate*	*First-Time, Full-Time Students who First Enrolled in Fall 2001, Percent Graduated*	*Rank FTF 4-yr Grad. Rate*	*First-Time, Full-Time Students who First Enrolled in Fall 2001, Percent Graduated*	*Rank FTF 6-yr Grad. Rate*
Long Beach	4,328	1	85.0	2	10.0	13	48.0	6
San Luis Obispo (QS)	3,629	2	90.0	1	22.6	1	68.2	1
San Diego State University	3,484	3	83.0	3	20.0	2	56.5	2
Fullerton	2,738	4	79.0	7	15.2	5	49.9	5
Northridge[5]	2,724	5	75.0	10	10.0	13	40.0	11
San Jose State University[6]	2,561	6	80.0	6	-		-	
Pomona[6] (QS)	2,413	7	80.0	6	-		-	
Sacramento	2,273	8	77.0	8	9.2	14	41.3	10
Chico[3]	2,075	9	80.0	6	15.3	4	53.0	3
Fresno[5]	1,885	10	81.0	5	13.0	7	46.0	7
San Francisco State University	1,821	11	77.0	8	11.3	9	44.5	9
San Bernardino (QS)	1,271	12	82.0	4	10.1	12	39.6	13
Los Angeles[6] (QS)	1,222	13	74.0	12	-		-	
Sonoma State University[1]	1,013	14	-		-		-	
Humboldt State University	724	15	75.0	10	10.2	11	39.6	13
East Bay[4] (QS)	713	16	-		10.8	10	39.7	12
Bakersfield[1] (QS)	607	17	-		-		-	
Dominguez Hills	560	18	61.0	13	4.5	15	26.5	15
Monterey Bay[4]	560	18	-		12.6	8	38.3	14
Stanislaus (4-1-4)	516	19	81.0	5	19.4	3	51.8	4
San Marcos	339	20	74.0	12	13.4	6	44.8	8
Channel Islands[2]	-		76.0	9	-		-	
Maritime Academy[2]	-		74.0	11	-		-	

Source: Voluntary System of Accountability, Fall 2008 College Portrait online campus reports.
(QS) Quarter System calendar; Stanislaus is a 4-1-4 academic calendar.
1 No data available for Retention Rate and Student Success and Progress Detail Tables
2 No data available for Fall 2001 entering class
3 Retention rate based on Fall 2006 data
4 No data available for Retention Rate
5 Student Success and Progress Detail Tables based on Fall 2000 cohort data
6 No FTF graduation rate data available

About the Office of Institutional Research (IR).

IR tracks the enrollment of all undergraduate, post-baccalaureate and graduate students for each term of the college year. IR is responsible for compiling student data, for analyzing and presenting statistical information from many university-wide sources regarding applications received, new enrollments, continuing enrollments, credentials awarded and degrees conferred. These data are gathered to fulfill the reporting requirements of the Office of the Chancellor, the State of California Legislature, as well as Federal reporting requirements. The information about our students is also central to fulfilling the University's need for continuous feedback that informs the university budget allocation process, fee revenues, academic policies, as well as providing statistical profiles regarding university progress on matters such as access, diversity, growth, retention and graduation, to name only a few.