

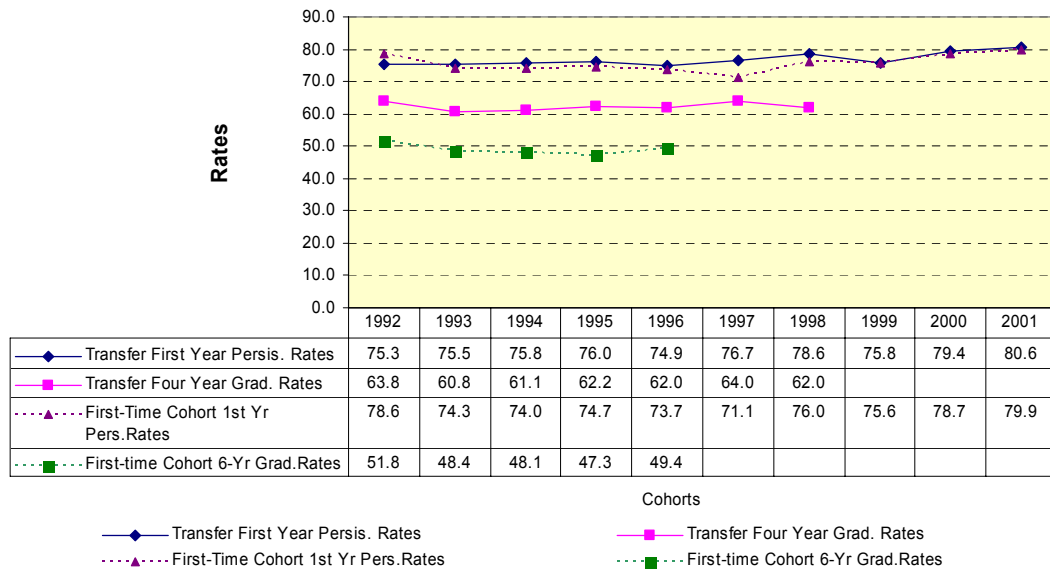
Summary Reports of Baccalaureate Degree-Seeking Transfer Student Persistence and Graduation Rates

Spring 2003
IRR Report No. 2

I. **Overall First-Year Persistence and Four-Year Graduation Rates:** In the past ten year, university overall transfer student first-year persistence rates went from **75.3%** for the 1992 cohort to **80.6%** for the 2001 cohort, over **5%** increase. Overall, transfer students seemed to have similar first-year persistence rates as their first-time freshmen peers. However, in spite of the improvement in first-year persistence rates, transfer student four-year graduation rates went down about 1.8%, from **63.8%** for the 1992 cohort to **62%** for the 1998 cohort. Transfer cohorts tend to have higher graduation rates than first-time freshmen cohorts (over 10% higher consistently over the years). Figure 1 below gives a graphic presentation of the trends.

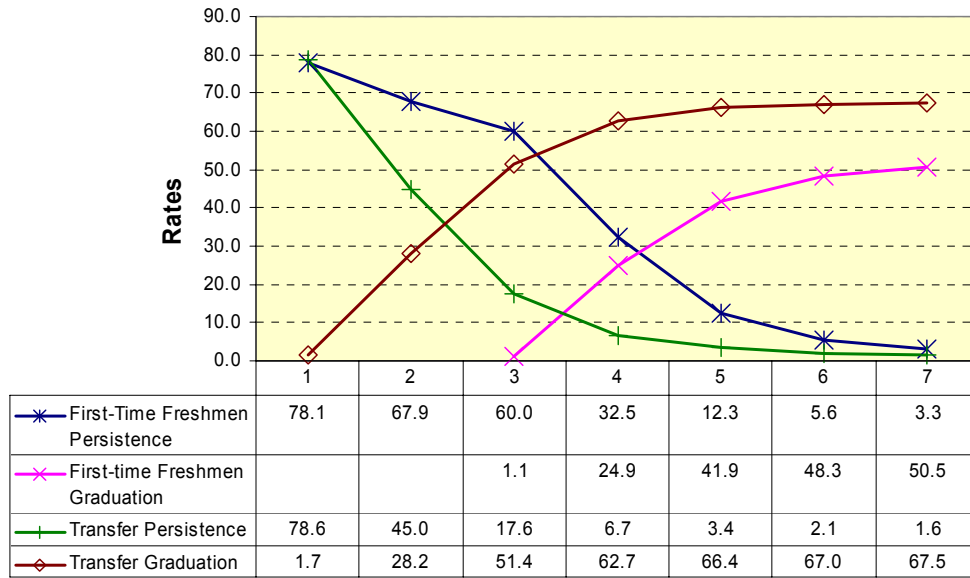
Figure 1

Persistence and Graduation Rates for Baccalaureate-Degree Seeking Transfer Cohorts With First-Time Freshmen Cohorts as Reference



II. **Comparisons of Persistence and Graduation Trends:** Figure 2 charts out persistence and graduation rates for both First-time freshmen cohorts and transfer cohorts based on their three year averages. As Figure 2 presents, over 50% of transfer cohorts graduate three years after they enroll whereas for the first-time cohorts, it usually takes them six years to accomplish it. Figure 2 also shows that about 10% of the freshmen cohorts drop/stop/transfer-out from first to second year and another 8% would follow from second to third year.

**Three-Year Persistence & Graduation Average Rates Comparisons
As of Fall 2002**

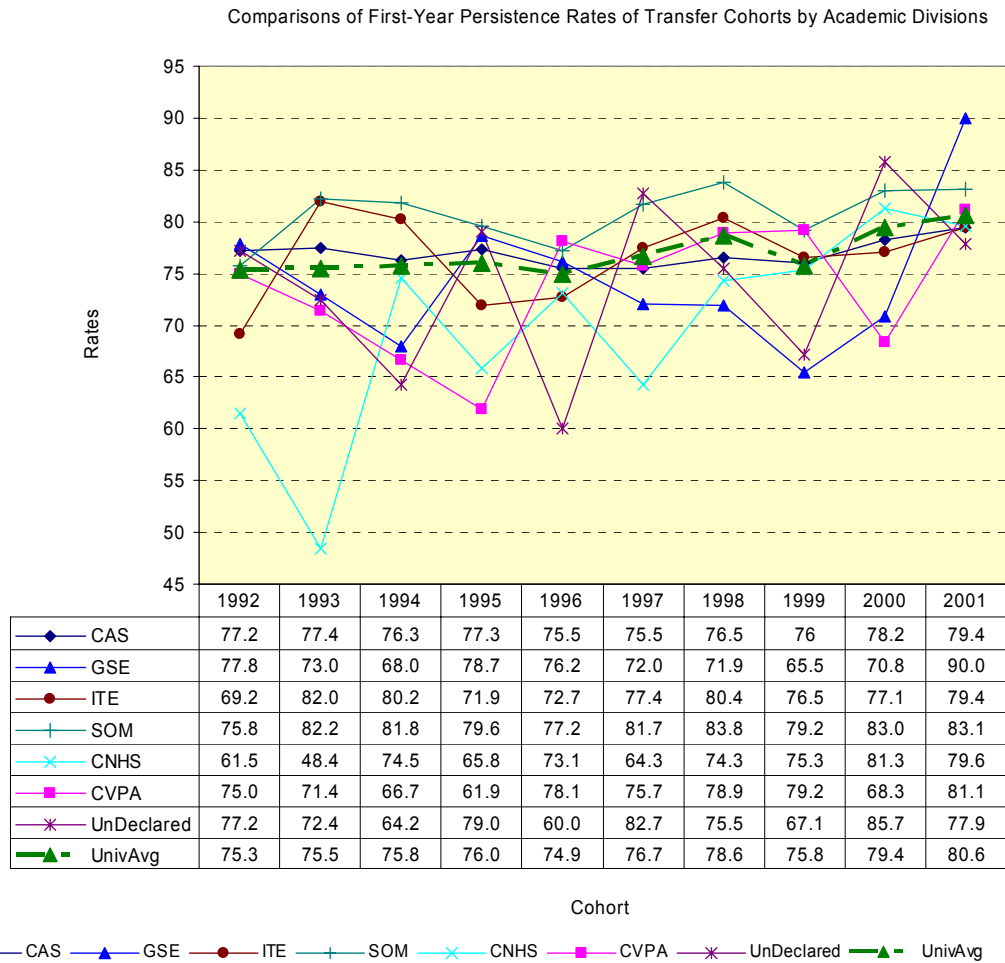


Years After Entry

- * First-Time Freshmen Persistence
 - + Transfer Persistence
- x First-time Freshmen Graduation
 - ◇ Transfer Graduation

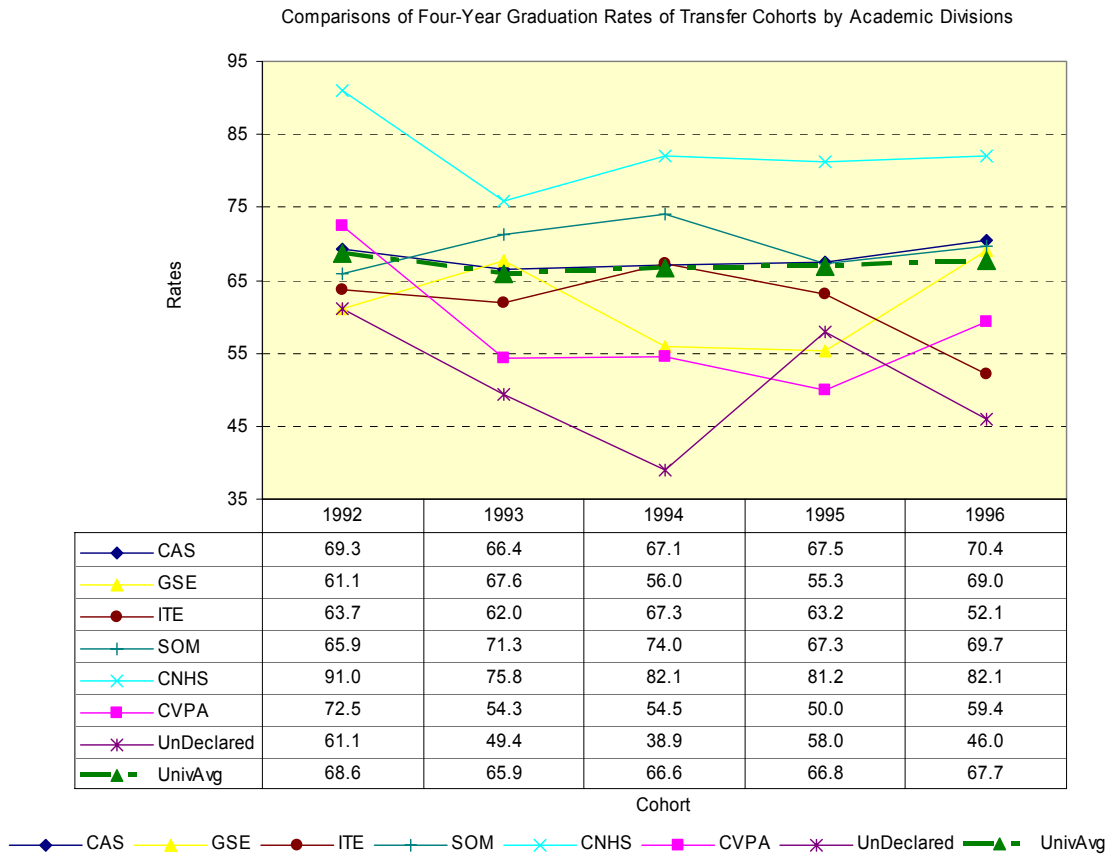
III. **First-Year Persistence Rates by Academic Divisions:** Due to the cohort size for different academic divisions, the smaller cohorts tend to have more dramatic ups and downs regarding persistence rates. Basically, first-year persistence rates for CAS and Undeclared remained steady in the past 10 years. For CAS, the persistence rate was **77.2%** in 1992 and as of Fall 2002, the persistence rate for the 2001 cohort was 79.4%. First-year persistence rates for the Undeclared group remained the same (77%). For the rest of the divisions, the rates were improved from about **18%** for CNHS (61.5% to 79.6%) to **7%** for SOM (75.8% to 83.1%).

Figure 3



IV. **Four-Year Graduation Rates by Academic Divisions:** According to Figure 4, the improved first-year persistence rates for the transfer cohorts did not transfer to the four-year graduation rates. As Figure 3 depicts, the three divisions that saw graduation increase were GSE (61.1% to 69%), SOM (65.9% to 69.7%) and CAS (69.3% to 70.4%). The rest of the divisions all saw some degrees of down slide for their transfer student graduation rates..

Figure 2



Notes:

- I. Cohorts and persistence rates were based on university official census data.
- II. Student academic divisions were based on student majors upon entering the university. When they graduate, they may or may not graduate with their initial majors.