MOMENTUM
COMPLETION OF CREDITS ATTEMPTED: NORTH CAROLINA

Percentage of first-time degree-seeking North Carolina Community College students enrolled in fall 2004 who completed at least 80 percent of their first-year credits attempted

What Is Measured?
Percentage of students completing at least 80 percent of course credits attempted during their first year

Who Is Counted?
First-time degree-seeking students who entered North Carolina Community Colleges in fall 2004

What It Tells Us
Among first-time degree-seeking North Carolina Community College students enrolled in fall 2004, over half (54 percent) completed at least four out of every five course credits attempted in their first year. Younger students were less likely to reach this milestone than older students (50 percent vs. 60 percent). Students initially enrolled full time had slightly higher rates of course credit completion than their peers who initially enrolled part time (55 percent vs. 53 percent).
**Why It's Important**

Students who complete all the courses they attempt avoid having to repeat coursework, accumulate credits faster, and take less time to attain a credential or transfer than students who fail to complete some courses. Incomplete courses may result from a failing grade or withdrawal. Multiple studies have found that excessive course withdrawals may reduce the likelihood of completion and transfer (Adelman, 2005, tables 32 and 33; Cabrera, Burkum, & La Nasa, 2005; Chen, 2005).

### ABOUT THE DATA

Degree-seeking students: include students seeking associate degrees, certificates, or diplomas.

Course completion: defined as earning a letter grade of A, B, C, or D.

Data were obtained from Curriculum registration, Progress, and Financial Aid Report files for the fall 2004 cohort. Enrollment status was determined at the time of fall registration.

### DATA SOURCE