MOMENTUM

COMPLETION OF CREDITS ATTEMPTED: VIRGINIA

Percentage of first-time Virginia Community College students enrolled in fall 2004 who completed at least 80 percent of course credits attempted in first year

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

Who Is Counted?
First-time Virginia Community College students enrolled in programs in fall 2004

What It Tells Us
Among first-time Virginia Community College students enrolled in fall 2004, half (50 percent) completed at least four out of every five course credits attempted in their first year.

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
Estimates include students who began their coursework in summer 2004 and students who were formerly dual enrolled. Students who were missing grades were excluded. Students enrolled in more than one community college were assigned to one college and not counted more than once.

DATA SOURCE