



IRIM RESEARCH EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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An Analysis of FTIAC Socioeconomic Status & Academic Preparedness: The Relationship with Retention and Six-Year Graduation Rates Research Executive Summary

This study analyzed the relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and academic preparedness and retention and graduation rates of full-time First Time in Any College (FTIAC) students. Academic preparedness was defined as students who earned a 2.51 or higher and represented by High School Decision GPA. SES was represented by Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) taken from the FAFSA (Federal Application for Federal Student Aid) application for financial aid assistance as the closest approximation to income available. There were no students with an EFC of \$90,001-\$100,000 for any cohort in any GPA grouping. Only students who submitted a FAFSA and who had a Decision GPA were included in the study.

The analysis of first year (fall-to-fall) retention used six FTIAC cohorts starting with Fall 2012 and ending with Fall 2017. These cohorts were broken into groups based on SES and GPA. The analysis of six-year graduation rates examined the Fall 2012 cohort as the only one of the fall semesters selected for analysis to have a six-year graduation rate to study.

Retention Rates

The consistent patterns that emerged from these six cohorts include:

- Retention rates slowly increase as preparedness increases.
- Retention rates slowly increase (though not always) as SES increases.
- Certain pockets of retention rates are not where they need to be, especially with prepared students from higher SES backgrounds.

These patterns hold especially true for those students with a GPA ranging from 2.0 - 3.0. The analysis showed consistent retention in the 50% - 60% (though the 17 - 18 retention showed a slight uptick), meaning that hundreds of moderately prepared to prepared students are lost after the first year. As an example, 410 academically prepared students with an EFC of \$20,000 or less were lost between Fall 2017 and Fall 2018. Please see Appendix 1 on page 3 for complete details.

Fall 2012 Cohort 6-Year Graduation Rate

The study analyzed the relationship between GPA and SES and six-year graduation rates by examining the Fall 2012 cohort in the same categories used for the retention piece. Only those students who submitted a FAFSA and had a GPA were included in the study. The cohort is comprised of full-time FTIAC students who started in the Fall 2012 semester and graduated within six years. Please see Appendix 2 on page 4 for complete details.

Highlights:

- While the average university six-year graduation rate is approximately 45%, less than 30% of academically prepared students are graduating within six years.
- The lower the SES and GPA, the lower the graduation rate, **except** for academically prepared students with an EFC of more than \$100,000 where the graduation rate is 50% or less.
- The graduation rate of students with a GPA between 2.51 and 3.5 is 38%, noticeably below the average university-wide rate.
- There were 1,126 students considered academically prepared who did not graduate within six years. Of those 1,126 students, 645 had a GPA of over 3.0.

Implications on Policy and Actions

1. Using the appendices tables, EMU might be able to focus more retention efforts on those large populations with significantly lower retention rates than the university average.
2. Some long-term retention efforts should be targeted to academically prepared students to graduate them, and to make them less likely to transfer to other institutions.
3. Building pockets of great success stories will help the aggregated results. For example, all five students who had a GPA between 2.01 and 2.50 with an EFC range \$40,001 - \$50,000 graduated within six years (100%). This is an interesting phenomenon with the overall completion rate is only 20% for that GPA band.

For more information about the analysis, please contact Amy Otteson at 7.2172.

Appendix 1: EFC and High School Decision GPA vs. First-Year Retention Rates (Fall 2017 to Fall 2018)

Eastern Michigan University																		
Family Contribution and High School GPA of FTIACs Enrolled Fall 2017 & Retained Fall 2018																		
EFC	2.00 or Lower			2.01 - 2.50			2.51 - 3.00			3.01 - 3.50			3.51 - 4.00			Higher than 4.00		
	F18	F17	Pct	F18	F17	Pct	F18	F17	Pct	F18	F17	Pct	F18	F17	Pct	F18	F17	Pct
More than \$100,000				1	1	100%	1	1	100%	2	2	100%				1	1	100%
\$80,001-\$90,000				1	1	100%	2	3	67%	4	5	80%	5	6	83%	1	1	100%
\$70,001-\$80,000							3	5	60%	1	4	25%	4	4	100%	1	1	100%
\$60,001-\$70,000							2	2	100%	2	2	100%	9	10	90%	1	1	100%
\$50,001-\$60,000				1	4	25%	7	9	78%	6	8	75%	6	8	75%	3	3	100%
\$40,001-\$50,000				1	2	50%	6	9	67%	10	12	83%	22	24	92%	3	3	100%
\$30,001-\$40,000				3	4	75%	10	24	42%	34	42	81%	37	45	82%	10	10	100%
\$20,001-\$30,000				6	11	55%	23	31	74%	59	79	75%	81	94	86%	8	8	100%
\$10,001-\$20,000	2	2	100%	11	15	73%	58	86	67%	107	135	79%	140	166	84%	20	22	91%
\$10,000 or Less	7	8	88%	54	103	52%	233	397	59%	401	591	68%	356	480	74%	53	61	87%
No FAFSA Submitted	2	2	100%	11	16	69%	38	47	81%	55	83	66%	61	82	74%	6	7	86%
*Total Retained F18	9			78			345			626			660			101		
*Total Enrolled F17	10			141			567			880			837			111		
*Total Pctage			90%			55%			61%			71%			79%			91%

Total Attrition = 410

Note: Totals exclude those who did not submit a FAFSA.

Appendix 2: Fall 2012 FTIAC Cohort Six-Year Graduation Rate by EFC and High School Decision GPA

Eastern Michigan University																		
6-Year Graduation Rate of Fall 2012 Full-Time FTIACs by FAFSA Family Contribution and High School GPA (Decision GPA)																		
EFC	2.00 or Lower			2.01 - 2.50			2.51 - 3.00			3.01 - 3.50			3.51 - 4.00			Higher than 4.00		
	Grad In 6 Yrs	Initial Cohort	Pct	Grad In 6 Yrs	Initial Cohort	Pct	Grad In 6 Yrs	Initial Cohort	Pct	Grad In 6 Yrs	Initial Cohort	Pct	Grad In 6 Yrs	Initial Cohort	Pct	Grad In 6 Yrs	Initial Cohort	Pct
More than \$100,000				2		0%	2	4	50%	1	3	33%	1	1	100%			
\$80,001-\$90,000													1	1	100%			
\$70,001-\$80,000							2	3	67%	5	5	100%	1	1	100%			
\$60,001-\$70,000							1	3	33%	3	5	60%	5	6	83%	1	1	100%
\$50,001-\$60,000				2		0%	3	7	43%	5	7	71%	4	5	80%			
\$40,001-\$50,000				5	5	100%	5	12	42%	10	19	53%	10	16	63%		1	0%
\$30,001-\$40,000				1	6	17%	9	25	36%	18	33	55%	23	29	79%	3	3	100%
\$20,001-\$30,000				3	11	27%	14	35	40%	34	57	60%	48	54	89%	9	10	90%
\$10,001-\$20,000	1	2	50%	10	24	42%	30	76	39%	70	114	61%	74	105	70%	21	23	91%
\$10,000 or Less	3	21	14%	28	184	15%	123	505	24%	222	572	39%	228	365	62%	35	41	85%
No FAFSA Submitted		2	0%	5	20	25%	19	57	33%	35	66	53%	44	61	72%	2	2	100%
*Total Grad Withn 6 Years	4	23	17%	47	234	20%	189	670	28%	368	815	45%	395	583	68%	69	79	87%

Note: Totals exclude those who did not submit a FAFSA.

1,126 did not graduate in 6 years and 645 had a GPA >3.0