

# **Student Persistence Data**

## **Classified Community of Learning Series**

### **February 25, 2026**

E. Kuo  
FH IRP



# The student persistence narrative

- Defining student persistence
- Connecting persistence to our work
- Identifying data sources
- Reflecting on data implications

# What is student persistence?

# The Foothill Student Journey

STUDENTS



~~FTES~~

Community  
Funded AKA  
Basic Aid

Supplemental Funding  
Demographics  
Financial Aid

Success Outcomes  
ENGL/MATH  
9+ CTE Units

Degree/Certificate  
Regional Living Wage



Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) base funding calculated on a three-year avg.

# What is student persistence?



# What is student persistence?



## **Continuous enrollment**

Concept that student returns to the college,  
taking courses for more than one term

**Why should student  
persistence drive our work?**

# Why is persistence important?

- Measure of student progress
- Moves student toward success outcomes
- Develops student community

# Why is persistence important?

**6** out of **10** students say...

Transfer, degree, certificate attainment  
is their ed goal

**77%**

High School grads  
w/o a college degree



# Identified as a college priority



- Planning document identifying institutional goals and objectives
- Focusing program-level work and strategies

# Foothill College transformational goal

- By 2030, equitably retain **89%** of first-time students fall-to-fall with no student demographic disparities.

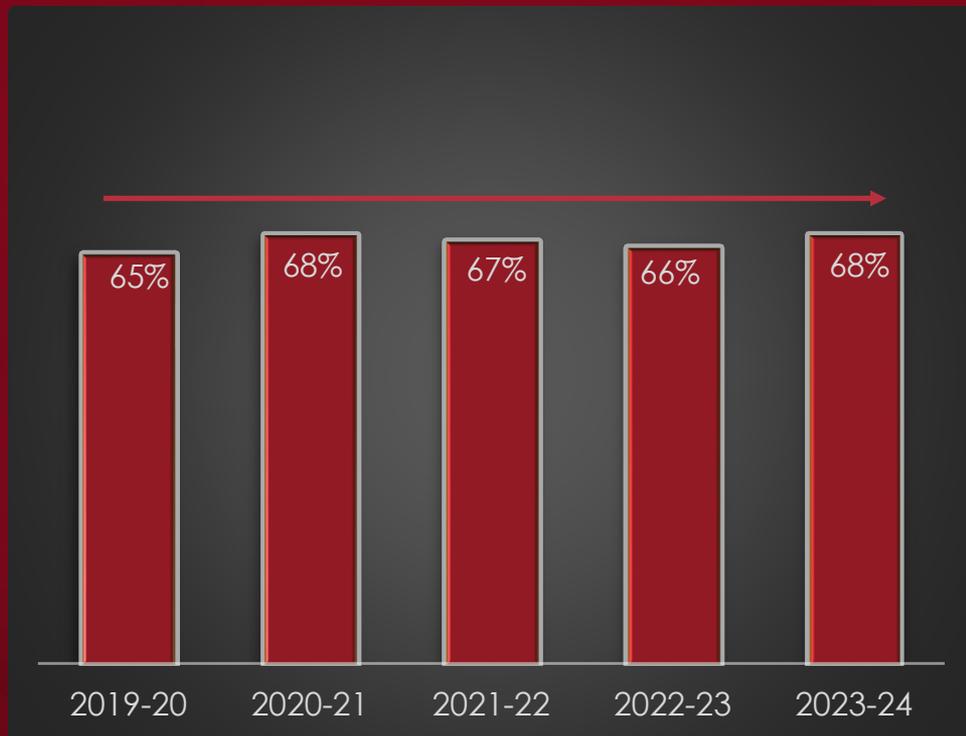
# Action toward the aspirational



- Identify the goal: Blueprint 2030
- Communicate the goal: Blueprint Launch Party
- Explore what we know: Data
- Move toward the goal: Reflect and Strategize

**What do we (already) know  
about student persistence?**

## Persisted from Fall to Winter at Foothill College



What do you observe?

What is the pattern over the last 5 years?

**68%**  
Persistence  
Rate

All general admit students in all programs

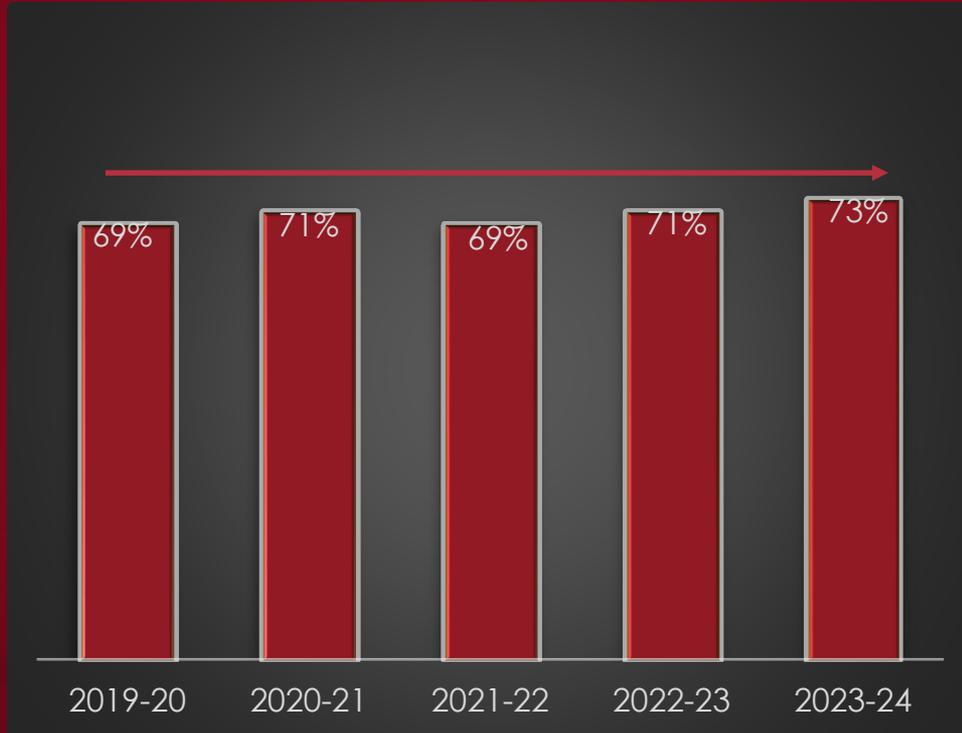
# General Admit Student + Persistence

- At different points in their Foothill journey
- Seeking different ed goals



- Another way to tell the persistence story?

## Persisted from Fall to Winter at Foothill College



Degree/Transfer seeking students in all programs

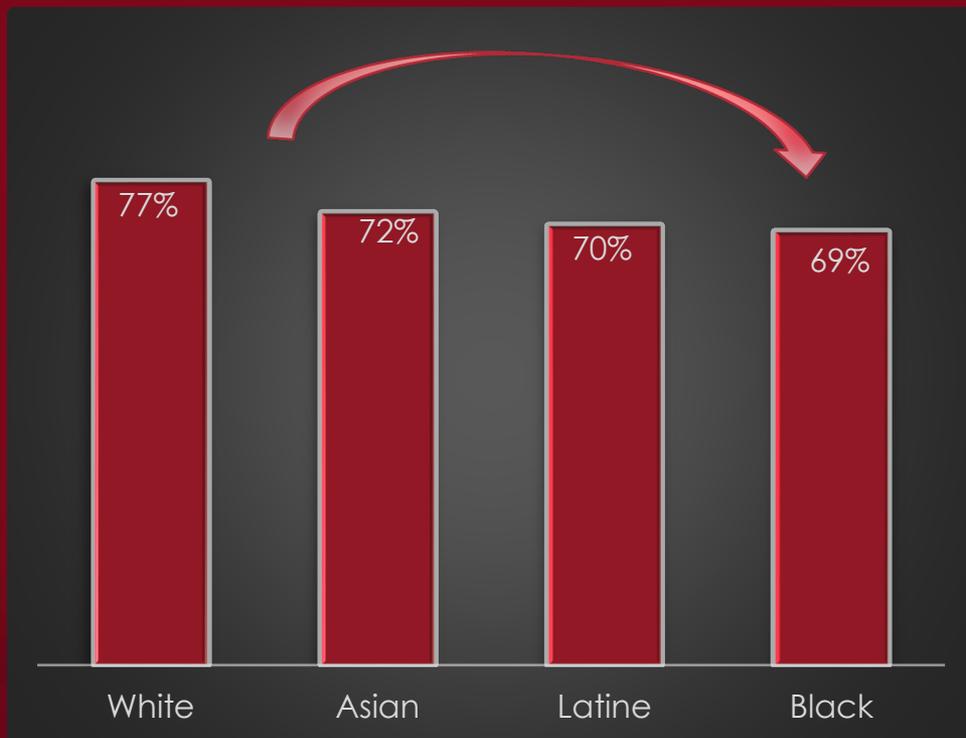
What do you observe?

What is the pattern over the last 5 years?

**73%**  
Persistence  
Rate

## Persisted from Fall to Winter at Foothill College

What do you observe?



**8%**  
Persistence Rate  
Gap  
(between white and black students)

Degree/Transfer seeking students in all programs

# Degree/Transfer Students + Persistence

- At different points in their Foothill journey



- Another way to tell the persistence story?

# Where is student persistence of most concern?

- Start with the question
- Follow with data
- What is the problem we are trying to address?
  - If the goal is to increase persistence:
    - Which students should most likely persist?

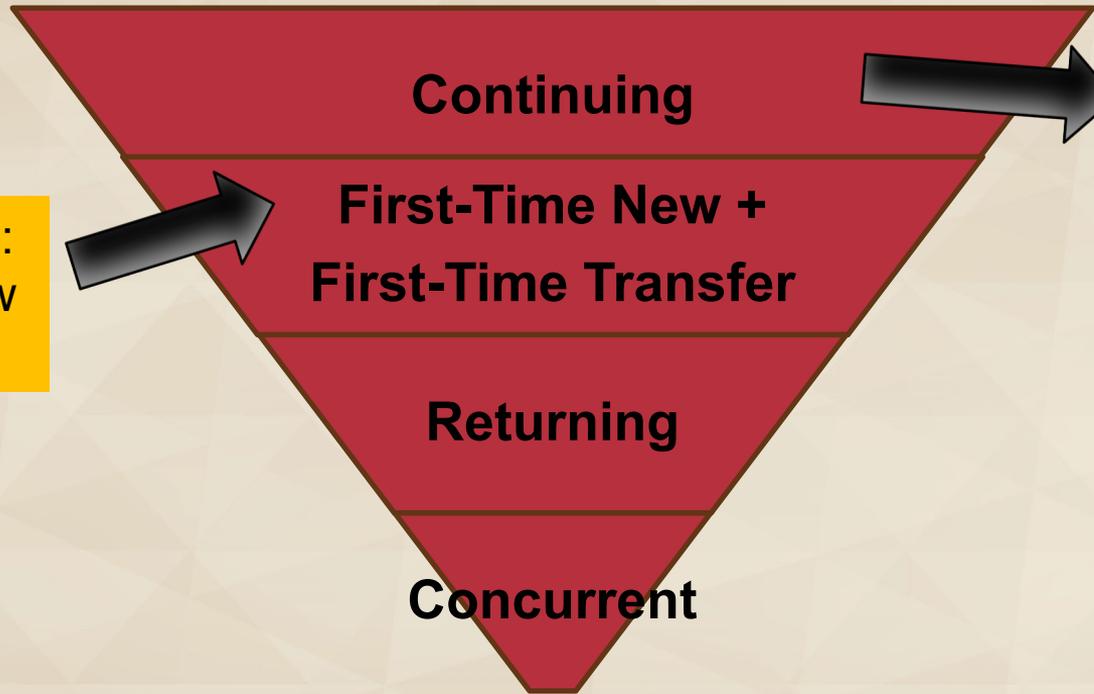
# Student Population Focus

- We serve all students **BUT**

To make a strong impact, where is the support needed based on persistence outcome?



# Student Enrollment by Proportion



Today's Focus:  
First-Time New  
population

Persistence:  
Enrollment  
implications

# Fall-to-Fall (new) Enrollment



## Cohort includes:

- First-time new
- Enrolled in at least 1 credit class
- Degree/transfer ed goal

## Cohort excludes:

- First-time transfer
- High school

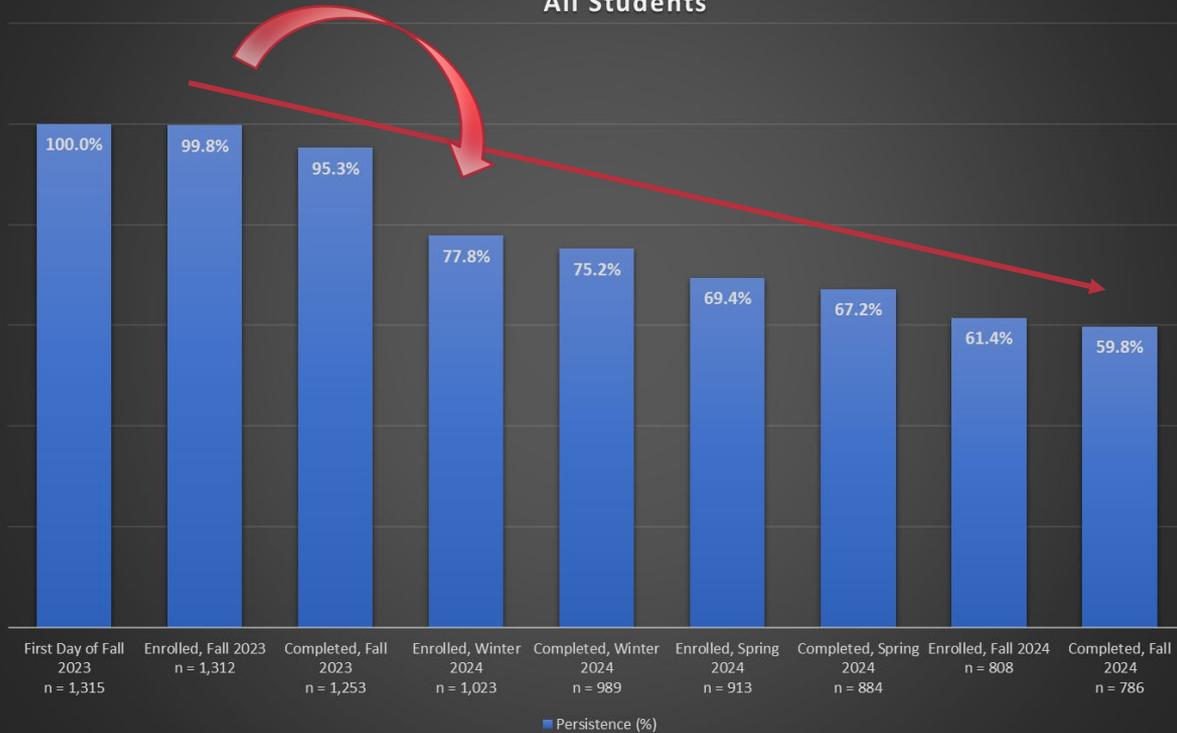
# Persistence Takeaway

For every **10** students enrolling for the first time in Fall 2023 with a degree and/or transfer goal...

Roughly **6** students are enrolled the following fall.



First-Time Student Persistence  
Fall 2023 - Fall 2024  
All Students



Degree/Transfer seeking students in all programs

What do you observe?

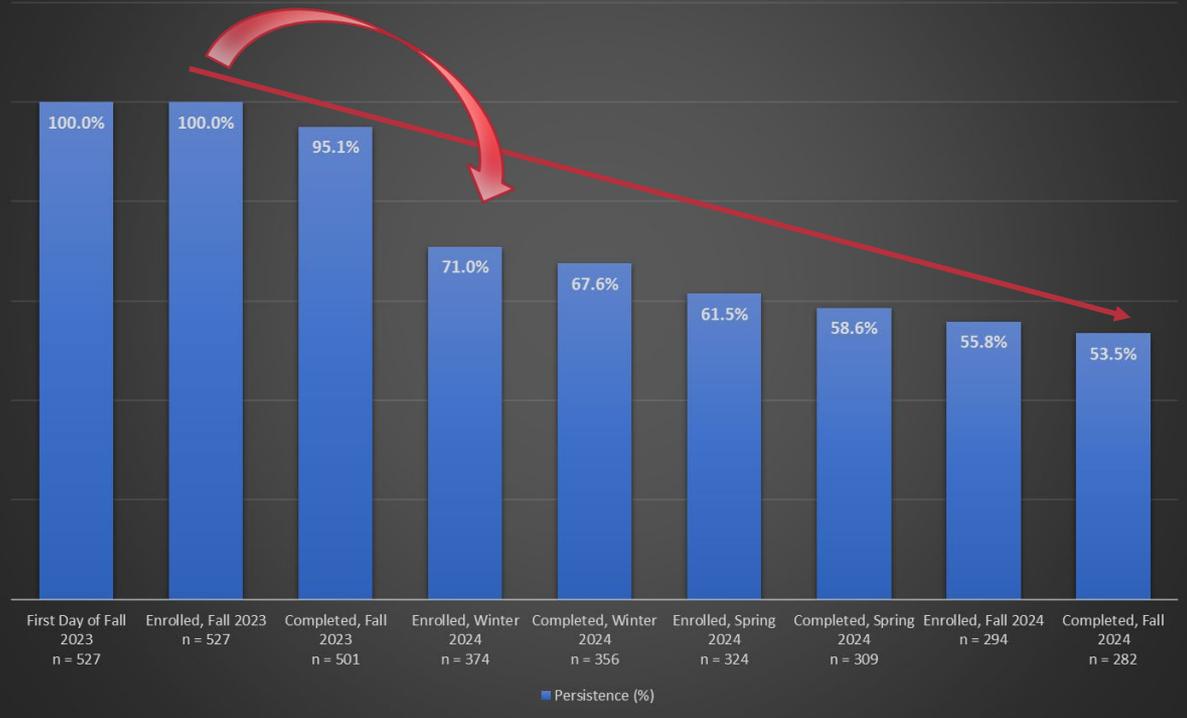
What is the pattern for the initial fall cohort continuing term-to-term?

Where is the steepest decline?

**22%**

**Drop from  
Fall to Winter**

First-Time Student Persistence  
Fall 2023 - Fall 2024  
Latiné Students



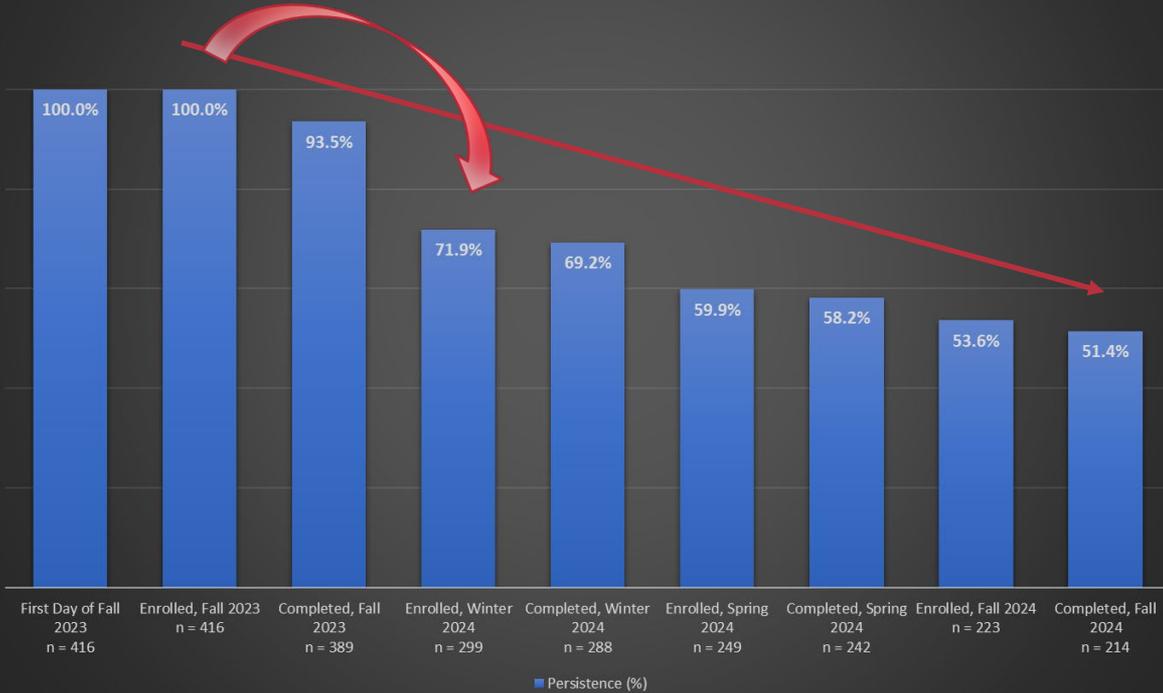
Degree/Transfer seeking students in all programs

What do you observe?

**54%**  
Persistence  
Rate

**29%**  
Drop from  
Fall to Winter

First-Time Student Persistence  
Fall 2023 - Fall 2024  
Low Income Students



Degree/Transfer seeking students in all programs

What do you observe?

**51%**  
Persistence  
Rate

**28%**  
Drop from  
Fall to Winter

# Changing the persistence storyline [Moving to action]

# Data Implications

- **Less** than **TWO THIRDS** of Fall 2023 first-time new students are still on their journey at Foothill one year later.
- **ONE FOURTH** of these students leave Foothill after the first term.

# Where to start: Experiences

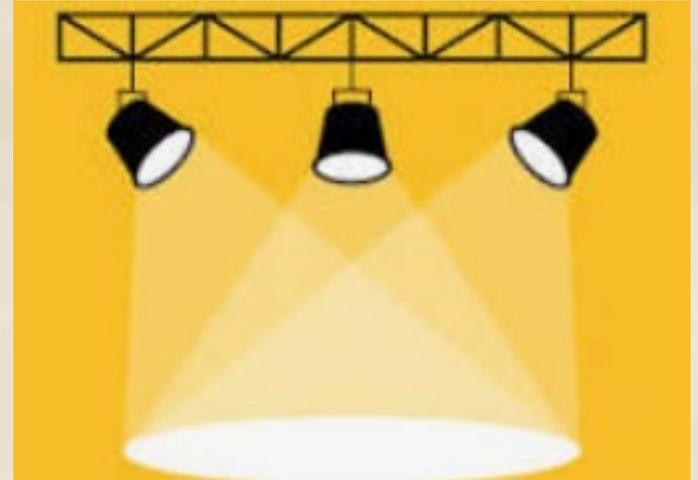
- What characteristics are more predictive for persistence?
  - Age 19 or younger
  - Living in service area/county
  - Enrolled > 3 courses
  - Enrolled in face-to-face only or face-to-face and online classes
  - Registered before September (Fall term)

# Where to start: Milestones

- What should transfer and degree students do in their first year?
  - Attempt transfer-level English and math
  - Develop a student ed plan
  - Meet with a counselor
  - Fall GPA > 2.00

# Moving toward a transformational goal

- Shine all spotlights toward the same persistence goal
  - To ensure impact
  - With nuance
    - Varies by program
    - Varies by population
    - Varies by experience



# Persistence as a shared college goal

- College planning process
- Identify effort
- Track efforts over time
- Iterate



# Making a difference....Together



- At the program level:
  - Discussions
  - Priorities
  - Collaborations
  - Coordination
  - Evaluate

# The persistence story continues...

- Questions? Comments? Feedback?

**END**