



Persistence From Elementary Algebra to Transfer Level Math

This report examines the proportion of students who attempt Elementary Algebra who eventually successfully complete at least one transfer level math class with a grade of C or better at Gavilan Community College. Also shown is the average time from the first attempt of Elementary Algebra to the successful completion of a transfer level class. It is unknown how many of the students who have not yet completed transfer level math at Gavilan may have completed this course elsewhere.

As there is a time lag between the Elementary Algebra attempt and subsequent math courses, data from further in the past may be more representative of the average proportion of eventual transfer level math successes. When the data is restricted to those who attempted Elementary Algebra between Fall 1994 and Fall 2000, we find that 21% eventually pass transfer level math with a mean time of 1.6 years as shown in the bottom row of the table.

Data were extracted from the Gavilan Data Warehouse using BrioIntelligence 6.6.4 and analyzed with SPSS 12.0.0.

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Table 1. Proportion of Elementary Algebra students passing transfer level math by term of first attempt and average time to completion of transfer level math.

						Time in years between Elementary Algebra attempt and Passing Transfer Math		
Term Elementary Algebra first attempted	Not yet passed Transfer Level Math	Passed Transfer Level Math	Total	Percent passing	Cumulative Percent	Mean	Std Dev	Median
Fall 1994	202	59	261	23%	23%	1.6	1.2	1.3
Spring 1995	153	49	202	24%	23%	1.6	1.2	1.2
Summer 1995	17	3	20	15%	23%	1.4	1.0	1.0
Fall 1995	161	53	214	25%	24%	1.5	1.1	0.8
Spring 1996	154	32	186	17%	22%	2.1	1.3	2.0
Summer 1996	12	4	16	25%	22%	1.6	1.8	0.7
Fall 1996	179	49	228	21%	22%	1.9	1.3	1.5
Spring 1997	165	35	200	18%	21%	1.3	0.9	1.0
Summer 1997	16	4	20	20%	21%	1.3	0.6	1.3
Fall 1997	166	55	221	25%	22%	1.7	1.1	1.5
Spring 1998	130	32	162	20%	22%	1.9	1.2	1.2
Summer 1998	27	4	31	13%	22%	1.7	1.6	1.0
Fall 1998	186	49	235	21%	21%	1.5	1.1	0.8
Spring 1999	180	29	209	14%	21%	1.3	0.7	1.2
Summer 1999	21	4	25	16%	21%	1.8	1.3	1.6
Fall 1999	157	65	222	29%	21%	1.6	0.8	1.5
Spring 2000	124	30	154	19%	21%	1.1	0.7	0.8
Summer 2000	34	3	37	8%	21%	1.1	1.1	0.7
Fall 2000	218	47	265	18%	21%	1.4	0.6	1.3
Spring 2001	116	32	148	22%	21%	1.0	0.5	0.8
Summer 2001	22	7	29	24%	21%	1.0	0.4	0.7
Fall 2001	215	35	250	14%	20%	1.1	0.3	0.8
Spring 2002	154	21	175	12%	20%	0.7	0.2	0.8
Summer 2002	38	8	46	17%	20%	0.8	0.1	0.8
Fall 2002	338	20	358	6%	19%	0.8	0.1	0.8
Spring 2003	176	3	179	2%	18%	0.2	0.2	0.3
Summer 2003	44	0	44	0%	18%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fall 2003	297	0	297	0%	17%	n/a	n/a	n/a
1994-2000				21%		1.6	1.1	1.3