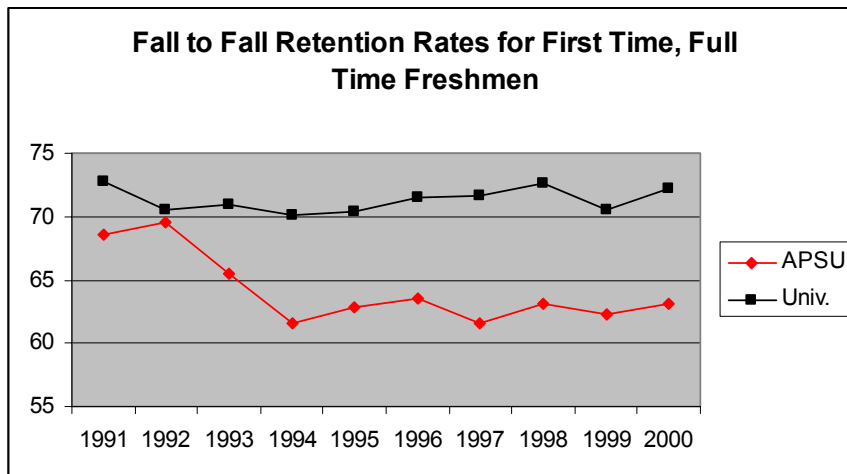
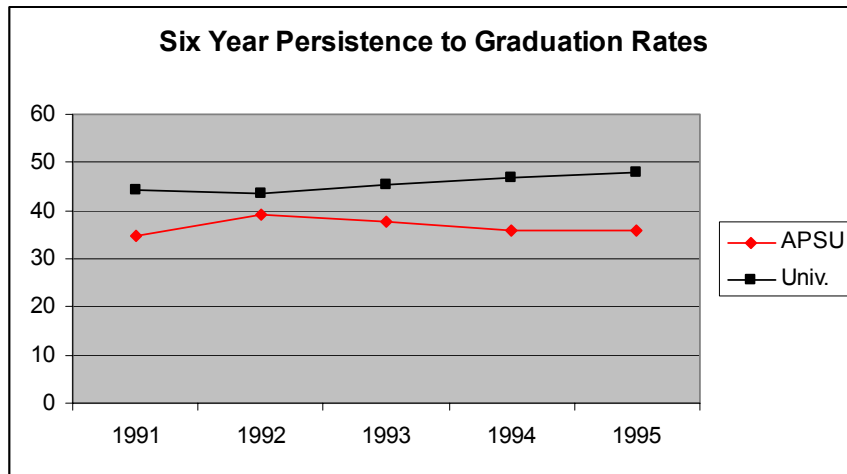


RETENTION AND PERSISTENCE STATISTICS FOR APSU AND TENNESSEE
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According to statistics provided through Tennessee's performance funding program and more detailed data from the Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness, APSU's fall to fall retention rates for the past six years have been consistently ten percent lower than the other four-year institutions in the TBR and UT systems. These comparative data sets isolate on first-time, full-time freshmen, which diminishes the impact of part-time student enrollment patterns. Further, APSU has the lowest six-year persistence-to-graduation rate in the TBR and UT systems for first-time, full-time students, falling ten percentage points below our cohort schools. The tables below show the trends in six year persistence to graduation rates and fall to fall retention rates of first-time, full-time freshmen.



The following chart displays the persistence to graduation data for the cohorts entering the public higher education system between 1990 and 1995. The statistic shown in this chart represents the percentage of first-time, full-time freshmen from each of the years who completed

their degrees within the standard six-year window. Data is shown for all four-year and two-year institutions in Tennessee.

PERSISTENCE-TO-GRADUATION RATE COMPARISONS (6 YEAR RATES)						
INSTITUTION	COHORT YEAR:					
	Fall 1990	Fall 1991	Fall 1992	Fall 1993	Fall 1994	Fall 1995
	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
TBR Universities						
APSU	40.4%	34.8%	41.5%	37.7%	35.7%	36.0%
ETSU	41.6%	39.3%	38.7%	37.4%	41.9%	40.7%
MTSU	40.6%	37.6%	38.1%	39.0%	42.8%	40.2%
TSU	32.7%	35.6%	37.7%	40.1%	43.3%	47.3%
TTU	47.6%	47.5%	49.3%	51.5%	51.4%	49.1%
UM	35.3%	35.6%	34.9%	36.1%	35.9%	36.6%
Sub-total	40.2%	38.8%	39.7%	40.2%	41.8%	41.2%
University of Tennessee						
UTC	44.5%	44.6%	46.5%	45.7%	50.1%	50.2%
UTK	58.4%	59.1%	59.2%	60.5%	61.2%	63.9%
UTM	43.4%	41.1%	40.8%	44.2%	44.6%	46.5%
Sub-total	53.1%	52.8%	53.0%	53.8%	55.3%	57.9%
Total Universities	45.4%	44.2%	44.8%	45.4%	47.0%	47.9%
Two-Year Institutions						
CSTCC	24.6%	19.2%	16.7%	18.3%	29.6%	18.6%
CLSCC	28.4%	28.0%	25.0%	23.6%	15.0%	26.0%
COSCC	32.8%	31.4%	31.4%	29.8%	19.8%	33.8%
DSCC	26.9%	22.1%	25.5%	21.6%	28.6%	28.4%
JSCC	32.3%	25.1%	22.0%	26.7%	28.4%	29.9%
MSCC	31.8%	28.7%	28.6%	25.6%	29.0%	30.6%
NSTCC	37.1%	25.3%	28.8%	26.0%	28.2%	26.8%
NSTI	24.6%	19.9%	17.3%	17.8%	16.9%	25.1%
PSTCC	22.2%	20.7%	20.4%	18.4%	25.6%	24.4%
RSCC	25.8%	28.4%	26.5%	26.6%	33.8%	31.2%
SSCC	17.0%	12.8%	13.1%	11.6%	12.8%	
STIM	19.2%	16.7%	18.0%	19.9%	16.5%	
STCC*						14.9%
VSOC	21.5%	18.8%	19.0%	22.5%	18.3%	20.1%
WSCC	30.2%	27.7%	26.9%	25.3%	29.2%	27.4%
Total Two-Year	25.9%	22.3%	22.2%	21.9%	22.7%	24.3%
*In the academic year 2000-01, State Technical College merged with Shelby State Community College to become Southwest Tennessee Community College.						

The chart on the next page shows actual fall to fall retention rates for all four-year and two-year institutions in Tennessee. Each cohort of first-time, full-time freshmen is compared to determine the percentage of each that returned to school the following fall semester.

Fall to Fall Retention Rates for First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen -- Data by Cohort											
	Fall 1990	Fall 1991	Fall 1992	Fall 1993	Fall 1994	Fall 1995	Fall 1996	Fall 1997	Fall 1998	Fall 1999	Fall 2000
INST	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
APSU	75.1%	74.8%	73.6%	71.5%	67.6%	69.5%	68.9%	68.1%	68.8%	68.1%	68.9%
ETSU	78.4%	74.9%	75.2%	76.9%	75.0%	73.7%	74.9%	77.4%	74.1%	76.6%	78.0%
MTSU	79.1%	79.9%	76.4%	78.1%	76.9%	79.4%	78.4%	78.0%	79.4%	74.5%	77.9%
TSU	70.1%	78.2%	74.4%	75.8%	78.4%	80.4%	80.2%	84.0%	82.5%	79.0%	79.6%
ITTU	81.3%	80.7%	80.2%	81.2%	79.4%	80.7%	82.1%	76.8%	79.0%	81.1%	80.0%
UM	80.3%	81.3%	77.7%	79.0%	76.8%	77.7%	78.4%	78.8%	79.9%	77.0%	78.3%
UTC	84.4%	84.3%	83.9%	81.3%	83.1%	83.2%	83.8%	82.6%	84.8%	83.0%	84.8%
UTK	86.9%	87.4%	86.0%	85.7%	83.8%	85.7%	85.6%	86.1%	86.5%	85.4%	86.4%
UTM	76.1%	76.5%	74.7%	74.8%	75.5%	77.3%	78.5%	75.7%	75.6%	73.3%	77.0%
Four Year Avg	80.7%	80.8%	79.0%	79.5%	78.4%	79.9%	80.2%	80.2%	80.5%	79.1%	80.3%
CLSCC	64.4%	66.9%	56.1%	59.6%	55.1%	62.2%	61.9%	55.8%	62.6%	56.0%	63.4%
COSCC	63.4%	63.3%	55.6%	63.7%	66.7%	67.8%	65.4%	64.0%	67.3%	60.8%	64.9%
CSTCC	66.0%	61.8%	56.2%	59.3%	55.8%	59.9%	59.3%	58.7%	60.3%	56.0%	61.7%
DSCC	65.6%	59.9%	58.3%	55.4%	57.5%	60.9%	62.7%	56.4%	55.4%	56.6%	55.3%
JSCC	68.6%	64.1%	53.8%	62.6%	62.9%	61.6%	55.0%	58.4%	57.7%	57.2%	64.1%
MSCC	66.4%	65.3%	62.6%	60.9%	67.8%	63.3%	62.4%	65.6%	61.8%	60.9%	64.5%
NSTCC	69.8%	58.7%	59.0%	60.7%	60.0%	62.5%	60.7%	56.6%	58.3%	59.1%	61.7%
NSTI	58.9%	54.6%	51.6%	50.8%	58.4%	63.3%	60.5%	53.6%	55.4%	58.9%	54.3%
PSTCC	65.7%	63.2%	56.7%	59.0%	60.6%	63.5%	65.8%	63.0%	60.2%	62.4%	61.7%
RSCC	65.7%	68.9%	63.0%	68.5%	66.8%	69.5%	63.9%	62.4%	62.3%	63.2%	64.9%
SSCC	62.5%	54.5%	54.6%	55.9%	55.1%	51.8%	50.0%	46.3%	49.7%	47.5%	
STIM	57.7%	53.9%	56.2%	58.2%	52.0%	56.5%	54.9%	52.5%	58.3%	57.8%	
STCC											55.4%
VSCC	63.2%	58.6%	56.1%	61.7%	53.9%	62.5%	61.2%	61.6%	60.4%	65.6%	58.1%
WSCC	65.3%	67.6%	61.4%	64.4%	66.9%	65.1%	61.4%	62.6%	59.9%	61.6%	62.6%
Two Year Avg	64.4%	61.4%	57.3%	60.4%	59.5%	62.0%	60.4%	59.0%	59.7%	59.4%	61.0%
TOTAL	74.2%	72.3%	68.6%	71.7%	70.4%	73.0%	72.3%	71.9%	72.7%	71.8%	73.1%
* Includes summer first-time freshmen who returned in the fall as well as fall first-time, full-time freshmen. Match w/ following fall's enrollment.											
** STIM merged with SSCC to become STCC in the Fall of 2000.											

In actual numbers APSU is losing about 350 to 400 students from the beginning of the freshmen year to the end of the six-year window in which students are expected to have graduated. The fall 1995 cohort is shown below with a count each year of the number of those 749 students that were enrolled during the fall semester or had graduated. The same numbers are shown for all universities in the TBR and UT systems.

Fall 1995 Cohort of First-Time, Full-Time Freshmen							
Six Year Trends in "Enrolled" or "Graduated"							
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
APSU	749	521	447	390	372	348	348
		70%	60%	52%	50%	46%	46%
Universities	13,680	10,933	9,703	8,943	8,107	7,930	8,086
		80%	71%	65%	59%	58%	59%

In conclusion, this data on APSU's retention and persistence problems indicated a need for investigation and provided the incentive for placing retention at the heart of our Quality Enhancement Plan for re-accreditation by SACS. Because many institutional characteristics such as "non-traditional students" and "local demographics & traffic patterns" have been blamed for the retention gap, the analysis and recommendations associated with the QEP project will help separate perceptions from realities.