# Data-Driven Decision Making <br> Office of Institutional Research <br> October, 2011 

## Trends

## Course-level trends

(using example course)
Enrollment - Number of filled seats in a section. A single student can count for several enrollments if they register for several courses.


Census enrollment - Enrollment data is captured on an official census date to adhere to nationally established reporting standards.

## Additional Enrollment-related Definitions

Headcount - number of unique students that enroll at an institution, campus or department. A student who enrolls in several courses is counted only once.

FTES - "Full-time-equivalent-student" - One FTES represents the number of class (contact) hours participated by a full-time student over the course of a year. One FTES represents 525 contact hours given that a full-time student attends the equivalent of 3 hours of class per day over 175 days of instruction in a year. This calculation is used by the state to determine funding levels.



Source: Postsecondary Education Commission Trend Analysis:
http://www.cpec.ca.gov/OnLineData/Mining.asp

## Course-level trends cont.

Retention - Percentage of students enrolled at census who remain enrolled and receive a final grade other than "W."

Success - Percentage of students enrolled at census who complete the course with a successful grade ( $A, B, C, P, C R$ ).

What about withdrawals?


## Student Grades



Or distribution of grades (A, B, C, D F, W)
Factors that impact student grades?

Source: Teachers College Record, 2009

Figure 1. Distribution of grades at American colleges and universities as a function of time


Note: 1940 and 1950 (nonconnected data points in figure) represent averages from 1935 to 1944 and 1945 to 1954 , respectively. Data from 1960 onward represent annual averages in our database, smoothed with a 3 -year centered moving average.

## Community College Grading



## Degree/Certificate Trends

(Example Program)


## Identifying a cohort

Issue of students not declaring their degree/certificate
Use course-taking patterns. Are there any courses or groupings of courses unique to your degree/certificate?
E.g., greater than 18 credits of GE, along with required course(s).

Create a base year/term for the cohort.
E.g., all active students having taken a certain class or classes as of fall 2007.

Other characteristics that might be used: Demographics, performance,

Persistence - the percentage of students who return in subsequent terms to continue their studies.


Track the persistence and success of students who've taken a particular class or class set vs. those who haven't.
E.g., basic skills, course sequencing.

## Completions

## (CR District)



Other trends: Years to completion, percentage of completers, characteristics of completers.


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## After College

Education pays:


Transfers by last year at CRExample Major



[^0]:    NOTE: includes only institutions that participated in Titie V federal inancial aid prograrns. For more information on the integrated Posisecondary Education Data System (PEDS) and IPEDS classifcation of Institutions, see supplemental notes 3 and 8 . See the glossary for definitions of frstprotessional degree and doctoral degree.
    SOUPCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1998-99 and 2006-09 integrated Postsecondary Education Data Syatern (PEDS), 'Completions Survey' (PEDSC:99) and Fal 2009.

