

First-Time-in-College (FTIC) & First-Time-Full Time (FTFT) Students

The U.S. Department of Education focuses exclusively on full-time students who are attending PSC as their first college ever (“first-time, full-time” or “FTFT”) to calculate the College’s retention rates and graduation rates. Each fall, a new cohort of FTFT students becomes an important part of how the federal government measures PSC’s institutional effectiveness.

In fall 2011, PSC modified its “first-time-in-college” (FTIC) student definition to align better with ICCB guidelines and coding. PSC’s old definition inaccurately identified pre-college and some transfer students as FTIC students, overestimating the size of our FTIC population. For fall 2011, the overall number of FTIC students is now 570, approximately one-tenth of our fall student population (figure 1).

Under the new FTIC definition, the race and ethnic demography of students shifts slightly, but not significantly. Non-Hispanic black or African American students continue to be the majority population at 51%. Hispanic students increase to 12% of FTFT students, while non-Hispanic white students remain one-third. A higher percentage of FTFT students, 55%, are male, up from 51% in fall 2010. The FTFT population is also younger. Seventy five percent (75%) of students are aged 19 or under, compared to 68% in fall 2010.

As one benefit of the new definition, our FTFT students are more often prepared for college-level coursework. Nearly three quarters place into college-level English (figure 2), and a majority place into MATH 095 or higher (figure 3).

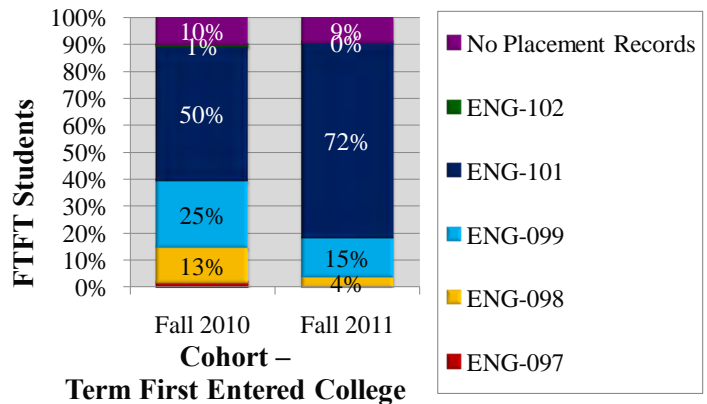
In the future, the new definition will also provide a better measure of the retention rate reported for FTFT students. Under the old definition, FTFT students’ fall-to-fall retention rate dropped to 42.3% in the past year.

Source: First-Time-in-College Student Profile, Office of Institutional Research

Re-Categorizations of Enrollment Status Degree-Seeking Students Only - Fall 2011

Old Definition		Reclassifications (20 or more)	New Definition	
Student Enrollment Status	Count		Student Enrollment Status	Count
1 FTIC	1,119	329	1 FTIC	570
2 New Pre-college	0	178	2 New Pre-college	329
3 New Transfer	229		3 New Transfer	385
4 New General Studies	14		4 New General Studies	13
5 Continuing Student	3,521	22	5 Continuing Students	2,882
6 Moved fm GS or PC to Coll. Coursework	68	42	6 Moved fm GS or PC to Coll. Coursewk	66
7 Returning Students	0	544	7 Returning Students	544
8 Already Holds a Bacc. Degree	0	95	8 Already Holds a Bacc. Degree	162

First-Time, Full-Time (FTFT) Students English Placements



First-Time, Full-Time (FTFT) Students Math Placements

