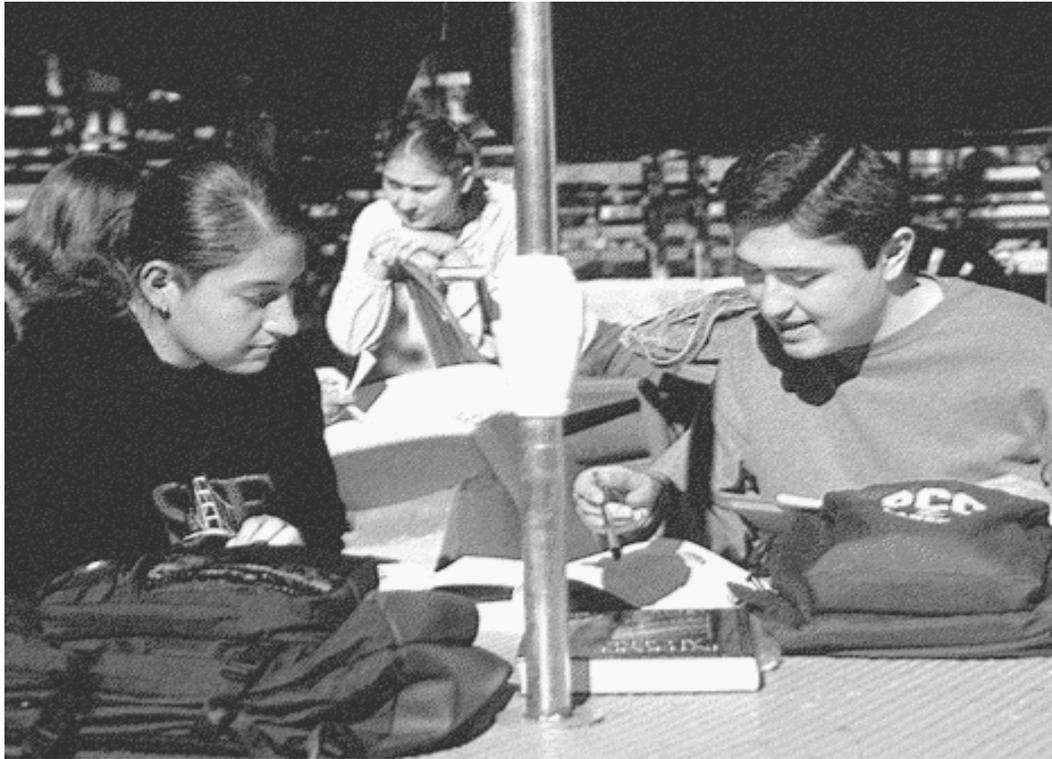


CHAPTER 6

GRADES, SUCCESS, & RETENTION

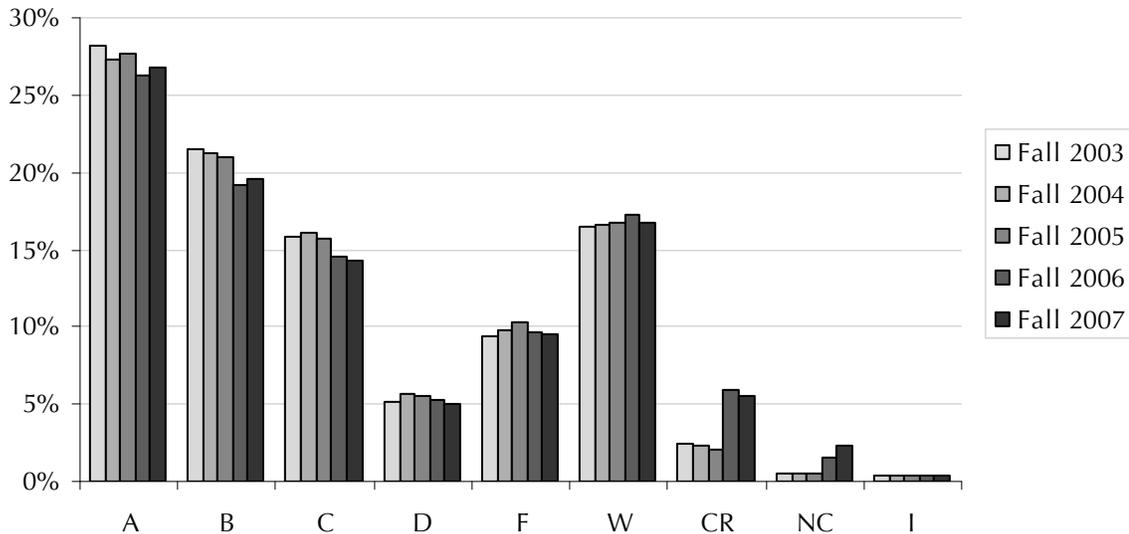


GRADES, SUCCESS, & RETENTION

Grade Distribution

In Fall 2007, the percents of students who received an A and B increased compared to those in Fall 2006, but were not as high as they were in the previous three years. The percents of students who received C, F, W (Withdraw), and CR (Credit) in Fall 2007 decreased compared to those in Fall 2006. The percent of students who received NC (No Credit) grades has continued to increase since Fall 2005. The percent of those receiving an I (Incomplete) grade remained stable for the past five years.

Figure 6-1
Grade Distribution

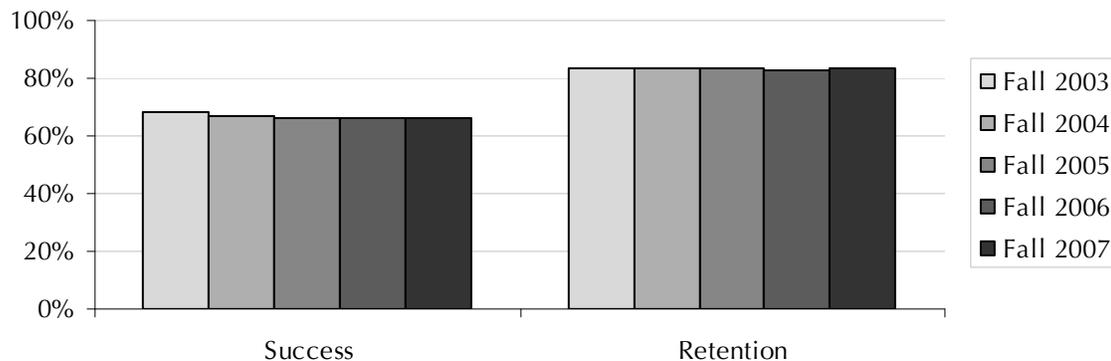


Two common indicators of student performance, which are used statewide, are success and retention rates. The success rate is the percentage of students who received an A, B, C, or CR upon completion of the term. The retention rate is the percentage of students who do not receive a W. Over the past four years, success and retention rates have held fairly constant. Success rates have been just under 70%, while retention rates have been just over 80%.

$$\text{Success Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Enrollments at Census Resulting in A, B, C, or CR}}{\text{Total Number of Enrollments at Census Resulting in A, B, C, D, F, CR, NC, I, W, or MW}} \times 100\%$$

$$\text{Retention Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Enrollments at Census Resulting in Any Grade Other than W}}{\text{Total Number of Enrollments at Census Resulting in A, B, C, D, F, CR, NC, I, W, or MW}} \times 100\%$$

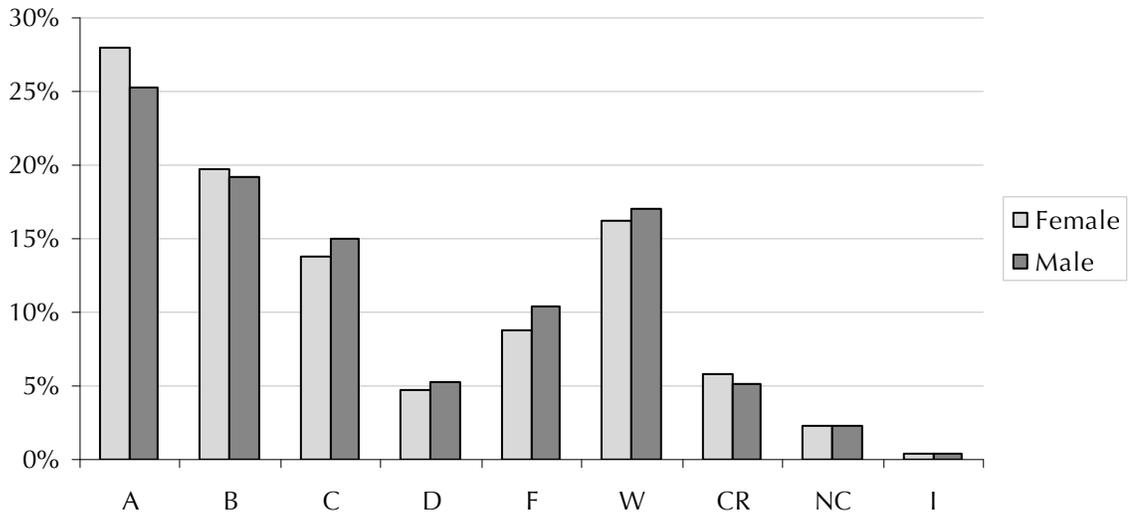
Figure 6-2
Success and Retention Rates



Gender

Female students received proportionally more As, Bs, and CRs and less Cs, Ds, Fs, and Ws, than did male students in Fall 2007. Female and male students received similar proportions of NC and I grades. This is a consistent pattern over the last few years. Community colleges statewide have also shown this pattern.

Figure 6-3
Fall 2007 Grade Distribution by Gender





Age 

Older students tend to earn better grades. In Fall 2007, with each successive age group, proportionately more students earned A grades. Students under 20 years of age received proportionately more Cs, Ds, and Fs than any other age group. Success rates were the lowest for students under 20 and the highest for students aged 40 to 49. Retention rates were the lowest for students under aged 20 to 24, and highest for those aged 40 to 49.

Figure 6-4
Fall 2007 Grades by
Age Group

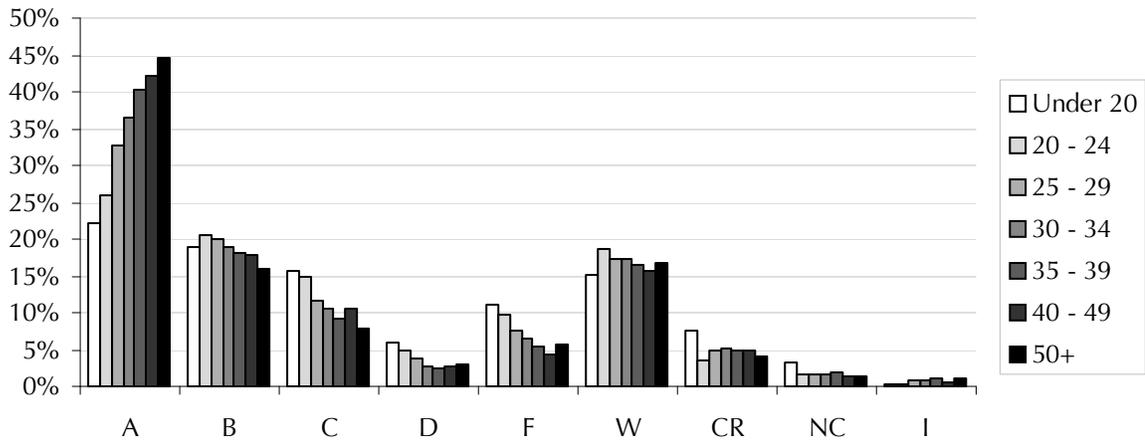
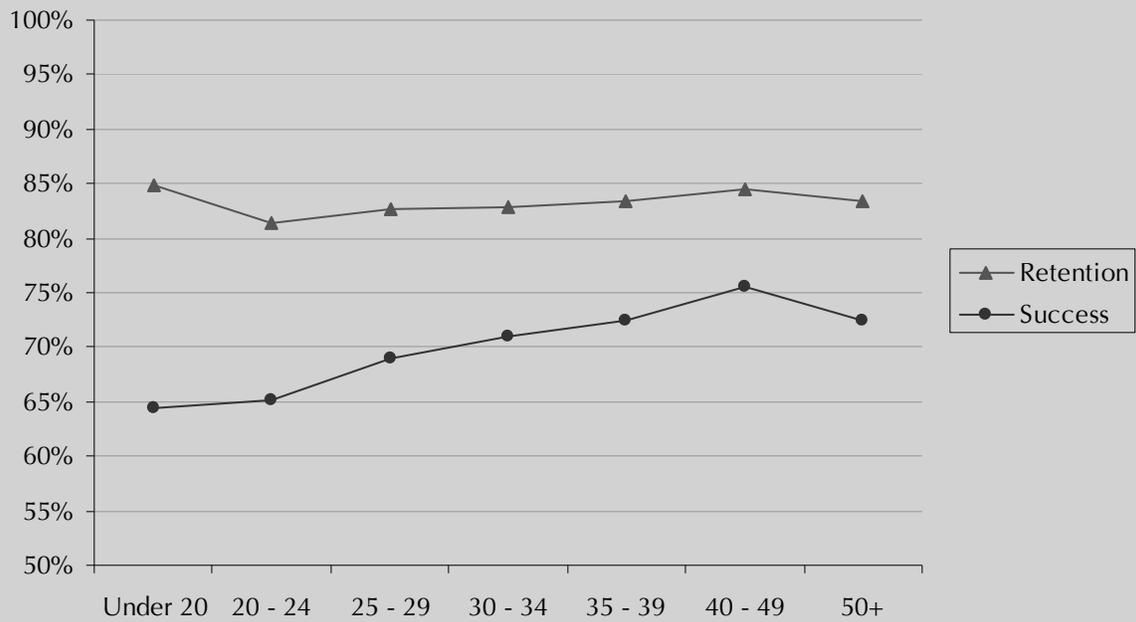


Figure 6-5
Fall 2007 Success and Retention by
Age Group



Ethnicity

In Fall 2007, as indicated in Figure 6-6, white students earned proportionally more As than any other group, and Asians/Pacific Islanders earned proportionally more Bs and CRs than any other group. Hispanic students earned proportionally more Cs and Ds than any other group. African American students earned proportionally more Fs, Ws, NCs, and Is than any other group.

Asians/Pacific Islanders and whites have similar success and retention rates over the past five years. The rates have tended to be higher than those of African American and Hispanic students. Success and retention rates for each of the four groups declined in Fall 2007 compared to the previous year.

Figure 6-6
Fall 2007 Grade Distribution by
Ethnicity

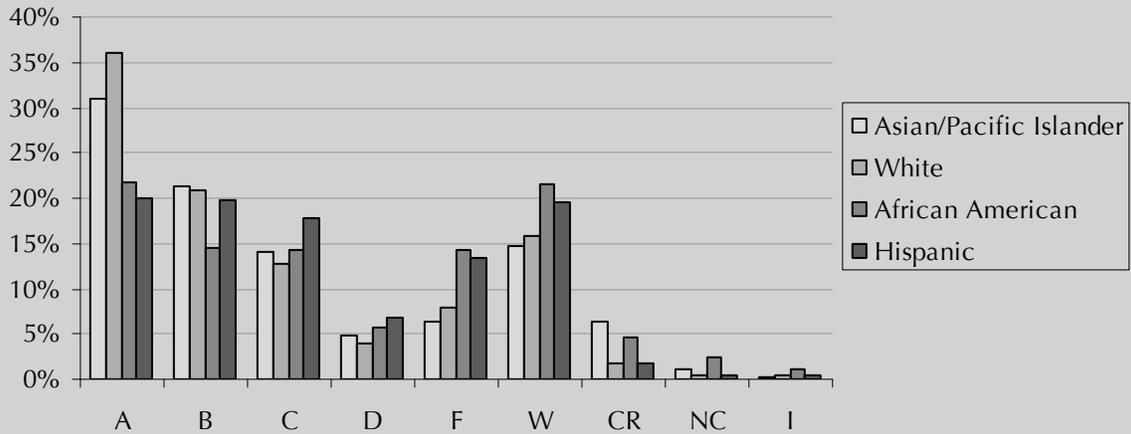
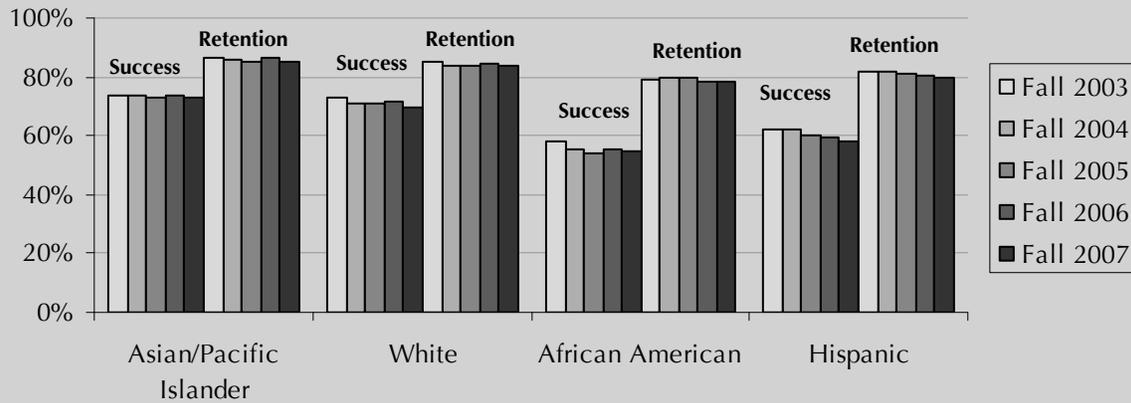


Figure 6-7
Success and Retention by
Ethnicity



Ethnicity

Table 6-1
Grade Distribution as a Percentage of
Ethnicity (African American & Asian/Pacific Islander)

		Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
African American						
	A	20.4	20.5	20.9	21.6	20.3
	B	18.0	16.5	16.1	14.5	16.0
	C	17.1	16.5	15.5	14.4	15.0
	D	6.2	7.4	6.6	5.7	5.9
	F	13.8	15.6	17.6	14.3	13.1
	W	20.7	20.0	20.4	21.5	21.6
	(F & W)	34.5	35.6	38.0	35.8	34.7
	CR	2.5	2.0	1.4	4.6	3.8
	NC	0.5	0.8	0.8	2.3	3.6
	I	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.8
	Success	57.9	55.5	53.9	55.2	55.0
	Retention	79.3	80.0	79.6	78.5	78.4
Asian/Pacific Islander						
	A	32.2	31.6	32.0	31.0	31.2
	B	23.5	23.2	23.5	21.3	20.8
	C	15.6	15.8	15.4	14.0	14.5
	D	5.0	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.8
	F	6.4	6.5	6.9	6.4	6.4
	W	14.5	14.7	13.7	14.7	14.3
	(F & W)	20.9	21.2	20.6	21.2	20.7
	CR	2.2	2.4	2.5	6.5	6.1
	NC	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.5
	I	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
	Success	73.5	73.0	73.5	72.7	72.6
	Retention	85.5	85.3	86.3	85.3	85.7

Table 6-2
Grade Distribution as a Percentage of
Ethnicity (Hispanic & White)

	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
Hispanic					
A	21.3	20.0	20.1	18.5	19.0
B	20.9	20.2	19.7	17.7	18.1
C	17.7	17.6	17.7	16.2	15.4
D	6.2	7.1	6.7	6.4	5.7
F	12.7	12.9	13.4	13.1	13.4
W	18.1	19.2	19.6	20.1	19.2
(F & W)	30.7	32.2	33.0	33.2	32.6
CR	2.3	2.1	1.9	5.8	5.5
NC	0.5	0.4	0.4	2.0	3.2
I	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
Success	62.2	59.9	59.4	58.1	58.0
Retention	81.9	80.8	80.4	79.9	80.8
White					
A	36.0	34.7	36.0	32.8	33.2
B	20.3	20.9	20.9	19.7	19.7
C	12.6	13.6	12.7	12.8	11.7
D	3.7	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8
F	8.2	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.2
W	16.2	16.2	15.9	16.4	17.0
(F & W)	24.4	24.1	23.8	24.3	25.3
CR	2.0	2.0	1.7	4.6	4.5
NC	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.4	1.6
I	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Success	71.0	71.2	71.4	69.9	69.0
Retention	83.8	83.8	84.1	83.6	83.0

GPA

In the last five years, Asians/Pacific Islanders' average GPA has remained very steady at around 2.73. For the other three groups: African American, white, and Hispanic, and the college as a whole, the GPA fluctuated over the last five years. It is worth noting that in Fall 2007, GPAs for all three groups and the college as a whole increased over those of the previous years', but were not as high as the highest points in the last five years.

Figure 6-8
Average Student GPA by
Ethnicity

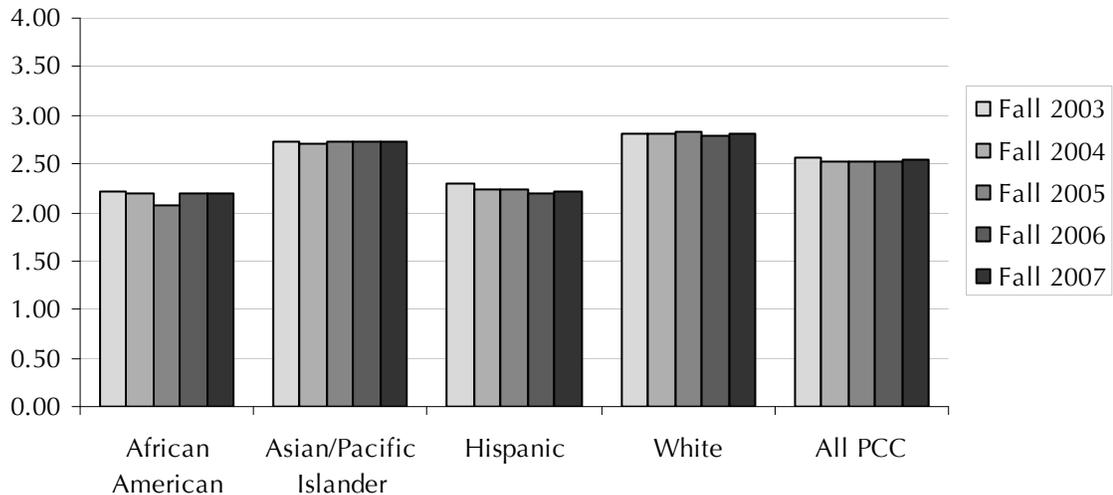


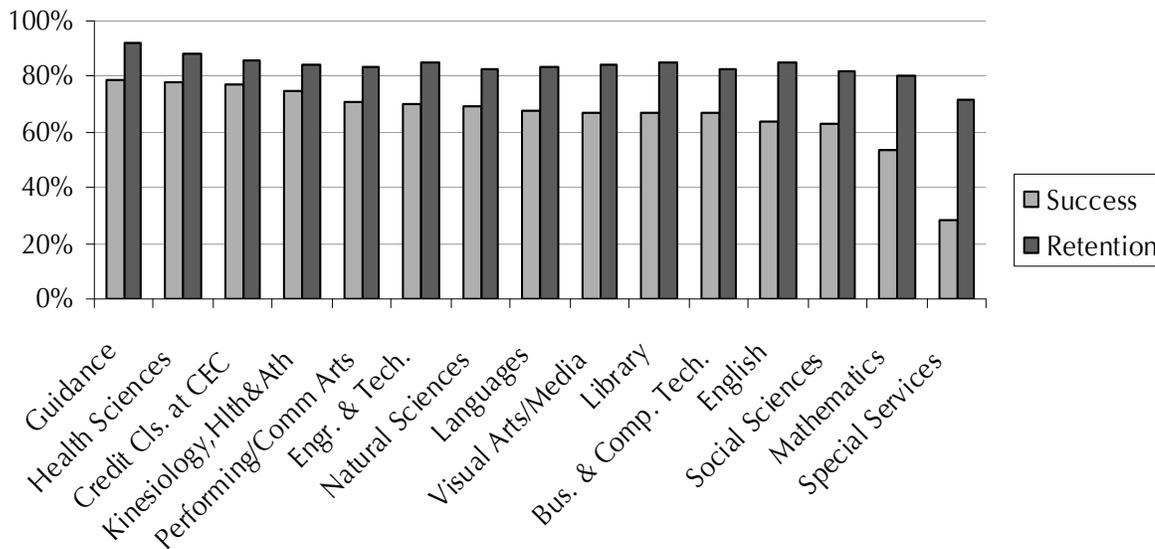
Table 6-3
Average Student GPA by
Ethnicity

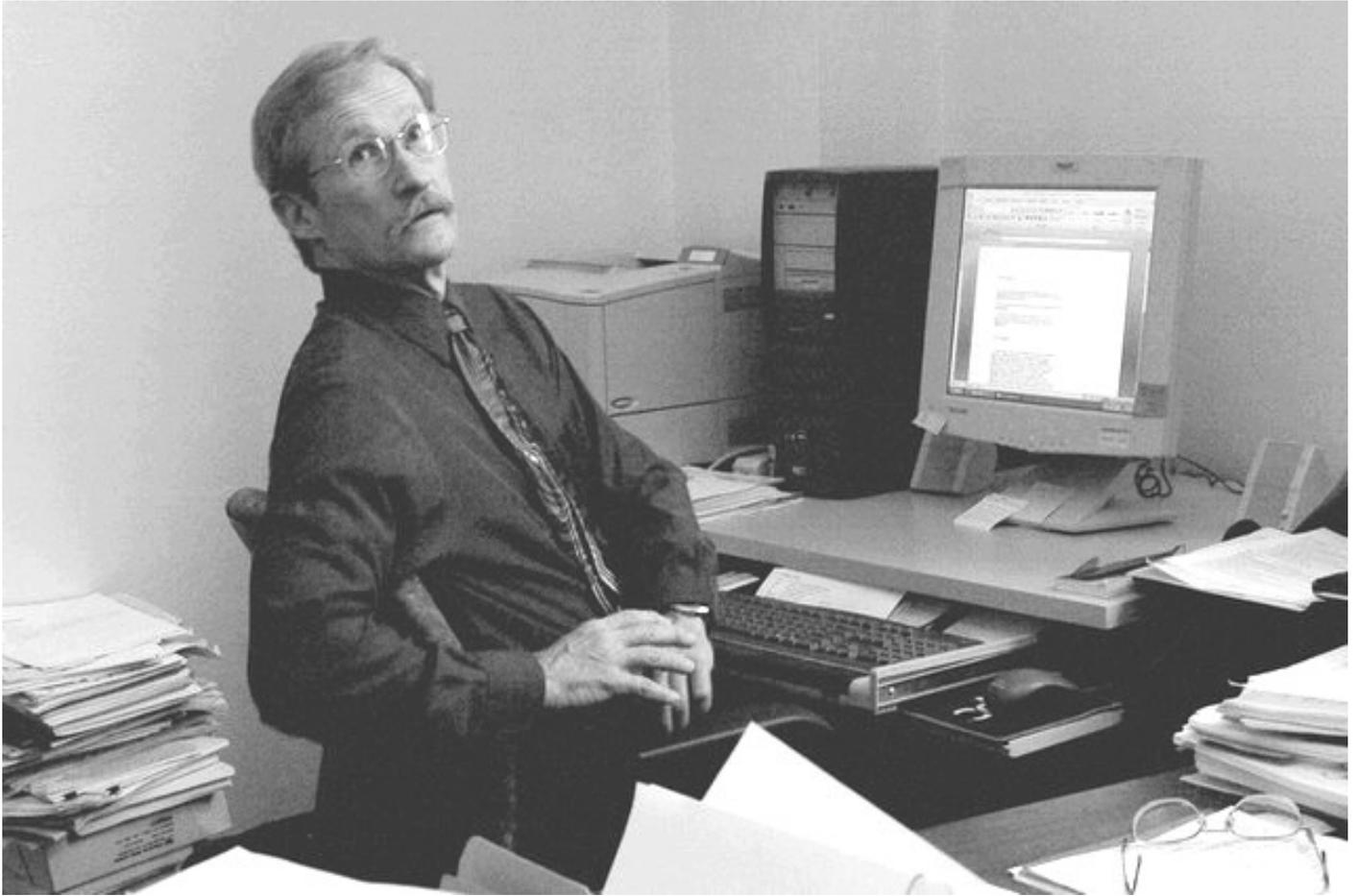
		Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
<i>Average</i>						
	African American	2.22	2.20	2.07	2.19	2.19
	Asian/Pacific Islander	2.73	2.72	2.73	2.73	2.73
	Hispanic	2.30	2.24	2.23	2.19	2.22
	White	2.82	2.82	2.84	2.80	2.81
	All PCC	2.56	2.53	2.52	2.51	2.54

Division

Success and retention rates vary by division. The divisions in Figure 6-9 are sorted by descending success rate in Fall 2007. In Fall 2007, Guidance had the highest success rate at 79% and retention rate at 92%, while Special Services had the lowest success rate at 29% and retention rate at 71%. Note that in Fall 2006, enrollment for Special Services was 139 with 8 sections, whereas the enrollment was seven in Fall 2007 with two sections. Table 6-4 and Table 6-5 show the five-year success rates and retention rates, respectively, for all divisions. For the last three years, the success rates for Engineering and Technology, Natural Sciences, and Business and Computer Technology have been increasing. The retention rates for English, Natural Science, Business and computer Technology, and Mathematics have been increasing. Note that Counseling is now known as "Guidance" and Physical Education is now known as "Kinesiology, Health and Athletics".

Figure 6-9
Fall 2007 Success and Retention by
Division





Division

**Table 6-4
Success Rate by
Division**

	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
<i>Percent</i>					
Guidance	78.1	77.2	80.9	81.4	79.0
Health Sciences	87.3	85.6	83.5	82.1	78.2
Credit Cls. at CEC	82.6	80.5	82.0	81.1	77.4
Kinesiology, Hlth&Ath	73.9	75.7	74.6	72.6	75.1
Performing/Comm Arts	69.6	69.8	70.9	68.4	70.9
Engr. & Tech.	71.0	70.7	66.6	69.4	70.3
Natural Sciences	68.0	68.9	66.8	67.6	69.1
Languages	69.0	67.8	68.0	65.4	67.8
Visual Arts/Media	65.6	64.2	66.8	66.0	67.1
Library	71.1	73.3	74.7	71.5	67.1
Bus. & Comp. Tech.	67.9	66.2	64.1	66.0	67.0
English	67.2	67.4	67.3	67.5	63.6
Social Sciences	66.1	64.4	64.7	62.6	62.8
Mathematics	59.8	55.2	54.4	55.4	53.5
Special Services	66.2	61.5	57.4	51.2	28.6
<i>All PCC</i>	68.1	67.0	66.5	65.9	66.1

**Table 6-5
Retention Rate by
Division**

	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
<i>Percent</i>					
Guidance	89.6	87.6	91.4	90.7	92.3
Health Sciences	93.1	92.3	90.6	90.6	88.1
Credit Cls. at CEC	87.6	82.2	92.8	89.2	86.1
English	83.5	83.7	83.8	85.1	85.2
Library	83.3	88.8	85.5	82.3	85.1
Engr. & Tech.	85.8	85.9	84.4	83.8	85.0
Kinesiology, Hlth&Ath	84.5	84.0	85.7	82.3	84.2
Visual Arts/Media	83.4	83.5	85.1	83.6	83.9
Languages	83.3	82.8	84.2	81.3	83.5
Performing/Comm Arts	83.7	85.0	84.0	82.7	83.3
Natural Sciences	81.1	82.6	81.7	82.1	82.8
Bus. & Comp. Tech.	83.0	82.5	81.7	82.2	82.4
Social Sciences	83.3	83.0	82.4	81.8	81.8
Mathematics	80.9	78.1	79.0	79.3	80.0
Special Services	83.6	80.5	88.8	78.0	71.4
<i>All PCC</i>	<i>83.5</i>	<i>83.3</i>	<i>83.2</i>	<i>82.7</i>	<i>83.3</i>

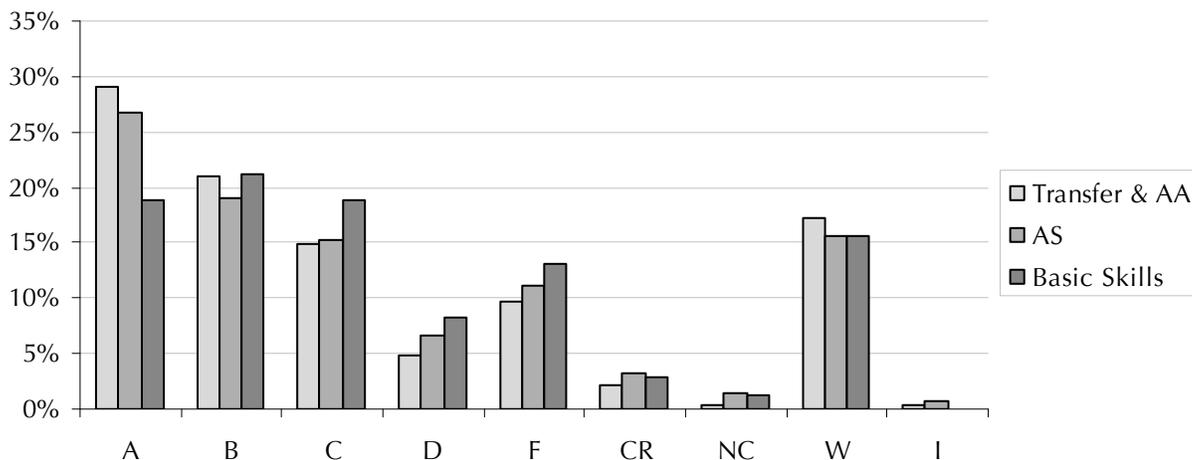
Course Type

Credit courses are divided into three mutually exclusive groups with the exception of English 900, which does not fall into any of the following:

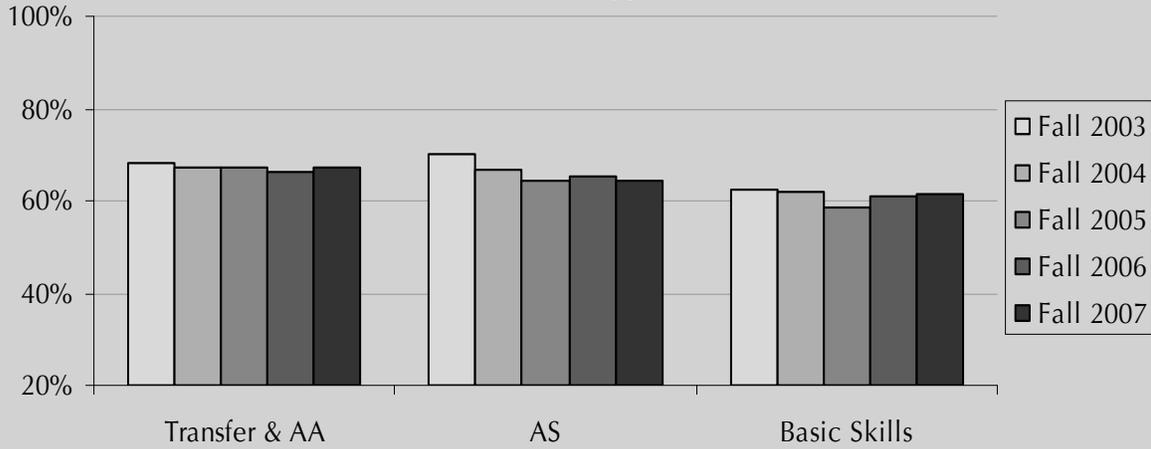
- Transferable and AA degree applicable (course digits: 1-99)
- AS degree applicable (course digits: 100-399)
- Basic skills (course digits: 400+)

In Fall 2008, proportionally more As and Ws were assigned to students in transferable and AA degree applicable courses. Proportionally more Bs, Cs, Ds, and Fs were assigned to students in basic skills courses. The success rate increased for students in transferable and AA courses in Fall 2007. Success rate in basic skills courses has been increasing for the last three years. In Fall 2007, retention rates for all three course types increased compared to those of the previous year.

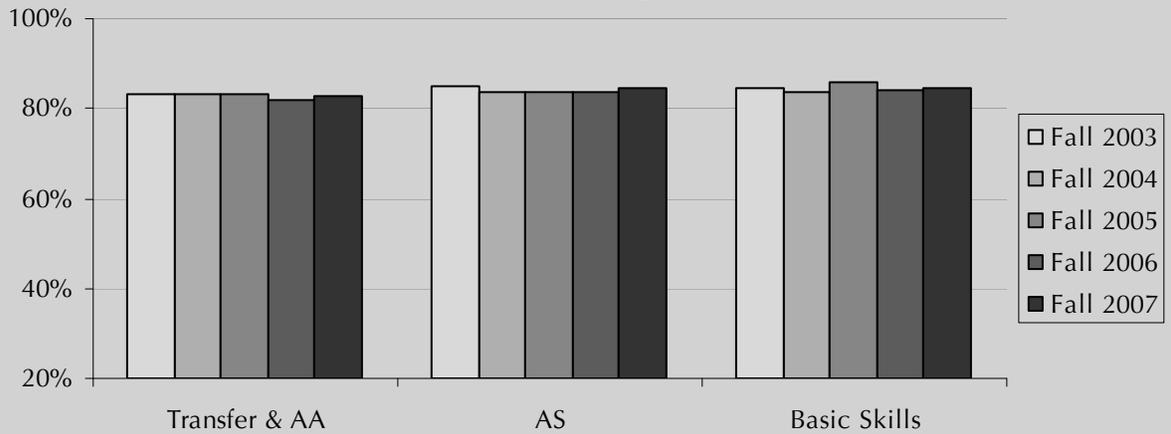
Figure 6-10
Fall 2007 Grade Distribution by
Course Type



**Figure 6-11
Success Rate by
Course Type**



**Figure 6-12
Retention Rate by
Course Type**



Course Type

Tables 6-6, 6-7, and 6-8 show the grade distribution, and success and retention of transferable and AA, AS, and basic skills courses, respectively, for Fall 2003 to Fall 2007.

Table 6-6
Percent of Grade Distribution for
Transferable and AA Courses

		Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
<i>Percent</i>						
	A	28.7	28.3	28.5	28.4	29.2
	B	21.9	21.4	21.5	20.5	21.0
	C	15.9	16.1	15.7	15.3	15.0
	D	5.0	5.4	5.1	5.3	4.9
	F	9.6	10.0	9.8	10.0	9.8
	CR	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.2
	NC	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4
	W	16.9	16.8	17.0	18.0	17.3
	I	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4
	Success	68.0	67.3	67.4	66.2	67.4
	Retention	83.1	83.2	83.0	82.0	82.7

Table 6-7
Percent of Grade Distribution for
AS Degree Courses

		Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
	<i>Percent</i>					
	A	29.3	25.8	26.8	27.5	26.8
	B	20.0	20.6	19.5	19.3	19.1
	C	15.0	15.3	15.2	15.2	15.3
	D	5.5	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.6
	F	8.2	9.2	11.3	10.5	11.1
	CR	5.5	5.1	2.8	3.1	3.3
	NC	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.5
	W	14.9	16.3	16.4	16.3	15.5
	I	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8
	Success	69.9	66.7	64.3	65.2	64.5
	Retention	85.1	83.7	83.6	83.7	84.5

Table 6-8
Percent of Grade Distribution for
Basic Skills Courses

		Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
	<i>Percent</i>					
	A	16.0	15.5	15.7	17.1	18.9
	B	20.6	20.2	18.6	21.4	21.2
	C	18.0	19.0	18.9	18.1	18.8
	D	8.2	9.0	11.0	9.2	8.2
	F	10.8	10.0	13.2	11.6	13.2
	CR	7.9	7.4	5.6	4.5	2.8
	NC	2.8	2.0	3.0	2.1	1.2
	W	15.5	16.5	14.0	15.9	15.7
	I	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1
	Success	62.6	62.1	58.7	61.1	61.6
	Retention	84.5	83.5	86.0	84.1	84.3

Vocational Courses

Vocational courses are presented separately because they overlap with the three course types listed previously. Vocational courses are flagged by the California Community Colleges Management Information System (MIS) to indicate the degree to which a course is occupational in nature. The Student Accountability Model (SAM) codes are A (apprenticeship), B (advanced occupational), C (clearly occupational), D (possibly occupational), E (non-occupational), I (skill development), and X (other). In accordance with the Chancellor’s Office definition, all courses with a SAM-code of A, B, or C are counted as vocational, although PCC does not offer any courses with a SAM-code of A.

In Fall 2007, proportionally students receive more As, Bs, and Ws than any other grade in vocational courses. Success and retention rates both increased in Fall 2007 compared to those in the previous year.

Figure 6-13
Fall 2007 Grade Distribution of
Vocational Courses

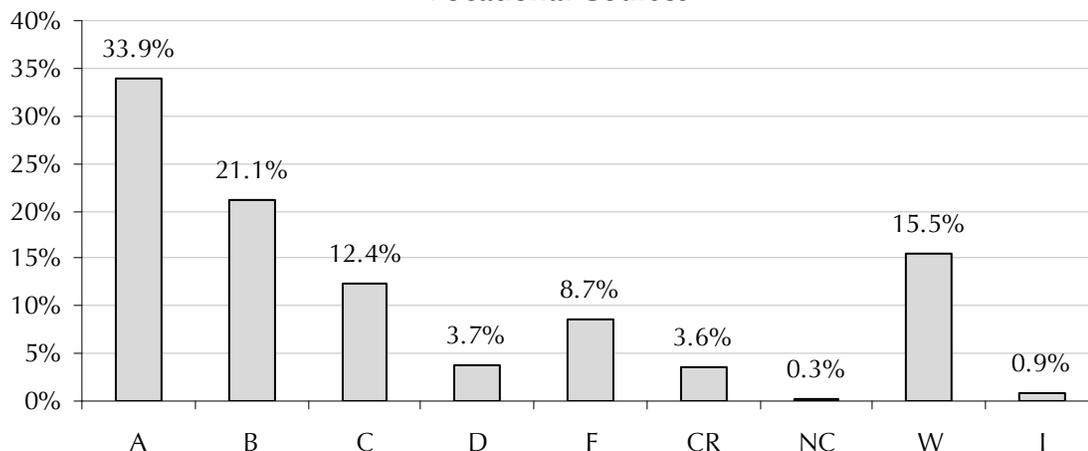


Figure 6-14
Success and Retention by
Vocational Courses

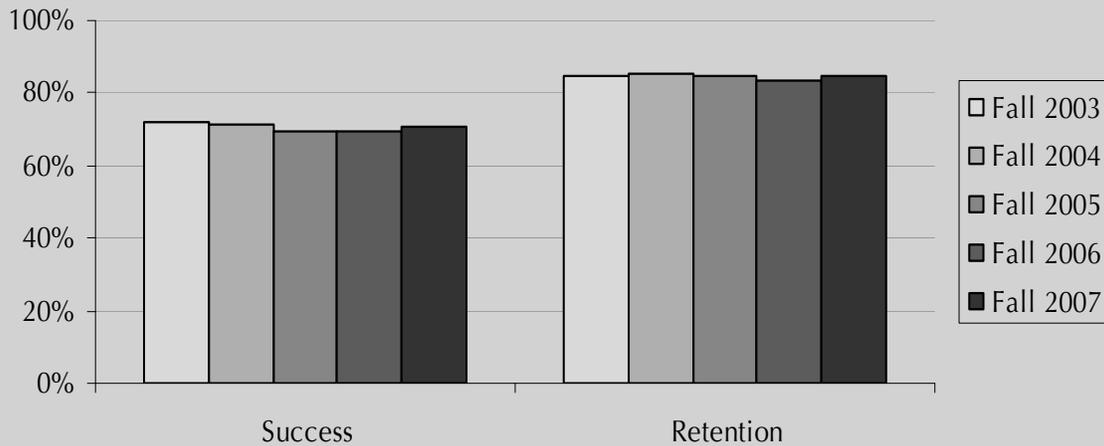


Table 6-9
Grade Distribution by
Vocational Courses

		Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007
	<i>Percent</i>					
	A	33.8	31.7	33.5	34.1	33.9
	B	21.2	21.5	20.0	19.8	21.1
	C	12.5	12.9	12.3	12.2	12.4
	D	3.8	4.2	4.2	3.9	3.7
	F	8.2	8.9	10.1	8.8	8.7
	CR	4.3	4.9	3.4	3.6	3.6
	NC	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
	W	15.5	14.9	15.5	16.5	15.5
	I	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.9
	Success	71.8	71.0	69.2	69.6	71.0
	Retention	84.5	85.1	84.5	83.5	84.5