

Interpreting BCLAP Tables

- **BCLAP** (Brooklyn College Longitudinal Attrition and Persistence) tables track cohorts of students in their journey toward degree completion. There are several concepts you need to know to understand a BCLAP table.
- **Cohort:** A group of students starting at the same time, who share the same entry-level status. For example: all first time, full time, baccalaureate degree-seeking freshmen entering in a given fall semester. To draw meaningful conclusions about factors affecting retention and graduation, cohorts must share a common starting point (entry level status as freshmen, transfer, or graduate level), and a common educational goal (bachelor's or master's degree-seeking). In reality, cohorts are never perfectly homogenous; but with a common starting point and goal, we can make inferences about the educational progress of our students.
- **Initial Count:** The total number of students in the initial cohort, in the fall of the year given.
- **Retention Rate:** The percentage of students from the original cohort returning as of a given number of years. For example, if 100 students entered as members of the fall 2005 cohort, and 80 enrolled in fall 2006 under the same degree status, then the one-year retention rate would be 80%.
- **Cumulative Graduation Rate:** The percentage of students from the original cohort who have graduated within a given number of years. For example, if 20 students from the same hypothetical 100-student fall 2005 cohort had graduated before the start of the 2009 fall semester, the four-year cumulative graduation rate for that cohort would be 20%. Note: this rate is cumulative, meaning that the fall 2009 rate counts anyone from the cohort who has earned the relevant degree, not just those that did so in the prior year.
- **Persistence Rate:** The sum of the retention and graduation rates for a given year. If the four-year retention rate for students in the fall 2005 cohort is 30%, and the four-year graduation rate for the same cohort is 15%, the persistence rate would be 45%. Another way of putting this is that 45% of all students in the fall 2005 cohort are either still enrolled as of fall 2009, or have graduated. Persistence rate is an important way of accounting for retention in later years without penalizing the school for successful graduation rates.
- **Attrition Rate:** The difference between the full size of the entering cohort (100 percent) and the persistence rate. The attrition rate includes stop-outs (students not returning in a given semester, who return in some subsequent semester), drop outs (who have did not return to college, and will not), and transfer-outs.

Interpreting BCLAP Tables: Example

Taking the following page as an example, and focusing on the yellow highlighted portions, we can answer a number of questions about our cohort.

- **What is the cohort we're looking at?**
 - First time, full time, baccalaureate degree-seeking freshmen who first enrolled at Brooklyn College in Fall 2005.
- **How many students were part of this initial cohort?**
 - There were 1,354 students in this cohort.
- **What was the one-year Retention Rate?**
 - The one-year retention rate was 78.4%. This means that of the initial cohort of 1,354 students, 78.4% (or 1,062) enrolled as baccalaureate degree-seeking students in the Fall 2006 semester.
- **What was the four-year Retention Rate?**
 - The four-year retention rate was 35.0%. This means that of the initial cohort of 1,354 students, 35.0% (or 474) enrolled as baccalaureate degree-seeking students in the Fall 2009 semester.
- **What was the four-year Cumulative Graduation Rate?**
 - The four-year cumulative graduation rate 22.6%. This means that of the initial cohort of 1,354 students, 22.6% (or 306) had earned a baccalaureate degree from Brooklyn College prior to the Fall 2009 semester.
- **What was the four-year Cumulative Persistence Rate?**
 - The four-year cumulative persistence rate 57.6%. This means that of the initial cohort of 1,354 students, 57.6% (or 780) were still enrolled in Fall 2009; or had earned a baccalaureate degree from Brooklyn College prior to the Fall 2009 semester. This is the sum of the 35.0% who were still enrolled in Fall 2009, and the 22.6% who were no longer enrolled because they had completed their degree.
- **What was the four-year Cumulative Attrition Rate?**
 - The four-year cumulative attrition rate 42.4%. This means that of the initial cohort of 1,354 students, 42.4% (or 574) were not enrolled in fall 2009, and had not earned a baccalaureate degree from Brooklyn College prior to the Fall 2009 semester. This number is equal to 100% minus the 57.6% persistence rate.

Brooklyn College Longitudinal Attrition and Persistence

First Time, Full Time Baccalaureate Degree-Seeking Freshman Students
Retention, Graduation, Persistence, And Attrition (Entire Cohort)

Cohort	Initial Count	<u>Retention Rate</u>										<u>Cumulative Graduation Rate</u>							
		1 Year Later	2 Years Later	3 Years Later	4 Years Later	5 Years Later	6 Years Later	7 Years Later	8 Years Later	9 Years Later	10 Years Later	within 1 year	within 2 years	within 3 years	within 4 years	within 5 years	within 6 years	within 7 years	within 8 years
2000	1,229	78.5%	67.0%	57.6%	36.5%	16.4%	7.6%	4.4%	3.0%	2.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	18.3%	36.7%	44.6%	47.3%	49.0%
2001	1,009	83.4%	67.7%	56.7%	35.2%	14.0%	9.4%	4.9%	3.6%	3.0%		0.0%	0.3%	3.6%	21.3%	41.4%	47.1%	50.5%	52.1%
2002	1,182	79.7%	62.0%	53.8%	33.3%	13.1%	6.2%	2.9%	2.6%			0.0%	0.1%	2.6%	20.3%	38.4%	44.0%	46.6%	47.3%
2003	1,274	78.6%	61.4%	52.9%	33.0%	13.7%	7.5%	3.8%				0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	18.7%	36.7%	43.4%	46.3%	
2004	1,156	75.5%	64.8%	57.6%	33.0%	12.6%	6.7%					0.0%	0.1%	2.4%	24.1%	42.4%	48.4%		
2005	1,354	78.4%	67.3%	58.3%	35.0%	14.3%						0.0%	0.1%	1.8%	22.6%	40.3%			
2006	1,328	80.2%	67.8%	60.6%	33.3%							0.0%	0.2%	3.1%	26.7%				
2007	1,272	77.2%	65.3%	58.7%								0.0%	0.1%	2.2%					
2008	1,308	77.9%	66.5%									0.0%	0.0%						
2009	952	81.9%										0.0%							

Cohort	Initial Count	<u>Cumulative Persistence Rate</u>										<u>Cumulative Attrition Rate</u>							
		1 Year Later	2 Years Later	3 Years Later	4 Years Later	5 Years Later	6 Years Later	7 Years Later	8 Years Later	9 Years Later	10 Years Later	within 1 year	within 2 years	within 3 years	within 4 years	within 5 years	within 6 years	within 7 years	within 8 years
2000	1,229	78.5%	67.0%	59.2%	54.8%	53.1%	52.2%	51.7%	52.0%	51.7%	51.5%	21.5%	33.0%	40.8%	45.2%	46.9%	47.8%	48.3%	48.0%
2001	1,009	83.4%	68.0%	60.3%	56.5%	55.4%	56.5%	55.4%	55.7%	55.8%		16.6%	32.0%	39.7%	43.5%	44.6%	43.5%	44.6%	44.3%
2002	1,182	79.7%	62.1%	56.4%	53.6%	51.5%	50.2%	49.5%	49.9%			20.3%	37.9%	43.6%	46.4%	48.5%	49.8%	50.5%	50.1%
2003	1,274	78.6%	61.4%	54.2%	51.7%	50.4%	50.9%	50.1%				21.4%	38.6%	45.8%	48.3%	49.6%	49.1%	49.9%	
2004	1,156	75.5%	64.9%	60.0%	57.1%	56.0%	56.1%					24.5%	35.1%	40.0%	42.9%	45.0%	44.9%		
2005	1,354	78.4%	67.4%	60.1%	57.6%	54.6%						21.6%	32.6%	39.9%	42.4%	45.4%			
2006	1,328	80.2%	68.0%	63.7%	60.0%							19.8%	32.0%	36.3%	40.0%				
2007	1,272	77.2%	65.4%	60.9%								22.8%	34.6%	39.1%					
2008	1,308	77.9%	66.5%									22.1%	33.5%						
2009	952	81.9%										18.1%							