

Introduction

Of 3,117 students who had either an Academic Degree Plan (ADP) or Early Degree Plan (EDP) between June 2018 and October 2018, 2,188 (70%) completed at least one credit or clock hour course, in academic group (credit type) 01, 02, 03, 05, or 14, in the fall 2018 term.¹ Of these, 1,750 (80%) returned to complete at least one course in spring 2019. Of 22,453 (unduplicated) students with neither an ADP or EDP who completed at least one credit or clock hour course, in academic group (credit type) 01, 02, 03, 05, or 14, in the fall 2018 term, 66.3% returned to complete at least one course in spring 2019. As shown in **Table 1**, a chi-square contingency table test strongly rejected the null hypothesis of independence between Academic Plan Status (ADP, EDP, None) and Spring 2019 term retention as based upon course completion ($\chi^2 = 170.26$, 2df; $p < .0001$). This provides evidence of statistically significant differences in fall-to-spring retention (as measured by the actual enrollment and completion of one or more courses in both terms) between students *with* a degree plan and those *without* a degree plan. Further proportion testing revealed the retention percentage differences (80% for degree plan students vs. 66% for non-degree plan students) to be statistically significant ($p < .00001$) as shown in **Table 2**.

Table 1. Fall 2018 to Spring 2019 Retention Comparison by Academic Degree Plan Status

| Academic Plan Status | | Completed Course Spring 2019 | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| | | No Course | Completed Course | Total |
| ADP | Observed | 129 | 546 | 675 |
| | Expected | 219 | 456 | 675 |
| | % of χ^2 | 21.8% | 10.5% | 32.3% |
| | % of row | 19.1% | 80.9% | 100.0% |
| | % of column | 1.6% | 3.3% | 2.7% |
| EDP | Observed | 309 | 1,204 | 1,513 |
| | Expected | 491 | 1,022 | 1,513 |
| | % of χ^2 | 39.7% | 19.1% | 58.9% |
| | % of row | 20.4% | 79.6% | 100.0% |
| | % of column | 3.9% | 7.2% | 6.1% |
| None | Observed | 7,564 | 14,889 | 22,453 |
| | Expected | 7,291 | 15,162 | 22,453 |
| | % of χ^2 | 6.0% | 2.9% | 8.9% |
| | % of row | 33.7% | 66.3% | 100.0% |
| | % of column | 94.5% | 89.5% | 91.1% |
| Total | Observed | 8,002 | 16,639 | 24,641 |
| | % of χ^2 | 67.5% | 32.5% | 100.0% |
| | % of row | 32.5% | 67.5% | 100.0% |
| | % of total | 32.5% | 67.5% | 100.0% |

Notes: Based on 24,641 unduplicated students who completed at least one credit or clock hour course (with a grade of A, B, C, D, F, FN, or W) in academic group (credit type) 01, 02, 03, 05, or 14 in the fall 2018 academic term. Students with academic plans (ADP or EDP) as created between June 1, 2018 and October 31, 2018. Retention is based registration and completion of a course in the applicable academic term.

Table 2. Hypothesis for Two Independent Proportions

| ADP or EDP | No Plan | p_c | |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 0.7998 | 0.6631 | 0.6753 | p (as decimal) |
| 1750/2188 | 14889/22453 | 16639/24641 | p (as fraction) |
| 1750. | 14889. | 16639. | X |
| 2188 | 22453 | 24641 | n |
| | 0.1367 | | difference |
| | 0. | | hypothesized difference |
| | 0.0105 | | std. error |
| | 13.03 | | z |
| | 0.00E+00 | | p-value (two-tailed) |

¹ A corrected version of QM_FSC_ADP_EDP_STUDENTS was used to identify the unduplicated list of ADP/EDP students. Enrollments/Completions by term were obtained using DGAD queries for the applicable terms. Contact FSCJ Institutional Analytics & Research.