



RESEARCH BRIEF

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Successful Gateway Course Completion Rates of NOVA Students by Full-/Part-time Status

This Research Brief presents successful course completion rates in gateway courses for first-time to NOVA students in the Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 cohorts by full-/part-time status. Gateway courses are defined as those that are critical to future success in college, such as general education or prerequisite courses, which have high enrollments. The following gateway courses are examined: Accounting 211, Biology 101, English 111, Math 151, and Math 163. Successful course completion is defined as a student earning a grade of “A,” “B,” or “C,” within one year of initial enrollment in the course.

Overall, the data show that full-time students generally were more successful in English 111 and Math 151 courses and part-time students generally were more successful in Math 163, whereas results for Accounting 211 and Biology 101 were varied. Comparing completion rates across the five gateway courses, rates were highest in English 111 among both full-time and part-time students (74 to 79 percent range).

Table 1 below and Figure 1 (next page) show overall gateway course completion rates. These data include enrollments from Accounting 211, Biology 101, English 111, Math 151, and Math 163 and therefore, are duplicated. Results across all four cohorts were generally similar. Completion rates among full-time students ranged from 71 to 75 percent, whereas completion rates among part-time students ranged from 71 to 74 percent. For the Fall 2009 and 2012 cohorts, part-time students had higher overall completion rates than full-time students. For the Fall 2010 and 2011 cohorts, full-time students had higher overall completion rates than part-time students.

**Table 1. Overall Successful Gateway Course Completion Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status:
Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Status	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	6,973	5,055	72.5	6,874	5,098	74.2	6,664	5,015	75.3	7,610	5,409	71.1
Part-Time	2,601	1,916	73.7	2,666	1,957	73.4	2,545	1,815	71.3	3,398	2,453	72.2
Total	9,574	6,971	72.8	9,540	7,055	74.0	9,209	6,830	74.2	11,008	7,862	71.4

Figure 1. Overall Successful Gateway Course Completion Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

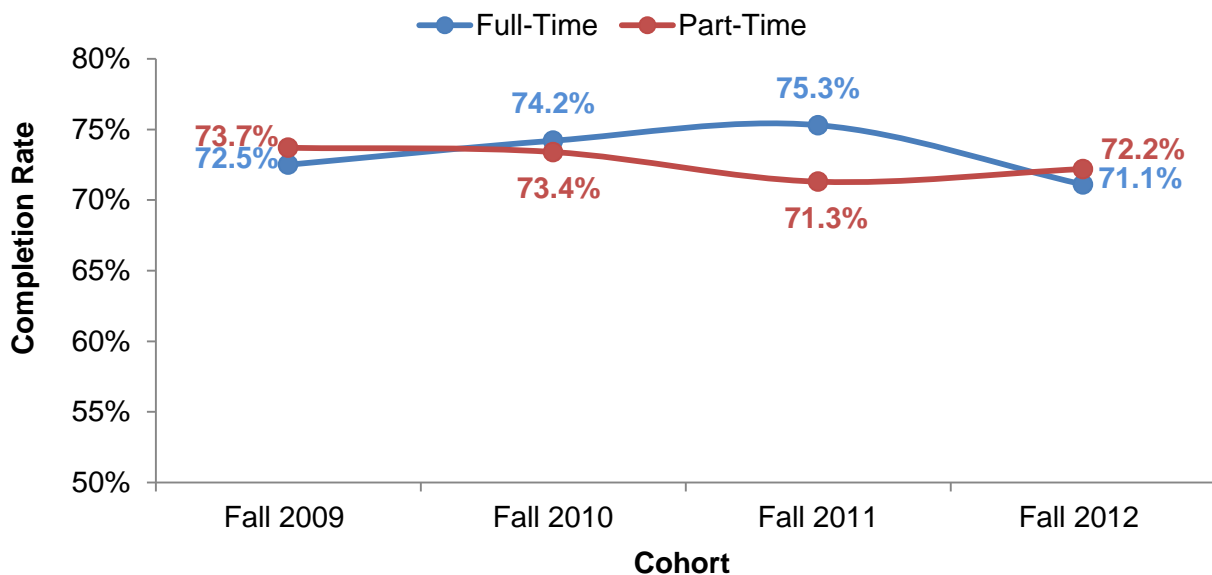


Table 2 shows completion rates for first-time to NOVA students by full-/part-time status in Accounting 211. Part-time students had higher completion rates than full-time students across all cohorts with the exception of Fall 2010. The percentage of part-time students who successfully completed Accounting 211 ranged from 63 to 74 percent across all four cohorts, whereas the percentage of full-time students who did so ranged from 64 to 69 percent.

Table 2. Accounting 211 Successful Completion Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Status	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	482	313	64.9	442	305	69.0	447	296	66.2	459	295	64.3
Part-Time	269	199	74.0	239	151	63.2	231	163	70.6	227	166	73.1
Total	751	512	68.2	681	456	67.0	678	459	67.7	686	461	67.2

Table 3 shows Biology 101 completion rates for first-time to NOVA students by full-/part-time status. In the two most recent cohorts (Fall 2011 and Fall 2012), full-time students had higher completion rates in Biology 101. However, results for the Fall 2009 and Fall 2010 cohorts were reversed and part-time students had higher Biology 101 completion rates than full-time students.

Table 3. Biology 101 Successful Completion Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

Status	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	1,456	991	68.1	1,349	982	72.8	1,265	933	73.8	1,396	1,005	72.0
Part-Time	381	271	71.1	382	282	73.8	377	261	69.2	443	311	70.2
Total	1,837	1,262	68.7	1,731	1,264	73.0	1,642	1,194	72.7	1,839	1,316	71.6

Table 4 shows English 111 completion rates for first-time to NOVA students by full-/part-time status. Full-time students had higher completion rates than part-time students for all cohorts except the Fall 2012 cohort. For the Fall 2012 cohort, full- and part-time students had the same course completion rate for English 111 (77 percent).

**Table 4. English 111 Successful Completion Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status:
Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Status	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	3,489	2,709	77.6	3,467	2,711	78.2	3,405	2,701	79.3	3,735	2,872	76.9
Part-Time	1,537	1,162	75.6	1,626	1,238	76.1	1,439	1,064	73.9	2,062	1,585	76.9
Total	5,026	3,871	77.0	5,093	3,949	77.5	4,844	3,765	77.7	5,797	4,457	76.9

Table 5 shows Math 151 completion rates for first-time to NOVA students by full-/part-time status. Full-time students had higher completion rates than part-time students for all cohorts with the exception of Fall 2009. The percentage of full-time students who successfully completed Math 151 ranged from 69 to 71 percent across all four cohorts, whereas the percentage of part-time students who did so ranged from 64 to 72 percent.

**Table 5. Math 151 Successful Completion Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status:
Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Status	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	1,056	745	70.5	1,124	794	70.6	1,089	769	70.6	914	626	68.5
Part-Time	287	206	71.8	306	208	68.0	364	232	63.7	361	237	65.7
Total	1,343	951	70.8	1,430	1,002	70.1	1,453	1,001	68.9	1,275	863	67.7

Table 6 shows Math 163 completion rates for first-time to NOVA students by full-/part-time status. Part-time students had higher completion rates than full-time students across all cohorts with the exception of Fall 2009 and Fall 2012. Full-time and part-time students had the same completion rates for the Fall 2009 cohort and full-time students had higher completion rates in the Fall 2012 cohort. The percentage of part-time students who successfully completed Math 163 ranged from 51 to 71 percent across all four cohorts, whereas the percentage of full-time students who did so ranged from 55 to 69 percent.

**Table 6. Math 163 Successful Completion Rates by Full-/Part-Time Status:
Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts**

Status	Fall 2009 Cohort			Fall 2010 Cohort			Fall 2011 Cohort			Fall 2012 Cohort		
	N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful		N	Successful	
		#	%		#	%		#	%		#	%
Full-Time	490	297	60.6	492	306	62.2	458	316	69.0	1,106	611	55.2
Part-Time	127	78	61.4	113	78	69.0	134	95	70.9	305	154	50.5
Total	617	375	60.8	605	384	63.5	592	411	69.4	1,411	765	54.2

Figure 2 presents completion rates among full-time students for each of the five gateway courses. Of the different gateway courses, a higher percentage of full-time students in each cohort successfully completed English 111 as compared to other courses. In contrast, Math 163 generally had the lowest rates of completion among full-time students across all cohorts except Fall 2011.

Figure 2. Gateway Course Successful Completion Rates for Full-Time First-Time to NOVA Students: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

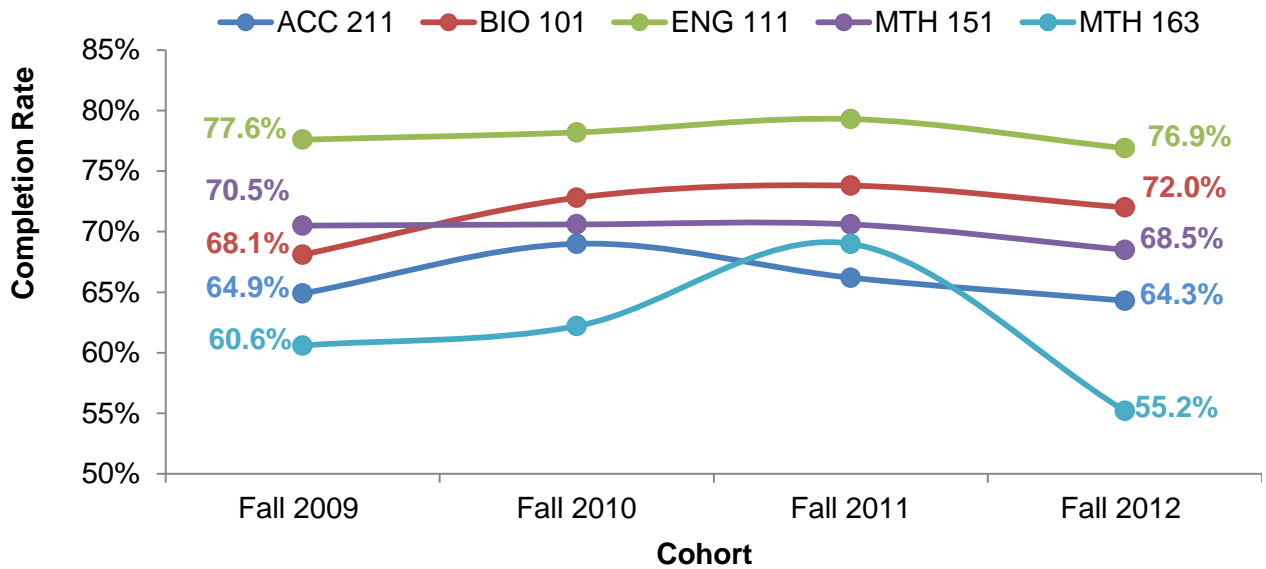


Figure 3 presents course completion rates among part-time students for each of the five gateway courses. Similar to results for full-time students, a higher percentage of part-time students in each cohort successfully completed English 111 as compared to other courses. Results for the other gateway courses were varied across the cohorts for part-time students.

Figure 3. Gateway Course Successful Completion Rates for Part-Time First-Time to NOVA Students: Fall 2009 through Fall 2012 Cohorts

