



Student Achievement - Persistence

Goal:	Increase student persistence
Vision 2023 Goal:	Foster Student Success
Criteria:	Increase 1-year persistence rate for First-Time, Degree-Seeking Undergraduate students (FTIC) by 1% annually
Threshold of Acceptability:	Expected to be greater than the baseline and/or previous year's results, depending on which is greater

1-Year Persistence Rate

One year persistence rates for First-time, Degree-Seeking, Undergraduate students enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours in the fall semester who are still enrolled at the same or another Texas public or private (independent) institution the following fall semester.

Fall-to-Fall Persistence Rate				
Fall Entering Cohort	Fall-to-Fall Persistence	Rate	Previous Year Difference	
2015	271	70.5%		Baseline Cohort
2016	382	77.2%	+6.7%	Target Achieved
2017	394	70.8%	-6.4%	Not Achieved
2018	508	69.5%	-1.3%	Not Achieved
2019	797	66.8%	-2.7%	Not Achieved
2020	711	64.6%	-2.2%	Not Achieved
2021	571	69.5%	+4.9%	Target Achieved
2022	503	66.0%	-3.5%	Not Achieved

Results:

Texas Southmost College (TSC) regularly tracks the First-time, Degree-Seeking, Undergraduate students (FTIC) through the Office of Institutional Research. This data tracking originated from the TSC Strategic Plan – Vision 2026 Strategic Plan, and continues to be part of the FY26 Strategic Priorities. Institutional data for this outcome was compiled from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), Accountability System – Persistence Rates (2016 – 2025) for Community, State, and Technical Colleges. The most recent Accountability Report was published in August 2026; it contained data for the Fall 2024 Entering Cohort.

TSC achieved three of the nine targets in the “1-Year Persistence Rate”. The target is presented as the difference in persistence rates from one year to the next. Throughout the 10-year span, the highest increase was 6.7%, which corresponded to the Fall 2016 entering cohort. The second highest increase was 4.9%, which corresponded to the Fall 2021 entering cohort. The third highest increase was 4.4%, which corresponded to the Fall 2023 entering cohort. All other differences (targets) show a negative trend. The lowest difference was -6.4%, which corresponded to the Fall 2017 entering cohort.