



DATA SIZZLE

Data is the
new bacon!

NOV 2025
VOLUME 7

Institutional Effectiveness Newsletter



In this issue:

High School
Going Rates

Priority Registration

Program Review
Update

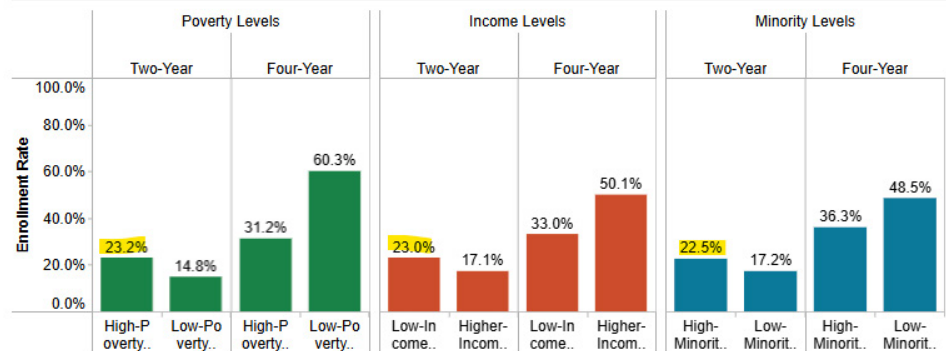
Richmond Fed:
Podcast



High School Going Rates

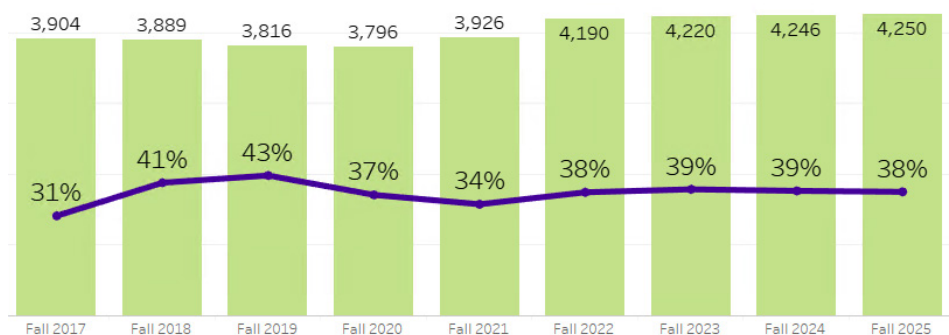
Earlier this year, the National Student Clearinghouse released its [annual report on national high school going rates](#) (students transitioning from high school to college). The main takeaway as it pertains to AHC is high school students who graduated in 2023 and 2024 from higher-poverty or low-income or high-minority high schools are attending two-year colleges within one year of high school graduation at a rate of about 23%, as shown in the yellow highlights in the figure below.

Figure 2.1: Within One Year Enrollment: Class of 2023 High School Graduates



While the definition is a mouthful, the characteristics referenced are similar to those of our local demographics. The good news is that when comparing AHC's going rates to the national data above, we are substantially higher over the same time period. The figure below shows 12th-grade enrollments for our top feeder high schools (Santa Maria, Righetti, Pioneer, Delta, Lompoc, Cabrillo, Santa Ynez, Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, Orcutt Academy, and St. Joseph) and the percentage of those students who enroll at AHC within one year. Be on the lookout for an update to the High School Going Rates Dashboard, which will include all this information and much more.

AHC Enrollment from Local High Schools and Going Rates



The impact that AHC has on the local community is underscored by AHC's capture rates compared to the CSU and UC systems. Note the capture rate trends by high school poverty category: in general, AHC's capture rates increase as high school poverty rates increase. CSU and UC capture rates move in the opposite direction, serving fewer local students as high school poverty rates rise.

High School Goings Rates to AHC, CSU, and UC:

Fall 2019				Fall 2020			Fall 2021			Fall 2022			Fall 2023			
School Name	AHC Capture Rate	CSU Capture Rate	UC Capture Rate	AHC Capture Rate	CSU Capture Rate	UC Capture Rate	AHC Capture Rate	CSU Capture Rate	UC Capture Rate	AHC Capture Rate	CSU Capture Rate	UC Capture Rate	AHC Capture Rate	CSU Capture Rate	UC Capture Rate	
Cabrillo High School	38%	7%	3%	44%	9%	4%	45%	9%	3%	45%	11%	3%	46%	8%	5%	
Lompoc High School	42%	4%	2%	39%	4%	3%	39%	2%	3%	45%	5%	3%	44%	4%	3%	
Nipomo High School	23%	8%	5%	26%	7%	3%	40%	6%	3%	28%	10%	3%	31%	13%	3%	
Orcutt Academy	57%	13%	9%	49%	15%	6%	50%	4%	6%	57%	14%	8%	57%	17%	3%	
Pioneer Valley High School	55%	11%	4%	49%	9%	4%	53%	8%	4%	50%	10%	3%	46%	10%	5%	
Righetti High School	47%	7%	3%	45%	7%	3%	48%	5%	3%	43%	8%	5%	47%	8%	5%	
Santa Maria High School	46%	4%	4%	39%	5%	3%	39%	6%	6%	42%	8%	6%	43%	10%	4%	
Santa Ynez High School	22%	9%	1%	16%	8%	5%	24%	11%	4%	19%	9%	4%	24%	11%	2%	
St. Joseph High School	39%	20%	3%	37%	14%	11%	29%	16%	3%	39%	25%	5%	25%	25%	5%	
NCES School Category	Mid-Low Poverty	23%	10%	5%	23%	11%	5%	25%	12%	5%	26%	13%	6%	26%	13%	5%
	Mid-High Poverty	39%	13%	4%	39%	7%	3%	45%	5%	3%	39%	9%	5%	43%	10%	4%
	High Poverty	48%	2%	3%	43%	6%	4%	44%	6%	4%	46%	8%	4%	44%	9%	5%

Priority Registration

Every year, students clamor to get the highest priority registration groups they possibly can. Staff often make the case that more and more groups need priority registration. But what does the actual data say about how priority registration is being used, and is all the fuss overblown?

Thankfully, the IE website has a Priority Registration Dashboard that answers this very question!

INSTITUTIONAL DATA

[Data Dictionary](#)



QUICK DATA

[Trustee Data](#)

[AHC Headcount Data](#)

[Headcount Data Detail](#)

AHC Headcount Data with multiple demographic filters.

[AHC Employee](#)

Demographics for AHC Employees.



COLLEGE & PROGRAM DATA

[Awards & Transfer](#)

[Enrollment & Headcount](#)

[Success & Retention](#)



REGISTRATION DATA

Weekly/daily reports on student registration comparison term to term. Students who utilize priority registration.

[Weekly Reg Report](#)

[Priority Registration](#)

The image on the next page shows priority registration usage for the upcoming Spring 2026 term as of 11/24/25. Of the 5,386 students who had registered for at least one course by that date, about 80% had some form of priority registration. However, of those 4,365 students with priority registration, only 45% actually registered on the first day they were eligible, and only 74% registered at any point before open registration.

The takeaway from this quick look at the data is that less than half of priority registration students register on the first day they can (which is the intended benefit of receiving an early date), and 25% of priority registration students do not utilize it at all.

This raises the question: is all the effort put into ensuring priority registration runs smoothly truly worthwhile if students aren't taking advantage of it? Does there need to be better messaging around priority registration (dates, methods, etc.)? Or maybe there are simply too many priority registration groups, and it would be more efficient to reduce them. Look for more in-depth analysis of priority registration usage from the IE Office in 2026.

PRIORITY REG DASHBOARD

Credit Headcount Priority Registration Spring 2026 | Data as of 11/24/2025

Priority Group: All

Hover over headcount value to see disaggregation

Term

- ☐ Summer 2025
☐ Fall 2025
☐ Winter 2026
☒ Spring 2026

Priority Group

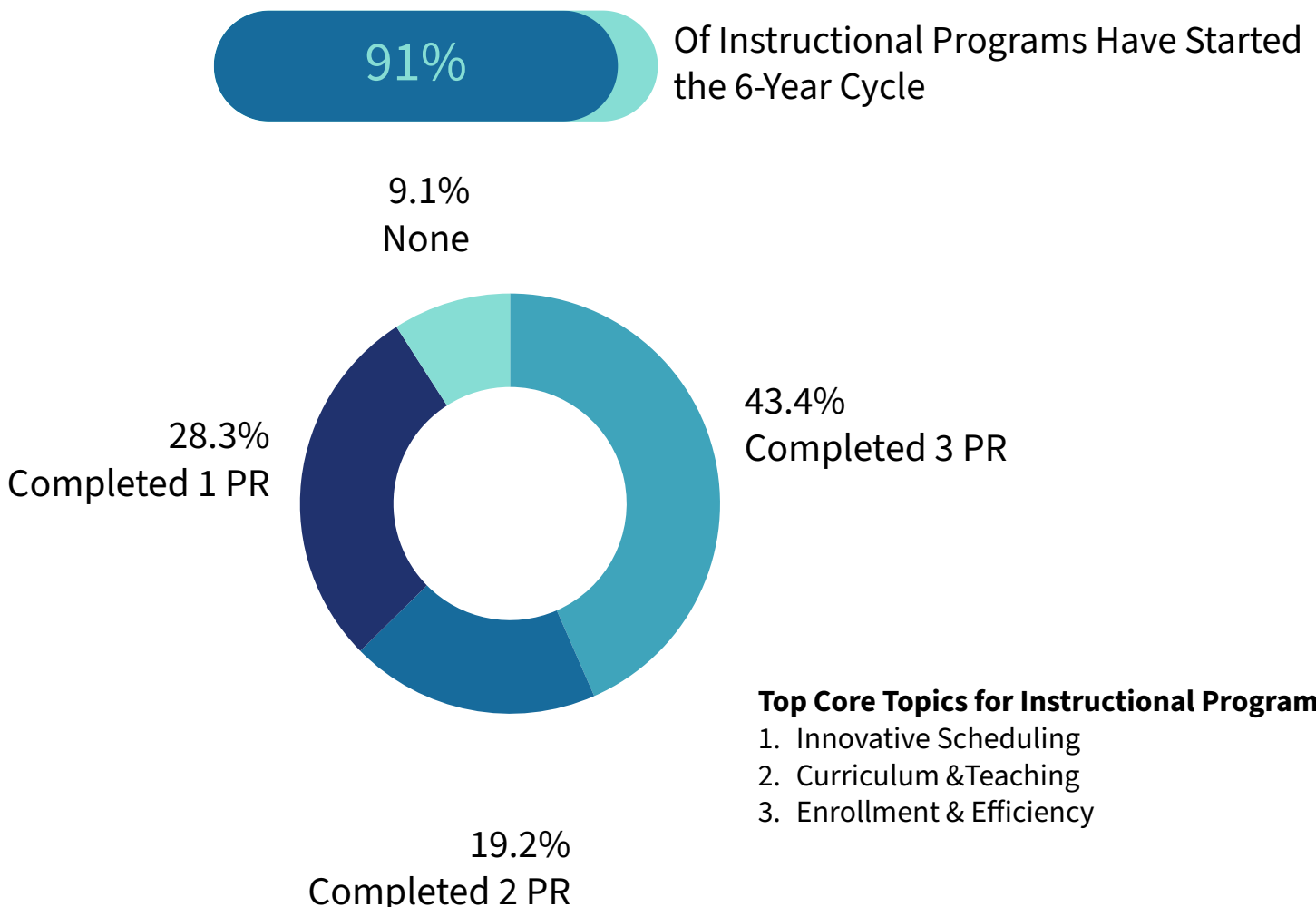
(All) ▼

PriReg Eligible	Grand Total		Used Pri Reg FIRST Day Eligible (or sooner)		Used Pri Reg Before Open Reg		Open Reg	
	Headcount	% of Headcount	Headcount	% of Headcount	Headcount	% of Headcount	Headcount	% of Headcount
PriReg Eligible	4,365	100%	1,957	45%	1,255	29%	1,153	26%
NOT PriReg Eligible	1,021	100%			15	1%	1,006	99%
Grand Total	5,386	100%	1,957	36%	1,270	24%	2,159	40%

Program Review Update

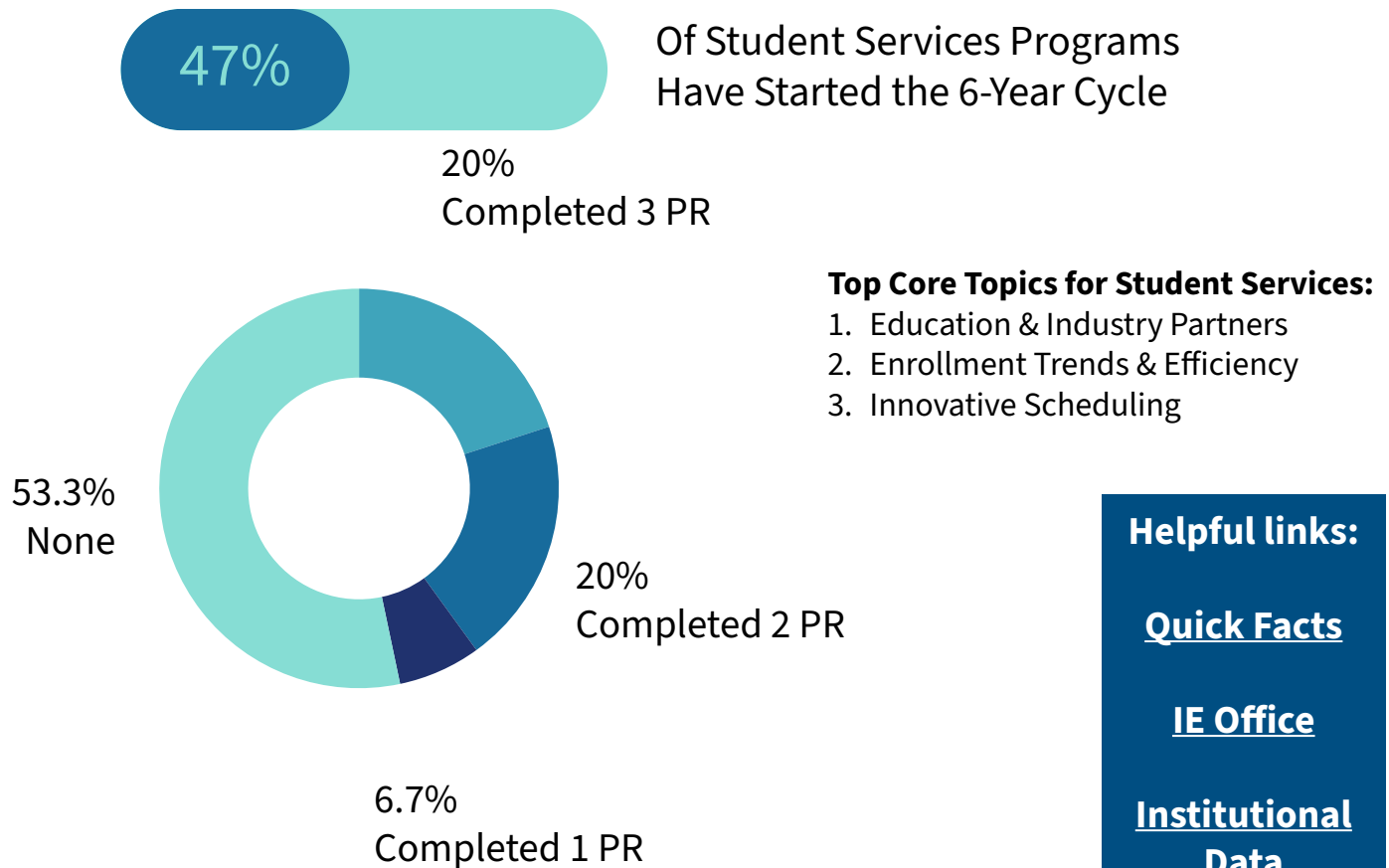
Allan Hancock College is now in the third year of its updated six-year Program Review cycle. Each instructional program completes one core topic per year, using faculty discussion, data analysis, equity considerations, and input from advisory groups to develop program planning initiatives and resource needs. Programs choose one of five areas to analyze each year—Innovative Scheduling, Curriculum & Teaching Design, Enrollment Trends & Efficiency, Academic Services & Support, and Education & Industry Partnerships.

Progress to date shows participation across most instructional programs:



Program Review Update Continued...

Student Services continues to make steady progress in the new program review cycle. Of the fifteen Student Services programs, seven have completed at least one core topic. As this work continues, Student Services is also refining its program review core topics to better reflect the goals, activities, and outcomes of student services programming.



Helpful links:

[Quick Facts](#)

[IE Office](#)

[Institutional Data](#)

[Surveys](#)

[Learning Outcomes](#)

[Research Request](#)

[Program Review](#)

Richmond Fed: Podcast

In a recent [Community College Voice podcast episode](#), Dr. Walthers discussed Allan Hancock College's use of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Survey of Community College Outcomes, a model the IE office highlighted in the [August IE newsletter](#). The framework provides a more complete and equitable picture of community-college success by including all students, not just first-time, full-time enrollees. As Dr. Walthers noted, this model validates the progress our students make—even when the path doesn't follow a straight line. Give the episode a listen if you haven't already!



Thanks for reading to the bottom line!
Happy Thanksgiving!

