

One-Year, Two-Year, and Three-Year University Retention Rates Associated with First-Year Participation in a Learning Community at ISU (March 2002)

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Table 1

Participation Rates of First-Year Students in Learning Communities

Sample	LC Participants	LC Non-Participants	X²	p
<u>Fall 1998 Cohort</u>				
Total Sample (n=3800)	1080 (28.4%)	2720 (71.6%)		
<u>Gender</u>			29.09	.001
Women (n=1774)	579 (32.6%)	1195 (67.4%)		
Men (n=2026))	501 (24.7%)	1525 (75.3%)		
<u>Ethnicity</u>			6.56 ^a	.010
Non-Minorities (n=3348)	991 (29.6%)	2357 (70.4%)		
Minorities (n=262)	58 (22.1%)	204 (77.9%)		
Unknown Ethnicity (n=190)	31 (16.3%)	159 (83.7%)		
<u>Fall 1999 Cohort</u>				
Total Sample (n=4022)	1603 (39.9%)	2419 (60.1%)		
<u>Gender</u>			16.94	.001
Women (n=1830)	793 (43.3%)	1037 (56.7%)		
Men (n=2192)	810 (37.0%)	1382 (63.0%)		
<u>Ethnicity</u>			0.16 ^a	.727
Non-Minorities (n=3495)	1407 (40.3%)	2088 (59.7%)		
Minorities (n=336)	139 (41.4%)	197 (58.6%)		
Ethnicity Unknown (n=191)	57 (29.8%)	134 (70.2%)		
<u>Fall 2000 Cohort</u>				
Total Sample (n=4291)	1491 (34.7%)	2800 (65.3%)		
<u>Gender</u>			6.54	.011
Women (n=1932)	711 (36.8%)	1221 (63.2%)		
Men (n=2359)	780 (33.1%)	1579 (66.9%)		
<u>Ethnicity</u>			8.63 ^a	.003
Non-Minorities (n=3707)	1286 (34.7%)	2421 (65.3%)		
Minorities (n=340)	145 (42.6%)	195 (57.4%)		
Ethnicity Unknown (n=244)	60 (24.6%)	184 (75.4%)		

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Table 1 (continued)

Sample	LC Participants	LC Non-Participants	χ^2	<i>p</i>
<u>All Cohorts Combined</u>				
Total Sample (n=12113)	4174 (34.5%)	7939 (65.5%)		.
<u>Gender</u>			45.30	.001
Women (n=5536)	2083 (37.6%)	3453 (62.4%)		
Men (n=6577)	2091 (31.8%)	4486 (68.2%)		
<u>Ethnicity</u>			.90 ^a	.343
Non-Minorities (n=10550)	3684 (34.9%)	6866 (65.1%)		
Minorities (n=938)	342 (36.5%)	596 (63.5%)		
Unknown Ethnicity (n=625)	148 (23.7%)	477 (76.3%)		

Note. Degrees of freedom = 1 for all analyses

^a Test of minority versus non-minority ethnicity only.

Table 2

One-Year Retention Rates for First-Year Learning Community Participants and Non-Participants

Sample	Simple Analyses				Analyses Controlling for HS Rank & ACT Composite		Adjusted Retention Rates	
	Learning Community Participants	Non-Participants	χ^2	p	χ^2 improvement	p	LC	Non-LC
<u>Fall 1998 Cohort</u>								
Total Sample (n=3799 ^a)	91.0%	81.9%	48.49	.001	23.60	.001	88.6%	83.1%
Women (n=1774)	91.4%	82.8%	23.38	.001	11.58	.001	89.6%	83.9%
Men (n=2025)	90.6%	81.3%	23.70	.001	12.16	.001	87.7%	82.3%
Non-Minorities (n=3348)	90.8%	82.2%	39.91	.001	19.76	.001	88.5%	83.3%
Minorities (n=261)	91.4%	82.4%	2.79	.105	1.14	.286	NA	NA
Ethnicity Unknown (n=189)	96.7%	77.4%	5.98	.015	4.57	.033	93.6%	79.2%
<u>Fall 1999 Cohort</u>								
Total Sample (n=4021 ^a)	90.1%	81.8%	52.78	.001	24.66	.001	88.4%	83.0%
Women (n=1830)	89.5%	82.4%	18.21	.001	5.71	.017	87.7%	84.0%
Men (n=2191)	90.7%	81.3%	34.97	.001	20.76	.001	89.2%	82.3%
Non-Minorities (n=3495)	90.7%	81.6%	55.54	.001	28.06	.001	89.0%	82.9%
Minorities (n=336)	85.6%	82.7%	0.50	.480	0.09	.924	NA	NA
Ethnicity Unknown (n=190)	87.7%	84.3%	0.37	.544	0.03	.873	NA	NA
<u>Fall 2000 Cohort</u>								
Total Sample (n=4290 ^a)	89.9%	80.5%	62.69	.001	33.16	.001	88.2%	81.5%
Women (n=1932)	89.6%	81.7%	21.70	.001	8.00	.005	87.4%	82.9%
Men (n=2358)	90.1%	79.6%	40.97	.001	26.48	.001	88.3%	80.5%
Non-Minorities (n=3706)	90.0%	80.2%	58.14	.001	29.60	.001	87.7%	81.4%
Minorities (n=340)	88.3%	83.6%	1.48	.224	0.39	.534	NA	NA
Ethnicity Unknown (n=244)	91.7%	81.0%	3.77	.052	4.40	.036	92.3%	80.5%

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Table 2 (continued)

Sample	Simple Analyses				Analyses Controlling for HS Rank & ACT Composite		Adjusted Retention Rates	
	Learning Community Participants	Non-Participants	χ^2	p	$\chi^2_{improvement}$	p	LC	Non-LC
<u>All Cohorts Combined</u>								
Total Sample (n=12110 ^b)	90.3%	81.4%	163.85	.001	80.45	.001	88.4%	82.5%
Women (n=5536)	90.1%	82.3%	62.49	.001	24.43	.001	88.2%	83.7%
Men (n=6574)	90.5%	80.7%	99.88	.001	56.90	.001	88.6%	81.6%
Non-Minorities (n=10548)	90.5%	81.3%	153.39	.001	76.71	.001	88.5%	82.5%
Minorities (n=938)	87.7%	82.9%	3.91	.048	0.72	.396	NA	NA
Ethnicity Unknown (n=624)	91.2%	80.7%	8.76	.003	5.21	.022	88.6%	80.6%

Note. Degrees of freedom = 1 for all analyses. Logistic regression analyses were used to control for ACT scores and high school rank. These two variables were entered in the first step of the analyses, followed by LC membership in the second step.

^aThis number differs from the number participants in Table 1 because one student from this cohort died and, therefore, was not included in one-year retention analyses.

^bThis number differs from the number of participants in Table 1 because three students across all cohorts died and, therefore, were not included in one-year retention analyses.

Table 3 Two-Year Retention Rates for First-Year Learning Community Participants and Non-Participants

Sample	Simple Analyses				Analyses Controlling for HS Rank & ACT Composite		Adjusted Retention Rates	
	Learning Community Participants	Non-Participants	χ^2	p	χ^2 improvement	p	LC	Non-LC
<u>Fall 1998 Cohort</u>								
Total Sample (n=3798 ^a)	85.7%	73.0%	69.51	.001	31.75	.001	82.6%	74.8%
Women (n=1773)	85.5%	73.3%	32.81	.001	14.34	.001	82.7%	75.2%
Men (n=2025)	86.0%	72.8%	36.09	.001	18.02	.001	82.6%	74.4%
Non-Minorities (n=3347)	85.9%	73.7%	59.12	.001	29.60	.001	82.9%	75.1%
Minorities (n=262)	75.9%	71.1%	0.51	.473	0.00	.991	NA	NA
Ethnicity Unknown (n=189)	100%	77.8%	14.26	.001	13.83	.001	95.6%	70.8%
<u>Fall 1999 Cohort</u>								
Total Sample (n=4020 ^a)	84.1%	71.9%	52.78	.001	37.50	.001	81.5%	73.7%
Women (n=1830)	83.6%	71.7%	35.57	.001	13.39	.001	80.7%	73.9%
Men (n=2190)	84.7%	72.1%	45.20	.001	25.12	.001	82.4%	73.5%
Non-Minorities (n=3493)	85.3%	72.1%	83.47	.001	40.51	.001	82.7%	74.1%
Minorities (n=336)	72.7%	69.0%	0.52	.473	0.17	.681	NA	NA
Ethnicity Unknown (n=191)	84.2%	73.9%	2.41	.121	2.02	.155	NA	NA
<u>Fall 98/Fall 99 Combined</u>								
Total Sample (n=7818 ^b)	84.8%	72.5%	148.29	.001	68.92	.001	82.0%	74.3%
Women (n=3603)	84.4%	72.6%	67.04	.001	26.77	.001	81.6%	74.6%
Men (n=4215)	85.2%	72.4%	80.97	.001	43.55	.001	82.5%	74.0%
Non-Minorities (n=6840)	85.5%	72.9%	140.88	.001	70.37	.001	82.8%	74.6%
Minorities (n=598)	73.6%	71.2%	0.80	.370	0.31	.580	NA	NA
Ethnicity Unknown (n=380)	89.7%	69.6%	14.06	.001	10.55	.001	88.0%	71.8%

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Note. Degrees of freedom = 1 for all analyses. Logistic regression analyses were used to control for ACT scores and high school rank. These two variables were entered in the first step of the analyses, followed by LC membership in the second step.

^aThis number differs from the number participants in Table 1 because two students from this cohort died and, therefore, was not included in two-year retention analyses.

^bThis number differs from the number of participants in Table1 because four students across all cohorts died and, therefore, were not included in two-year retention analyses.

Table 4

Three-Year Retention Rates for First-Year Learning Community Participants and Non-Participants

Sample	Simple Analyses				Analyses Controlling for HS Rank & ACT Composite		Adjusted Retention Rates	
	Learning Community Participants	Non-Participants	χ^2	p	χ^2 improvement	p	LC	Non-LC
Fall 1998 Cohort								
Total Sample (n=3798 ^a)	81.2%	68.4%	62.63	.001	23.81	.001	77.6%	70.3%
Women (n=1773)	80.3%	67.8%	30.07	.001	9.93	.002	76.9%	70.0%
Men (n=2025)	82.2%	68.9%	33.38	.001	15.44	.001	78.7%	70.5%
Non-Minorities (n=3347)	81.6%	69.4%	52.72	.001	23.51	.001	78.4%	70.8%
Minorities (n=262)	67.2%	62.3%	0.48	.487	0.13	.714	NA	NA
Ethnicity Unknown (n=189)	93.3%	61.0%	11.78	.001	6.69	.010	88.3%	66.9%

Note. Degrees of freedom = 1 for all analyses. Logistic regression analyses were used to control for ACT scores and high school rank. These two variables were entered in the first step of the analyses, followed by LC membership in the second step.

^aThis number differs from the number participants in Table 1 because two students from this cohort died and, therefore, was not included in three-year retention analyses.