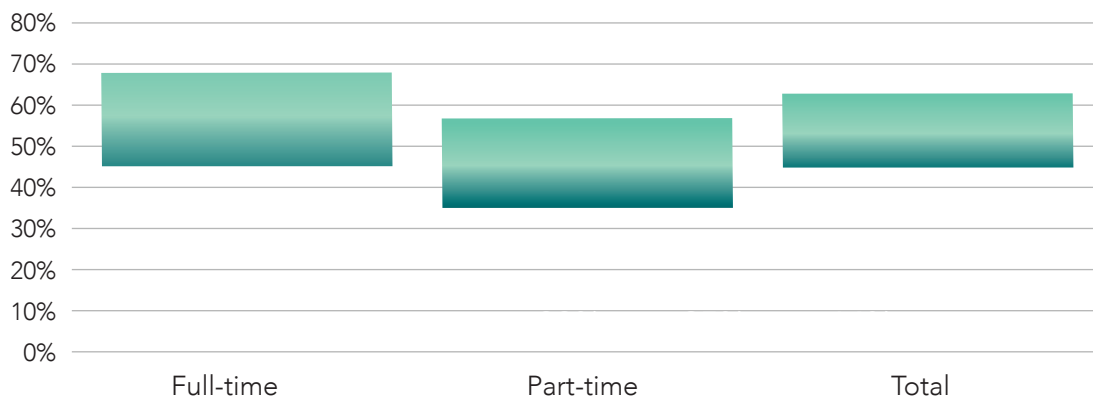


## Student completion and persistence

Median completion and persistence rates for colleges participating in AACC's Voluntary Framework of Accountability was 55 percent after six years and 59 percent for students who started full-time.

### Range of six-year completion/persistence rates\* for VFA community colleges by first-term attendance status: Fall 2010 entering students



\*Completion/persistence rate includes students who graduated, transferred or were still enrolled in the sixth academic year. The range depicted is plus or minus one standard deviation, or approximately 68 percent of the college completion rates are in the range depicted.

**Source:** American Association of Community Colleges analysis of its Voluntary Framework of Accountability data, 2017 collection year.



The data above provide insight into the range of student outcomes for colleges participating in AACC's Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA), a national system of metrics designed by community colleges for community colleges to better describe the outcomes of their students. As the data indicate, the median completion/persistence rate (students who completed an award, transferred or were still enrolled in the sixth academic year) was nearly 60 percent for students who began full-time in fall 2010. This is in stark contrast to completion rates compiled using traditional sources to gauge student success at community colleges. For example, the federal IPEDS graduation rate for community colleges is 25.4 percent, and even when transfer and students still enrolled are factored, the rate only reaches 56 percent over the same period. However, the data also highlight the need for continued efforts to improve student success. Colleges participating in the VFA have additional data (leading indicators disaggregated by critical student populations) that can create data-driven change at the institutions.

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