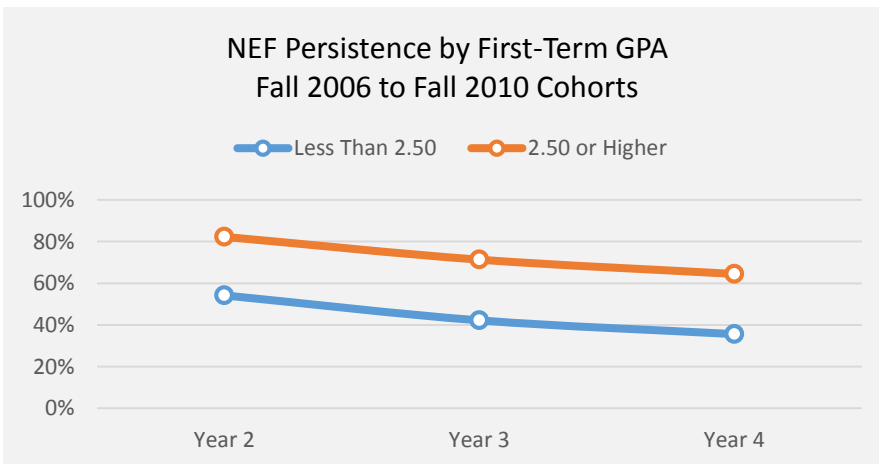
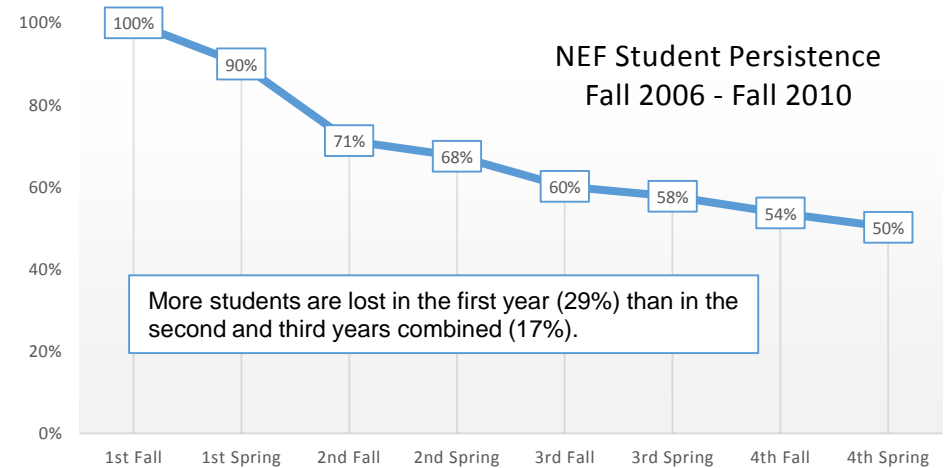
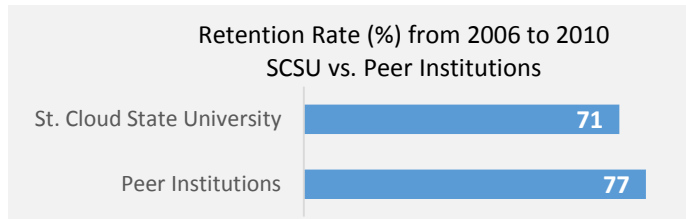


Student Persistence and First-Term Performance

What is Student Retention and Persistence?

- Student retention is the percent of the full-time NEF that persist to their second fall semester.
- Student persistence more broadly represents returning student percentage rates at any given point in the academic experience.
- From Fall 2006 to Fall 2010, our average retention rate was 71%. This was 6 percentage points lower than the median rate of our peer institutions.
- Since 2010, our retention rate has increased each year. Our most recent retention rate was 73%.



The Effect of First-Term Performance on Student Persistence

There are many factors that influence student persistence, but first-term GPA is one of the strongest indicators. Students that earn a 2.50 GPA or higher in their first term persist to their second, third, and fourth years at a rate almost 30 percentage points higher than students that earn less than a 2.50 GPA.

Other factors that affect student persistence:

- Credit load (Full-time or part-time status)
- First-year programs, such as ACE and Honors
- Living on-campus or off-campus
- Demographic variables, such as ethnicity, family/student income, and parent education level